

The Power of Social Work*



Social Work is a helping profession dedicated to improving the health and well-being of individuals, families and communities. Social Work practice is based upon the profession's code of ethics, values and principles which frame an understanding of human behaviour.

Using knowledge of human behaviour and social systems, social workers help people realize their potential and assist them to enjoy full, active and creative lives. They help people in every stage of life, ensuring that they get the help they need from the best resources available.

With their knowledge of the interaction between human development and social, economic and cultural factors, social workers help people manage life's most difficult challenges.

Their perspective is a vital component in the delivery of quality, cost-effective health care services.

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Social Work Skills and Knowledge in Health Care



Creating a Just and Compassionate Society

www.bcasw.org



BC Association of Social Workers



SOCIAL WORK SKILLS & KNOWLEDGE IN HEALTH CARE

Social work skills represent the integration of theory and practice. Social work practice is based upon the profession's code of ethics, values and principles.

	<i>Social Work Skills & Knowledge</i>	<i>Indicators</i>
Person/Family Impact Working with strengths	1. Critical Thinking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draw upon multiple sources of knowledge/information to guide professional judgment and practice • Determine practices supported by research evidence that have the most positive impact
	2. Psychosocial Assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collect, organize and interpret client information • Assess strengths and limitations • Develop mutually agreed upon client-centred interventions, goals and objectives • Select appropriate intervention strategies based on the person and their circumstances/environment
	3. Intervention/Treatment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhance capacity to cope • Help improve problem-solving skills • Foster coping skills to deal with changes in living circumstances, relationships, etc.
	4. Evaluation of Interventions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Measure effectiveness and impact of actions taken
Organizational Impact Supporting quality, efficiency & effective care	5. Knowledge of Legislation and Community Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain current and comprehensive understanding of relevant legislation • Maintain current knowledge of community resources • Cut through barriers to facilitate access to services (systems navigation)
	6. Knowledge of Social Determinants of Health (SDH)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognize the key link between SDH, health status and well-being • Collaborate with inter-professional groups addressing SDH
	7. Cultural Sensitivity/Awareness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tailor approaches/interventions and advocacy to needs of people from different cultures
	8. Conflict Resolution, Mediation, Negotiation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Utilize high-level communications skills to build trust and resolve disagreements
System Impact Supporting efficient access and effective change	9. Advocacy for Human Rights and Equity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take action to protect basic human rights • Advocate for equal access to resources, services and opportunities • Generate choice and opportunity for all people, with special regard for vulnerable and disadvantaged populations
	10. Public Policy Knowledge and Advocacy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocate for policies that advance social well-being
	11. Commitment to Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrate commitment to ongoing professional development • Demonstrate commitment to mentoring of students and peers • Demonstrate leadership: articulate in simple, clear language what social workers do and how this role contributes value to service provision, team work, impacts funding priorities, etc.
	12. Contribution to Social Work Research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contribute to practice research, utilize research-based interventions, evaluate practice • Utilize research findings to inform and improve practice, policy and social service delivery

Adapted from source: <http://msw.cs.umb.edu/msw-core-competencies-learning-outcomes>; The Ottawa Hospital Core Competencies, Revised 2010;

CASWE Accreditation Standards, Revised 2011; OCSWSSW Code of Ethics and Standards of Practice, 2008. BCASW thanks the OASW for permission to use and adapt their publication.