

University of Pennsylvania
School of Social Policy & Practice
Course Syllabus
SWRK 701: Health & Mental Health Policy
Spring Semester 2019
Wednesday 9:00-11:30am; 169 McNeil

Course Units: 1 CU

Office Hours: By appointment

Pre-requisites: None

Course Purpose

This course is designed to provide students with an overview of the multi-dimensional aspects of the health and mental health care delivery systems. The course examines how these health care systems are organized, financed and delivered, with particular focus on the role of the federal government through its public health initiatives, and the Medicare and Medicaid programs. The course also examines the evolution of managed care, and its organizational contexts, and how managed care effects practice, and the delivery of health care services. Pressing national health policy issues, including poverty, health disparities, and mental health and substance abuse are covered, including federal, state, and local policy responses. Finally, the course considers how developmental issues are addressed in health policies, particularly policies affecting children, adolescents, and the elderly.

The course addresses several of the crosscutting themes in the MSW curriculum. A critical review of how health policy has evolved in the United States, from its emphasis on small, at-risk groups, to population-based insurance programs, to cost containment strategies, offers a rich opportunity for analyzing how social work values and ethics are or are not embedded in our nation's health policies, and how that has changed over time. The important role of health care services and policies in addressing inequalities is particularly stressed, as it affects the quality of life of low-income workers, the unemployed, the uninsured and the underinsured. The differential impact of cost containment policies on publicly insured people, people of color, and at-risk populations, including people with disabilities, is explored, both through research articles, public commentary and analysis of students' field placement experiences (providing a linkage to material covered in the Racism and Social Change Sequence). The course will also touch on topics such as patient rights, regulatory policies related to health issues, and federal health care research funding.

Course Objectives:

1. Understand the policymaking process –both legislative and administrative, and that policymaking involves choices;
2. Understand the major national health and health insurance programs: Medicare, Medicaid, Children's Health Insurance (CHIP), Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA) and private insurance;
3. Explain current concepts of health policy around costs, quality and access to care;
4. Demonstrate an ability to locate and utilize data in order to analyze health and mental health policies and practices.
5. Assess alternative health policies according to their political, social, and economic and value dimensions.
6. Demonstrate an understanding of the applicability of health and mental policy to social work practice.

7. Explain the differential effects of various health and mental health policies on race, gender, class, age, and/or disability groups.

Teaching Methods

Most classes will feature an interactive lecture based on assigned readings. Students are expected to read widely from the reading assignments before each class session and to participate actively in class discussions. Because this class is designed as discussion-based, laptops will not be permitted in class. If you require an accommodation to this policy, please see the instructor.

Attendance Policy

Classroom learning is a fundamental component of your professional education. Students are, therefore, expected to attend each class, arrive at class on time, and be in attendance for the full class. In the event that you are unable to attend class for any reason, you must notify your instructor **in advance** and learn how you are to make up the content you missed. **Missing more than two classes could result in failing the course.** Students whose performance is minimal or failing at midterm will be notified in writing.

Late Assignments

One point will be deducted for each day that an assignment is handed in late without prior approval from the instructor.

Evaluation Methods:	20%	Policy Matrix
	25%	Policy Memo
	15%	Policy Presentation
	25%	Policy Brief
	15%	Class Attendance and Participation

1. **Policy Matrix:** Students will be introduced to a tool that guides the development of a policy brief. During class, students will work in small groups (3-4 students) to complete the Policy Matrix tool using a public health issue. Students will then complete an individual assignment, using the Policy Matrix tool, on a public health issue of their choice. Due by 9am Wednesday, February 27th.
2. **Policy Memo:** Students will submit a two-page policy memo. Due by 9am Wednesday, April 3rd.
3. **Policy Presentation:** Students will conduct a 10 minute presentation on a policy or program of their choice. The student will present as if describing the policy or program to colleagues at a staff meeting. Details on this assignment will be provided during the first class. Due throughout the semester. Students will sign up for presentation dates during the first class.
4. **Policy Brief:** Students will submit a 3-5 page policy brief. Due by 9am Wednesday, May 1st.
5. **Class Attendance and Participation:** In this seminar course, learning is dependent upon student involvement. Students are expected to: attend all class sessions, read all assignments before each class session and participate substantively in class discussions. Attendance and participation are noted and incorporated into the course grade. Because this class is dependent on discussion, laptops and other electronic devices are not permitted for notetaking. Please contact the instructor if an accommodation to this policy is required.

