**SOCIAL WORK 409 CLASS EXERCISE ASSIGNMENT**

**Assignment #1 Membership Decisions**

**DUE DATE: 1-13-2015**

***Do not change the formatting of this assignment***

**Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

You are a worker in an outreach program housed in a school. You are expected to conduct groups for youth considered high risk for dropping out or emotional problems. You are starting a group with the following youth. The following children have been referred.

1. Franky is a fourteen year old boy from an Italian-American family. He has a learning disability which has caused him to repeat grades three times. His father is very hard on him and often tries to embarrass him to motivate him to perform better in school. Franky is very self conscious about his disability and becomes volatile when others make him feel stupid. Teachers are concerned about Franky’s home life and suspect a history of child abuse. Franky was referred by his guidance counselor who believes that he needs to increase his self esteem.
2. Bianca is a ten year old Caucasian child. Even though she is doing well in school, she hangs out with several disruptive children. Bianca has been in trouble for fighting with another youth named Farrah. She missed school for about one week after being suspended for the fight and some teachers think that she might have been beaten for getting into trouble at school. Bianca is large for her age and seems to be moving into puberty. Little is known about her family as they never come to school or interact with any school personnel. Bianca was referred by the vice principal who wants to see her change her group of friends.
3. Reinhold is a small nine year old Caucasian boy. He is an excellent student but tends to be somewhat impulsive in social situations. He was referred to group by his teacher who was concerned that his impulsivity is starting to make him aggressive. He has started to become very demanding of the teachers attention and throws down his pencil when she doesn’t respond. His parents are newly immigrated from Germany. Apparently his father is an engineer for a large firm. Reinhold’s mother did not move to the US with the family and apparently a divorce in forthcoming.
4. Dijuan is a ten year old African American boy. Dijuan has just moved to town from another state after his mother and father separated. Dijuan is slightly overweight and withdrawn in social situations but when teased can become quite volatile. Dijuan’s mother complained about the father indicating that he was “a tyrant” and would be very strict with the children often using corporal punishment. She reportedly has adopted a much more lenient approach with him and is asking the school to cooperate with her new approach to discipline. Dijuan was referred to the guidance department and then to the group to improve his social skills.
5. Farrah is an eleven year old Arab-American girl. She recently moved to the area with her family. Farrah has four brothers attending the school. All of the children are excellent students and are considered the ideal children by teachers because they never speak out in class and work hard to please the teacher. Farrah has recently become moody and withdrawn with teachers. Farrah is the first in her class to begin growing breast tissue and has drawn much male attention as they try to get her to go on dates with them. Farrah has become unpopular with some of the girls in her class and was beat up by Bianca. The guidance counselor referred her because of her withdrawal and quietness. She believes Farrah is depressed about something.
6. Nathan is a large, athletic eleven year old Caucasian boy who teases and antagonizes other children in his class. Nathan just moved to town. He has been suspended twice for picking on other children and causing fights in school. His favorite target is Reinhold. Nathan loves to make fun of his language. Teachers have reported Nathan’s behavior to his parents but they do not seem to do anything about it. The teachers have said that his parents are drinkers who tend to let the children stay up until all hours of the night and never make sure homework is done. The guidance counselor referred him to decrease his tormenting of others.
7. Fernando is a ten year old Hispanic boy living with his mother and her new husband. Fernando and his mother just moved in with the new husband from another school district. Fernando has traditionally done very well in his academic work. Recently, however, he has become quite aggressive with some of the other children and his grades have began to slip. The teachers feel that there might be something going on at home but Fernando mother denies any problems. Fernando was referred to guidance and then was later referred by the guidance counselor to the group program.
8. Tsu-Yin is an eleven year old Asian American girl living with her mother and her father. Tsu-Yin was recently diagnosed as having a language based learning disability which has impacted her grades. In the past Tsu-Yin has always felt that she was just stupid and that is why she was getting bad grades. The diagnosis of a learning disability did not seem to alter her perceptions of herself and the teacher referred her to group so that she would start to understand that a learning disability does not mean that you are stupid.
9. Sam is a ten year old Caucasian boy diagnosed with attention deficit/hyperactive disorder. He takes ritilin to control the disorder but often forgets his noon pill which creates problems with the teachers. When the medication wears off, Sam tends to forget things, get out of his seat and bother his classmates. The teachers have tried to engage his mother in helping but she is a single parent who has to work so is of little help. The teacher referred Sam to the group hoping that he would learn to be more responsible about his disease and do things to keep himself under control.
10. Gwendolyn is an overweight eleven year old African American girl who lives with her mother and father. Gwendolyn is a good student and has been doing well in school, however, teachers have been concerned because she seems depressed and withdrawn. Her parents did not seem to know what might be bothering her and reported that she seemed quite normal at home. The teacher thought that there may be some problem with her friends at school and referred her to the group to see if she might talk about whatever seemed to be bothering her.

**Assignment #1**

**Name:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

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| **Your supervisor suggested running a self-esteem group with Bianca, Reinhold, Farrah and Gwendolyn because they have body image issues. What problems do you see with this membership?** |
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| **Another suggestion was to do a group for children who recently moved to the area. This group could involve Reinhold, Dijuan, Nathan, Fernando, and Tsu-Yin. What problems are foreseeable with this combination of members?** |
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| **What common themes do you see among the members that might provide a focus for group intervention (List 3)?** |
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