James Hollywood III

Omega Graduate School

SR 950-32 Clinical and Applied Sociology

Professor Dr. Joshua Reichard

January 23, 2025

Assignment #1 Core Essential Elements

1. Select One (1) Core Essential Element from the Syllabus Outline:
2. Create a 350-word original discussion paper (with cited sources) during the week of the residency. Be prepared to discuss and engage with other students during the live sessions. Post this document in DIAL.
3. Professor will check for quality of content and word count requirements. Grade assigned will be credit or no credit.

Clinical sociology is a specialized field that applies sociological theories and methods to assess and address social issues to enhance individual and community well-being. In oppressed or impoverished communities, clinical sociologists play a significant role in identifying and intervening in systemic problems that perpetuate poverty and trauma.

These communities often face systemic inequalities, such as limited access to quality education, healthcare, and employment opportunities. These disparities contribute to chronic stress and trauma, adversely affect mental health, and hinder social mobility. Clinical sociologists analyze these social determinants to develop targeted interventions. For example, they may implement community-based programs or projects that provide education opportunities to empower community members and foster resilience (Hughes & Tucker, 2018).

Addressing trauma in these communities requires a holistic approach. Trauma-informed care (TIC) is one approach that recognizes the widespread trauma and integrates understanding into practice and policies. By creating environments emphasizing safety, trustworthiness, and empowerment, TIC aims to avoid re-traumatization and support healing (SAMHSA, 2014).

Policy advocacy is another important aspect of clinical sociology. By analyzing the impact of existing policies on various social institutions and advocating for reforms, clinical sociologists strive to address the root causes of social inequities. For example, they may work towards policies that improve access to mental health services in low-income areas or promote economic opportunities for marginalized populations (Bowen & Murshid, 2016). Even seemingly minor issues, such as addressing students’ attendance problems due to inadequate bus routes, can have significant implications. Research indicates that providing reliable school bus transportation increases attendance rates and reduces chronic absenteeism among economically disadvantaged students (Edwards, 2021). Addressing such transportation issues is crucial as chronic absenteeism can lead to broader societal problems, including lower academic achievement and increased dropout rates.

In summary, clinical sociology offers theory and practice for understanding and addressing the complex interplay of factors contributing to poverty and trauma in oppressed communities. Through targeted interventions, focused and outcome-based research, trauma-informed care, and policy advocacy, we can work to empower individuals and promote systemic change that would foster resilience and better outcomes and well-being for these communities.

**References**

Bowen, E. A., & Murshid, N. S. (2016). Trauma-informed social policy: A conceptual framework for policy analysis and advocacy. *American Journal of Public Health*, 106(2), 223–229.

Edwards, F. (2021). *How does school bus transportation affect student attendance and achievement?* EdWorkingPaper No. 21-436. Annenberg Institute at Brown University.

Hughes, M., & Tucker, W. (2018). Poverty as a social determinant of mental health: A review of the evidence. *Social Work in Public Health*, 33(5), 309–317.

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. (2014). *Trauma-Informed Care in Behavioral Health Services* (Treatment Improvement Protocol Series 57). Rockville, MD: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.