

PUBLIC POLICY ADVOCACY: EVIDENCE-BASED COMPETENCIES FOR EDUCATING HEALTH CARE AND SOCIAL SERVICE PROVIDERS

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Background

- Public policy advocacy involves influencing decision-makers on practice, policy, and legislation in matters that affect the public.¹
- Political forces outside the health sector at times hold greater influence over health and health outcomes than forces inside the health sector.²
- Structural forces, such as policies, processes, and rules, impact the health of populations, but can be altered³ (e.g. supervised injection).
- Health and social service providers should have an active role in creating and influencing policy.
- Students of health and social service programs must graduate with competencies in policy advocacy; yet, evidence suggests that they lack the knowledge and skills to meaningfully engage in this process.⁴⁻⁷

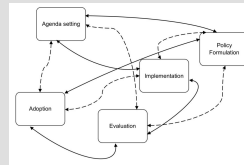


Figure 1. Stages in policymaking.⁸

Analysis

- Comparative case analysis
- Semi-structured interviews
- Document analysis

Inductive Analysis

Deductive Analysis

Cross-Case Comparison

Figure 5. Process of analysis.

Table 1. Matrix for cross-case synthesis for categories within the cognitive domain.

Category	Case 1	Case 2	Case 3	Case 4	Synthesis
Remembering					
Understanding					
Applying					
Analyzing					
Evaluating					
Creating					

Table 2. Matrix for cross-case synthesis for knowledge and skills within Kingdon's multiple streams theory.

Concepts	Case 1	Case 2	Case 3	Case 4	Synthesis
Problem Stream					
Policy Stream					
Politics Stream					
Policy Window					
Policy Entrepreneurs					

Research Questions

- How do health care and social service providers from community-based organizations conduct public policy advocacy?
- What knowledge and skills do health care and social service providers from community-based organizations identify as key to being effective in public policy advocacy?
- How can the knowledge and skills for public policy advocacy identified by community-based organizations be translated to enhance or support competencies in undergraduate education?

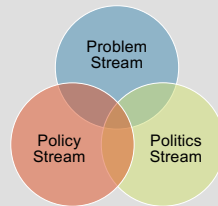


Figure 2. Kingdon's multiple streams model.⁹

Results and Implications

- Interviews are currently underway with multiple community organizations.
- Core knowledge and skills identified here will be used to inform evidence-based competencies and learning activities for educators teaching public policy advocacy in health care and social service programs.
- Findings from this work will be disseminated to professional licensing bodies responsible for entry-to-practice competencies.

Recruitment and Sample

- Sample includes diverse community-based organizations already participating in the *Mobilizing Narratives for Policy and Social Change* study.

Mobilizing Narratives involves organizations within four thematic subgroups:



- A diversity of organizations is anticipated.

Bloom's Taxonomy

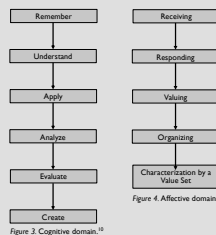


Figure 3. Cognitive domain.¹⁰

Figure 4. Affective domain.¹¹

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