The Challenge of Culturally Competent Field Instruction

June 27, 2008 Stockton College Field Instruction Conference Carmen Ortiz Hendricks, DSW





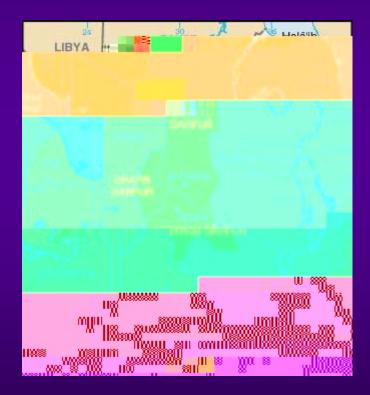
Teaching & modeling cultural competence • Getting to the layers of diversity Preparing students for global social work practice Instilling social justice and human rights perspectives



# Why discuss diversity?

 Diversity factors impact directly on practice & supervision Field placements are natural laboratories Field instructors model how to integrate cultural competence into practice







#### DIFFERENCES & SIMILARITIES (Pinderhughes, 1989)

 Attention only to similarities without attention to differences reinforces the orientation that "all people are the same" and ignores or denies difference.

 Attention only to differences without attention to similarities reinforces distancing, separation, and barriers between people.

#### First steps toward CCFI...

 Create a climate where cultural differences & similarities are discussed openly & freely

 And where diversity is viewed as a normal & regular part of the field instruction agenda



### More first steps...

 Examine diversity between field instructors & students, students
 & clients, clients & agency staff

 Seek opportunities to teach about diversity

 Place diversity as central to students' practice & field performance





 Manage the anxieties, fears, & projections that emerge Do not resist discussions to avoid feelings of discomfort Model how to create a space for diversity discussions in agencies & in supervision.



# Stand if...







#### I am so embarrassed!













## Somehow, what I do works! I handle diversity encounters quite well, but I cannot explain why! BEGINNING CULTURAL **COMPETENCE**





I understand what I am doing! I employ a range of knowledge, skills, and values that enhance my cultural competence! **• RELATIVE MASTERY OF CULTURAL COMPETENCE** 



# FIVE STAGES OF CCSWP...

# STAGE I SELF-AWARENESS STAGE II CULTURAL SENSITIVITY STAGE III BEGINNING CCSWP STAGE IV RELATIVE MASTERY STAGE V TEACHER/LEARNER



NASW Code of Ethics: 1.05 Cultural Competence & Social Diversity

Culture as a strength

 Knowledge of clients' cultures & culturally sensitive service delivery

 The nature of social diversity & oppression

# NASW Code of Ethics: 6.04 Social & Political Action

#### Expand choice & opportunity for all people

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 Race, ethnicity, national origin, color, sex, sexual orientation, age, marital status, political belief, religion, & mental or physical disability.





VI. ADVOCACY
VII. DIVERSE WORKPLACE
VIII. EDUCATION
IX. LANGUAGE DIVERSITY
X. LEADERSHIP



#### Indicators for CCSWP...

# For each standard there are indicators that say:

# Culturally competent social workers should...



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Question #1: "I can work with a wide range of people who are culturally different or similar to me, and establish avenues for learning about the cultures of these clients."

Strongly disagree
 Somewhat disagree
 Undecided
 Somewhat agree
 Strongly agree

Question #2: "I can assess the meaning of culture for individual clients and client groups, encourage open discussion of differences, and respond to culturally biased cues."

Strongly disagree
 Somewhat disagree
 Undecided
 Somewhat agree
 Strongly agree

# Standard 4: Indicators of Cross Cultural Skills...

#### Use methods attuned to clients' cultures

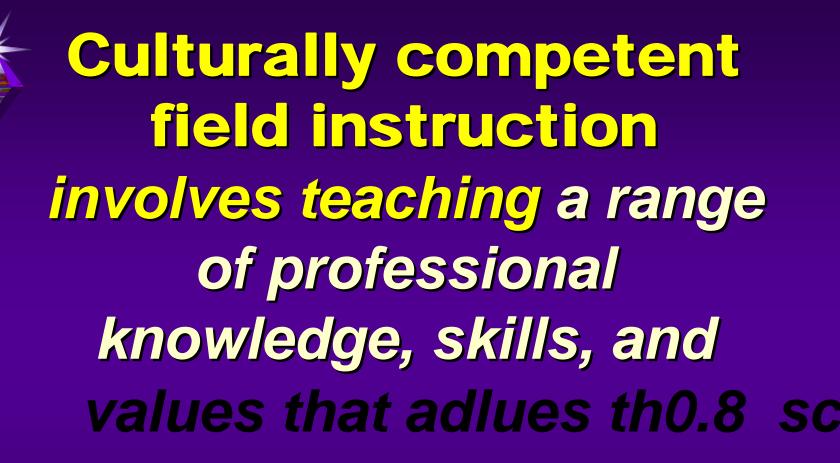
#### Use verbal/nonverbal communication skills

- Consider the cultures of the social worker, the client, the agency, & community
- Employ clients' natural support systems



Standard 5 & 7: Indicators for Culturally Competent Service Delivery...

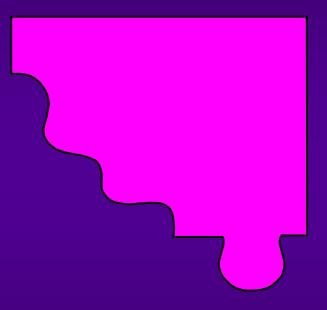
 Culturally competent programs, organizations, and service systems build culturally competent organizations through:











The U.S. is undergoing dramatic demographic changes in age & racial and ethnic composition due to:

Fertility

- Life expectancy
- Immigration/migration
- Globalization



# Current population trends in the U.S...

• "If current trends continue, the population of the United States will rise to 438 million in 2050, from 296 million in 2005, and 82% of the increase will be due to immigrants arriving from 2005 to 2050 and their U.S.-born descendants" (Pew Hispanic Center, February 11, 2008).

#### Latino population in the U.S.

The report further states that the Latino/Hispanic population, already the largest and fastest growing minority group in the U.S., will triple in size to **29%** of the U.S. population in 2050 compared to 14% in 2005.



### LATINO PROFESSIONALS...

- 4.6% of physicians
- 4% of psychologists
- 7% of social workers
- 2.4% of nurses

 84% mental health workers & 65% of substance abuse workers are non-Hispanic white



 Middle-aged Hispanic social worker of Puerto Rican heritage

- Young Dominican male who is HIV positive
- Will they engage in a crosscultural experience?



## NASW Code of Ethics: 6.04 Social & Political Action

#### Expand choice & opportunity for all people

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Cultural competence is an on-going, life-long process for every social worker!