Assigned Readings

All texts are available on Canvas or online (links available on syllabus).

Academic Integrity

Students are expected to adhere to the University’s Code of Academic Integrity. Care should be taken to avoid academic integrity violations, including: plagiarism, fabrication of information, and multiple submissions. Students who engage in any of these actions will be referred to the Office of Academic Integrity, which investigates and decides on sanctions in cases of academic dishonesty.

See link for more information: <http://www.upenn.edu/academicintegrity/index.html>

Academic Standing Policy/Academic Probation

For information on academic policies, please refer to the corresponding sections in the Student Handbook:

<https://www.sp2.upenn.edu/resources/masters-student-handbook/>

Course Outline / Assignments:

Class	Date	Topic	Readings & Assignments
1	Jan 23	Introduction to Health Administration & Policy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Course themes (variability, choice, tensions between goals) • Different levels of governance, health and public health governance • History and stakeholders • Healthcare delivery system 	
2	Jan 30	Policymaking Process <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction to policy and the policymaking process (administrative & legislative); • Process at local, state and federal level 	(CA) Starr, Remedy and Reaction (pg. 27-50) (CA) Jacobson v. Massachusetts (CA) PolicyLab, Engaging with the Federal Policy Process (W) How a Bill Becomes Law (W) U.S. History – Policymaking (W) Congress – Legislative Process Video (W) UPenn Legislative Process Major Document Sites (W) Legislative Explorer In-Class Exercise: Policy Hunt
3	Feb 6	Policy Analysis <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction to policy matrix • Issues statements • Policy options • Background • Landscape • Recommendations 	(CA) Bardach, Practical Guide for Policy Analysis (pg. 1-59, 133-134) (CA) Satullo, By definition, it’s a problem (CA) Noonan et al, Some tips on choosing your policy topic In-Class Exercise: Policy Matrix
4	Feb 13	Health Care Costs & Policy Options Coverage and Access <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is insurance? 	(CA) Gawande, The Cost Conundrum (CA) Gawande, The Cost Conundrum Redux (CA) Gawande, Overkill (CA) Kaiser, An Overview of Medicare (CA) Kaiser, Medicaid, Pocket Primer

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> History of insurance (private and public) Introduction to Medicare and Medicaid 	<p>(CA) Zelizer, How Medicare was Made (W) How did America end up with this health care system? (W) Health Insurance Explained</p> <p>In-Class Exercise: Choosing an Insurance Plan (Exchange & Medicaid)</p>
5	Feb 20	Mental Health Parity	<p>(W) Parity Track National Legislative Landscape (W) What's Confusing Us About Mental Health Parity (W) Deinstitutionalization (W) Paul Ryan's Commitments to Mental Health Reform (W) Mental Health Parity Testimony (W) KFF: Behavioral Health Parity and Medicaid (W) KFF: Facilitating Access to Mental Health Services: A Look at Medicaid, Private Insurance, and the Uninsured</p> <p>In Class Exercise: Program and Policy Solutions for Clinical Cases</p>
6	Feb 27	Communicating with Policymakers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Understand how policymakers use research Understand how to communicate to different policy audiences Learn some technical tips & tricks Learn what is expected for your policy memo 	<p>(CA) The One-Pager: A Practical Policy Advocacy Tool for Translating Community-Based Participatory Research Into Action</p> <p>In-Class Exercise: Framing your policy message</p> <p>Guest Speaker: Sarah Guerrieri, CHOP Government Affairs</p> <p>Policy Matrix Due Wednesday, February 27</p>
March 6 Spring Break			
7	Mar 13	Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)	<p>(W) Legislative Summary: State Children's Health Insurance Program – Fact Sheet (W) The New Child Health Insurance Program: A Carefully Crafted Compromise (W) Where Are States Today? Medicaid and CHIP Eligibility Levels for Children, Pregnant Women, and Adults (W) State Plans for CHIP as Federal CHIP Funds Run Out (W) The CHIP Program Is Beloved. Why Is Its Funding in Danger? (W) Children's Health Insurance Program (W) After Months In Limbo For Children's Health Insurance, Huge Relief Over Deal</p>

