



Part 2: Special Issue of GJCPP on Practice Competencies in Community Psychology and Their Applications

From the editors of this special issue:

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It is our privilege to bring you part two of the special issue on competencies in community psychology practice. The analysis and articulation of the broader issues is as relevant in this issue as the previous one. The development of competencies is a milestone in any professional field of endeavor. It is difficult to do, as anyone who does curriculum development can attest. It also takes time, especially to develop language that is concise, measurable, and recognizable to relevant audiences. This two-part special issue contains articles that demonstrate the robustness of the list of competencies, and how useful (or not) they may be in various contexts.

Jim Dalton does an incredible job with his overview of each article, providing descriptions of the competencies covered in each article and discussion of how the authors articulated the competencies across their areas of interest. We encourage you to start with that article, which can be found at the beginning of both volumes of this special issue.

As for the rest, the following brief list may help you focus your reading. We organized the papers from the more general to the more specific. These broad themes are also reflective of current issues in training and practice:

Critical analysis of competencies and their use - Arcidiacono argues for the inclusion of methodology, measurement, and application examples.

Application to community health improvement - Scaccia et alia offer a multiple

case study and comparative analysis of the application of the competencies to community coalitions in three urban areas. Integration of activist and professional roles - Francescato & Zani, provide an exceptionally articulate argument for the integration of these roles. The perspective is international, and particularly relevant in the current social and political climate of any country.

Integration of competencies into doctoral training - Meissen et alia provide a description of how they used community psychology practice skills to revise the curriculum to include the competencies.

Case studies of student learning using the competencies - Bayaa et alia provide first person perspectives of the competencies as they relate to their graduate training.

Simulation exercise, systems orientation, and ecological perspectives - Sarkisian provides a wonderful description of a simulation

exercise that can be adopted and adapted by others. He includes an appendix with detailed instructions.

Comparative case study of two graduate training programs using the competencies - Sanchez et alia provide a rich description of the differences of application of the competencies in two neighboring graduate programs — DePaul University and National Louis University — both in Chicago.

Development of research competencies - Faust et alia provide an analysis of community practice competencies along with competencies for community research. They go on to discuss challenges and opportunities in integration of research and practice.

Application of competencies to community practice - Wolfe and Price round out the offering of papers with their reflection on competencies from several relevant fields of practice - evaluation, public health, and community psychology practice.

Case study of student application of competencies to address a specific problem - Clifford et alia provide a rich perspective on the use of the competencies as they worked to address issues associated with risk for sexual assault on a college campus.

We encourage you to leave comments at the end of the articles, contact the authors to offer your perspectives on their work, and consider submitting a manuscript to the Global Journal that provides your perspective on the development, articulation, improvement and use of competencies in your work.