PRACTICAL SOCIAL WORK

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Social work is at an important stage in its development. All professions must be responsive to changing social and economic conditions if they are to meet the needs of those they serve. This series focuses on sound practice and the specific contribution which social workers can make to the well-being of our society in the 1980s.

The British Association of Social Workers has always been conscious of its role in setting guidelines for practice and in seeking to raise professional standards. The conception of the Practical Social Work series arose from a survey of BASW members to discover where they, the practitioners in social work, felt there was the most need for new literature. The response was overwhelming and enthusiastic, and the result is a carefully planned, coherent series of books. The emphasis is firmly on practice, set in a theoretical framework. The books will inform, stimulate and promote discussion, thus adding to the further development of skills and high professional standards. All the authors are practitioners and teachers of social work representing a wide variety of experience.

JO CAMPLING

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First published 1986

Published by
MACMILLAN EDUCATION LTD
Houndmills, Basingstoke, Hampshire RG21 2XS
and London
Companies and representatives
throughout the world

British Library Cataloguing in Publication Data
O'Hagan, Kieran

Crisis intervention in social services. — (BASW
practical social work)

1. Crisis intervention (Social service)

I. Title II. Series

361.3 HV41

ISBN 978-0-333-37669-0

ISBN 978-1-349-18234-3 (eBook)

DOI 10.1007/978-1-349-18234-3

*To Maura, Paul, Christine and Brian,
reliable companions in life's crises*

Contents

<i>Acknowledgements</i>	ix
1 Crisis Intervention	1
But whose crisis?	1
2 The Crisis Challenge	7
Crisis: a pleasurable, exciting and dramatic entertainment	7
Responses to the crisis challenge	9
Intake teams	9
Emergency duty teams: a recognised and established crisis service	10
What makes a truly effective crisis service?	11
Conclusion: a fresh start	12
3 The Crisis Heritage	14
The task of definition	14
America, psychiatry, the sixties	15
Hope, optimism and confidence	15
The pioneers	17
Gerald Caplan	17
The origins of family crisis intervention	20
The social services crisis context	21
Conclusion	22
4 Reflections: a Crisis Learning Experience	24
Introductory lessons	24
The agency context: post-Seebohm chaos	25
Divide and conquer	25
‘Rescuing’ clients from the crisis situation	27

vi *Contents*

The agency: ally or foe?	29
The conflictual nature of crisis	29
Crisis referrals	30
Inaccuracies, misunderstandings and dangers	30
Social services crises	33
Conclusion	34
The impact of different crises upon an inexperienced untrained worker (Table 4.1)	35
5 The Plea-for-Removal Crises	40
Definition	40
The characteristics	41
Intervention: making the crisis worse	41
The shaping of perceptions	43
The clamour for removal: the professionals	44
The clamour for removal: the community	45
Plea-for-removal: a 'dumping' crisis?	46
Plea-for-removal: unrecognised suffering and care	48
Plea-for-removal: the diminishing options	51
Conclusion	53
6 A New Foundation for Crisis Training	55
Introduction	55
Family therapy	55
Common goals in family therapy and crisis intervention	56
Towards a new theory of crisis for social workers	58
Family therapy theories	58
Deriving a theory of crisis from systems theory	61
The crisis system	61
Closed and unhealthy 'open' systems	62
Struggle and conflict in crisis	63
Morphostasis and morphogenesis	63
The application of the theory	66
Clients' perceptions in crisis situations	69
Perceptual intervention	69
Self-knowledge in crisis situations	71
Social work principles and crisis realities	71
An unexpected development	71

The unpleasantness of crisis situations	73
Professional and moral vulnerability in crisis intervention	74
A conceptual framework for exploration	74
Conclusion	81
7 'I Don't Want to Lose My Baby'	82
Introduction	82
The crisis referral	83
Initial reaction and first contact	84
Analysis and comment (1)	86
Systems perspective (1)	86
Moral and professional vulnerability (1)	88
Replacing the crisis system: space, balance and order	89
Analysis and comment (2)	92
Systems perspective (2)	93
Moral and professional vulnerability (2)	94
Strengthening the new system: a shift in focus	97
Analysis and comment (3)	97
The 'heart' of the matter	98
Analysis and comment (4)	99
The therapeutic potential in crisis	101
Crisis resolution	101
8 Ethical Considerations for Crisis Intervention	105
Introduction	105
Powerful social worker powerless client!	105
The ugly face of crisis	107
The inalienable rights of whom?	107
Violence in crisis situations	109
Power, authority and control in crisis situations	110
Source and use	110
Manipulation	112
Statutory removal	113
Impediments in training for crisis intervention	114
The 'oppressed', 'innocent' client!	114
Implications for clients in crisis	117

viii *Contents*

Conclusion	119
9 Social Services: the Organisational Context	121
Introduction: model enterprises and all that	121
Crisis intervention: the challenge for management	122
A wealth of experience	122
Establishing the facts	122
Social worker's limitations for crisis work	124
Respecting and responding to the worker's limitations	124
Crisis intervention and staff supervision	125
Knowledge: the crisis context	125
Recording: a crucial learning tool	127
Supervision: ethical considerations	127
Senior management and crisis intervention	128
Accepting the realities	128
Supervision: the task for senior management	129
Crisis policies compatible with crisis principles	130
Other agencies' perceptions of crisis intervention in social services	132
Conclusion	133
10 Crisis Intervention	136
But whose crisis?	136
Self-exploration : the unending search	138
Crisis intervention : the real meaning	140
<i>Bibliography</i>	143
<i>Index</i>	150

Acknowledgements

I am indebted to friends and colleagues throughout North Yorkshire; in particular, to the Selby team, past and present members. The conceptual frameworks in Chapters 4 and 6 presented special typing difficulties in the original manuscripts, but, as always, Silvia Mileham's kindness and resourcefulness came to the rescue.

The knowledge and experience upon which the book is based has been gained principally through the crisis experiences of my clients in Selby. Though all of them may not be aware of it, their contribution to this book is immeasurable.

In this book, there are many descriptions of varying length and detail, about actual crisis cases. Great care has been taken in the attempt to conceal the identities of the clients in question. Names, places, and time, have been significantly altered, and certain material facts have been omitted. The experiences of the social worker in dealing with these crises, however, are exactly as described.

KIERAN O'HAGAN