		<p>Special Medicaid Topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment (EPSDT) • Emergency Medical Assistance • Refugees and Immigrants • Medicaid Waivers 	<p>(W) CHIP: A Bipartisan Success Story (W) Summary of the 2018 CHIP Funding Extension (W) H.R.195 - Making further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2018, and for other purposes (CA) Lisa Connors- Policy Memo.docx (sample policy memo) (CA) Domian-PolicyMemo-2 (1).docx (sample policy memo)</p> <p>Other Readings: TBA</p> <p>In-Class Exercise: Transforming policy matrix into policy memo Q&A on sample policy memos</p>
8	Mar 20	<p>The ACA and Other Proposals</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deep-dive: the making and unmaking of the ACA • Understand the ACA • Understand current proposals • The path forward 	<p>(CA) Starr, Remedy and Reaction (pg. 267-278) (W) A Better Way* (W) Empowering Patients First Act* (W) American Health Care Act* (W) The ACA (W) Today in Obamacare: The GOP replacement bill is out. Here's what you need to know. (W) The American Health Care Act: the Republicans' bill to replace Obamacare, explained (W) The Parts of Obamacare Republicans Will Keep, Change or Discard</p> <p>*Skim readings for main points</p> <p>Guest Speaker: Heather Klusaritz, PhD, MSW</p>
9	Mar 27	<p>Relationship Between Health and Employment Policy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understanding Supplemental Security Income and Social Security Disability • Americans with Disabilities Act • Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA) • COBRA • Medicaid Work Requirements 	<p>(W) Supplemental Security Income (SSI) (W) Disability Benefits (W) Section 301 (W) Medicaid and Work Requirements: New Guidance, State Waiver Details and Key Issues (W) Medicaid Work Requirements in Arkansas: Experience and Perspectives of Enrollees</p>
10	Apr 3	<p>Partnering with Families and Consumers Around Policy</p>	<p>(W) Transitioning to Adult Care: Supporting Youth with Special Health Care Needs</p>

		Title V Programs	<p>Guest Speaker: Stephanie Pratico, CHOP Trisomy 21 Program & New Jersey Transition to Adulthood Comprehensive Care (NJTACC)</p> <p>Policy Memo Due Wednesday, April 3rd</p>
11	Apr 10	Policy Solutions for Kids Mental Health	Readings: TBA
12	Apr 17	Substance Use Policy	<p>(W) KFF: What are the current costs and outcomes related to mental health and substance abuse disorders?</p> <p>(W) SAMHSA Laws and Regulations Overview</p> <p>(W) U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations: FY18 Omnibus Appropriations Bill</p> <p>(W) Drug Enforcement in the United States: History, Policy, and Trends</p> <p>Guest Speaker: TBD</p>
13	Apr 24	<p>Developing Evidence-Based Health & Mental Health Policy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore what evidence-based health policy means • Place it in the context of other research frameworks 	<p>(CA) Atkins, Making Policy</p> <p>(CA) Brownson, Researchers and Policymakers</p> <p>(CA) Kumanyika LEAD Framework*</p> <p>(CA) Glasgow et al., Evaluating the public health impact of health promotion interventions: the RE-AIM framework*</p> <p>*Skim readings for main points</p>
14	May 1	<p>Public Health in the U.S. Today: Victories, Challenges & Disparities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand Public Health Victories • Understand Current Challenges 	<p>(W) Investing in America's Health, 2013, Trust for America's Health</p> <p>(W) Your Environment, Your Health, CDC</p> <p>(W) Healthy People 2010, Press Release</p> <p>(W) Healthy People 2020 Leading Health Indicators: Progress Update</p> <p>(W) Public Comment for Healthy People 2030</p> <p>(W) CDC Health Disparities and Inequalities Report - United States, 2013</p> <p>(W) U.S. Health Care from a Global Perspective</p> <p>Policy Brief Due Wednesday, May 1st</p>