Exploring Interventions for Homeless Children and Mothers

Marea Newell

Field Supervisor: Katharine Wenocur, Faculty Supervisor: Professor Rescorla, Praxis Field Placement Coordinator: Kelly Strunk

Field Site

Jane Addams Place is an emergency shelter located in Philadelphia for 29 mothers and their children. This shelter provides case management, transitional housing support, trauma therapy, and a variety of programming activities for mothers and children. Jane Addams is a part of the Lutheran Settlement House, a non-profit founded in 1902 that serves the Philadelphia community through a number of programs.

Course Description

This Praxis course involved 8 hours per week of on-site experience at the Jane Addams Place shelter where I worked under the supervision of Katherine Wenocur LCSW (BMC 2009) learning skills for supporting homeless children and mothers who have experienced trauma. In the academic component of the course, I read relevant research literature regarding trauma-focused interventions for children and wrote a term paper to integrate this literature with my praxis experiences.

Examined Literature Related to:

- Prevalence of physical and mental health outcomes in Philadelphia’s homeless population
- Trauma focused cognitive behavioral therapy compared to other forms of therapy for children experiencing trauma
- Benefits of bibliotherapy as a therapeutic supplement
- Forms of early childhood dance education

Work at Field Site:

- Volunteered with Safe Physical Activity and Recreation for Kids (SPARK)
- Implemented “cook-off” programming for mothers (1)
- Reviewed case files
- Examined children’s literature used in therapeutic setting (2)
- Developed dance programming for children (3)