

Spiritual Competencies

Knowledge Base

The worker is able to discuss:

- Major faith traditions and the variety of spiritual experiences they support
- Social context of spiritual experience, and how culture interacts with spirituality
- Alternative expressions of spirituality
- Dynamics of change, and how spirituality contributes to the change process
- Current issues affecting and affected by spirituality (abortion, LGBT issues, death penalty, domestic violence)

Skill Base

The worker is able to:

- Take and write a spiritual history
- Assess an individual client's relationship to a faith tradition or other body of spiritual practice
- Assess spiritual strengths and barriers as they support or impede a desired change
- Assess what spiritual resources would be appropriate to a client's case plan
- Identify and procure spiritually competent resources as needed
- Identify points of divergence and convergence in the helping relationship and draw appropriate boundaries around them
- Include spiritually-informed interventions which are appropriate to the client and the situation
- Select and practice self-care activities which support them in their work without infringing on the rights or sensibilities of their clients or fellow workers

Values and Attitudes

The worker is able to:

- Use a non-judgmental approach around spiritual issues
- Value and respect diversity
- Affirm and support spiritualities different from his/her own
- Support client self-determination
- Represent clinical, social, or ethical perspectives which may support or conflict with a client's world view respectfully and with integrity