

# The Role of Social Workers under Health Care Reform

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# What are the Health and Mental Health Care Needs of the AAPI communities?

Issues of health disparities:

- increasing needs due to AAPI population growth;
- Underutilization of services (stigma; lack of knowledge and access)
- Shrinking resources (lack of bilingual and bicultural services)

# What are the roles of social worker in these changing times?

A historical perspective:

- Development of the social work profession – from Friendly Visitors to Psychiatric social workers. A cyclical process?
- Mission of the social work profession: meeting individual and social needs – micro and macro approaches. Can we translate the skills?

# The Complexities of Case Management

- Presenting problems may not be clear;
- Clients may have ambivalence toward seeking help;
- Client's underlying issues may need to be addressed first;
- Clients may have deficits in judgment and problem-solving capacities.
- Bureaucratic systems are often unresponsive.

# What are the therapeutic components in concrete services?

- Culturally relevant way of eliciting client's trust in the helping process;
- Empowerment of clients when they have input in service planning;
- Role-modeling decision-making and problem-solving skills;
- Creating the human connection for those who are socially isolated.

# What are the Skills and Strengths of Social Workers?

- Interpersonal skills: active listening, exploration, communication of empathy
- Knowledge of human behavior and underlying issues
- Self awareness and management of personal reactions
- Crafting a purposeful and therapeutic relationship

# What are the Skills and Strengths of Social Workers?

- A systemic perspective of the client's problem
- Strategic intervention and advocacy
- Client-centered values and principles

# How can we support the Social Workers in the AAPI communities?

- Overworked?
- Underpaid?
- Lack of supervision
- Lack of theories and concepts that support cross cultural practice
- Identity crisis?



# How can we recruit and train new social workers in the AAPI community?

- The role of social work schools:
  - recruitment strategies; cross cultural curriculum
- The role of the Social Work professional community:
  - advance research and best practice models of cross cultural practice
- The role of the AAPI community:
  - recognition and promotion of the role of social workers.