Sally Student

Week 3 - Application of Research

SOWK 7157

Our Lady of the Lake University

***Summarize a research article specific to social work practice with Hispanic children and families.***

Ornelas et al. (2015), did a study on the effectiveness of brief intervention with Latino immigrant men who presented with alcohol abuse. Ornelas et al. (2015), interviewed Latino immigrant men, as well as, substance use and mental health providers about the effectiveness and differences between using traditional screening and brief intervention methods. The factors they found through the interviews were that “unhealthy alcohol use was common, culturally accepted, and helped relieve immigration-related stressors (Ornelas, 2015).” From the service providers they found out that the men wanted to receive information from trusted providers who spoke Spanish and that they also faced “barriers to accessing health and social services but were open to receiving brief interventions in community settings (Ornelas, 2015).” From these findings, a brief intervention method was designed called “*Vida PURA*” (Ornelas, 2015). This design was a brief intervention that was conducted at a community center for day laborers by trained professionals who were culturally competent and bilingual (Ornelas, 2015). It was concluded that a culturally adapted brief intervention method is more likely to reduce alcohol abuse among this population when done in a community setting with trusted providers rather than a clinical setting (Ornelas, 2015).

***Using critical thinking skills, what gaps in research and practice literature focused on Hispanic children and families have you identified as you think about your field education experience?***

Some of the gaps I have identified as I relate them to my field practice experience is the lack of culturally competent service providers. At my field placement, there is only one Hispanic interpreter that covers the entire hospital. There is a lack in staffing who can effectively serve this population when they are admitted to the hospital. The lack in culturally adapted assessment and intervention tools is another gap I see when working with patients who present with health complications that are due to alcohol abuse. In addition to these within-agency gaps, there is also a lack in community resources for this population.

***Using the language of formative or summative evaluation, describe how your placement setting determines the effectiveness of interventions and services with Hispanic children and families***

As far as evaluation goes with my field experience, my supervisor has just recently started the medical mental health program within the hospital. Using formative evaluation, she has kept up with data from the start of the program and continues to add data daily. The data consists of a lot of things including keeping up with what the patient’s needs were and if they were referred to follow-up treatment. If a referral was made, did the patient actually follow-up and what was the reason for if they did not follow-up with treatment. This data can easily be adapted to patients who are Hispanic because we can see if there were any barriers that prevented them from following through with the referral and what we can do to help them the next time.

References

Ornelas, I. J., PhD, Allen, C., Vaughan, C., Williams, E. C., Negi, N. (2015). *Vida PURA*: A cultural adaptation of screening and brief intervention to reduce unhealthy drinking among Latino day laborers. *Substance Abuse* 36: 264-271. Doi: 10.1080/08897077.2014.955900