

SWRK 409
(Ragg, 2010, Garvin, 2011-2012)

Reasons for Groups in Agency Settings – From Treatment to Illusions of Treatment

| Reasons for Group | Programmatic Indicators | Group Indicators | Leadership Indicators |
|--------------------------|---|--|--|
| Treatment Requirements | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Focused on problems that have a social or interactive component (e.g., social problems) 2. Maximize the level of mutual aid in the group. 3. Less structure and more work at the process level of the group. 4. Program focus shifts from week-to-week according to the needs of the group. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Small number of group members (seldom above 10). 2. High level of interaction among the group members. 3. Collaboration and support usually high. 4. Cohesion is developed and central to the relationships. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Works to activate the group and maximize mutual aid. 2. Intervenes largely at the group level rather than the content level. 3. Leader important and will often cancel group if not available. |
| Service Expediency | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Focused on a common problem or experience of the members (e.g., handicapped child, divorce). 2. Uses an educational or manualized format with expectable content covered each session. 3. Later content builds on early content according to a conceptual framework. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Usually more than 10 members sometimes up to 30. 2. Members don't focus on each other as people, more on reactions to the content. 3. Very little mutual aid beyond applying the group concepts. 4. Little cohesion or reason for being together | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Delivers the content and runs activities or discussions to help integrate the content. 2. Directs the focus of the group discussions. 3. Typically the same leaders but can insert new leaders if needed. |
| Agency Expediency | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Often poorly focused reason for sessions, more of a meeting than something with common goals among the members. 2. Often an agenda but seldom common treatment goals or intersecting treatment goals. 3. No real use of group dynamics or group processes. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Often larger group based on agency-level dynamics (e.g., all in the ward) 2. Little commonality beyond agency-related designations | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Runs the meeting often through an agenda or expected flow. 2. Manages discussion according to the agenda items. 3. Interchangeable leaders so if one is gone, others replace. |
| Maximize Income | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Very little sense of programming or focus. 2. May be an activity in common (e.g., cooking lunch, playing a game) but no specific group programming. 3. No real use of group dynamics or group processes. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. No group cohesion or caring among the members. 2. Little commonality beyond being in the agency program | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Gathers the people together. 2. May hold general discussion or help with activities. 3. Interchangeable leaders so if one is gone, others replace. |