GUIDE TO THE PLACEMENT INTERVIEW

The following material is intended to assist you in preparing for your placement interviews. Prior to the interview, take time to reflect on yourself as a person and as a developing social worker. Identify your strengths, areas for further development, your goals, hopes and expectations for the learning experience in field. Also, be sure to check the agency website to familiarize yourself with the agency mission, goals, programs and services. Be punctual and dress appropriately for the agency and its clientele. Bring a copy of your resume.

Questions you may be asked:

A. What are your areas of interest?
B. What are your professional strengths/weaknesses? What are some positive personal qualities and those you are working to improve?
C. Why are you interested in this agency?
D. What are you hoping to learn from this placement?
E. What are your long term/post graduate goals and how will this placement facilitate your achieving these goals?
F. What do you perceive the role of a student to be and how, if at all, does it differ from an employee?
G. What was your most memorable learning experience in class/your last placement?
H. Describe your prior experiences – be prepared to not only describe where you might have worked, but what you did, how you did it and how it affected you and your decision to pursue graduate education.
I. What are you looking for in supervision?
   1. What is your preferred learning style?
   2. What seems to facilitate the learning/what interferes?
   3. How well do you accept critical feedback?
   4. How do you resolve differences when you don’t agree with clients, supervisors, agency policies?

Questions you may want to ask:

A. What are the social work functions within the agency?
   1. What are the clinical practice opportunities?
   2. What are the macro practice opportunities?
B. What is the supervisor’s clinical orientation?
C. What is the supervisor’s approach/expectations regarding supervision?
   1. How are process recordings used as instructional tools to aid in the learning process?
   2. What is the supervisor’s approach to the evaluation process?
D. What agency policies could affect students at this site? (i.e. working after hours, home visits, vehicle required, etc.)
E. What preplacement requirements will be needed to start field? (i.e. background check, fingerprinting, State Central Registry clearance, physical, TB test, proof of immunizations, etc.)
   1. Can these be started early so as to not delay the start of field?