



Intersections of Social Work and Urban Planning

Jose Richard Aviles

August 22, 2023

Toolbox
Tuesday

WWW.SCAG.CA.GOV

Housekeeping

1. Meeting length: 1.5 hour
2. This meeting is being recorded
3. All participant lines will be muted
4. At the end, there will be a Q&A session
5. If you have a question during the presentation, please type it into the chat box or press the "raise hand" function
6. We will log all questions and then voice a selection at the end of the presentation
7. A recording of this webinar and the PowerPoint slides will be available on the SCAG website. We will send a link to everyone who has registered after the event

Agenda

1. Introduction
 - a. Why Social Work in Urban Planning?
2. Advocacy in Urban Planning
 - a. Understanding Positionality, Power, and Privilege
 - b. City vs. city: Who are you committed to?
3. Social Work Theories
 - a. Strengths Perspective
 - b. Systems Theories
 - c. Person-in-Environment Perspective
 - d. Countertransference
4. Examples of Social Work Practice in Urban Planning

Why Social Work in Urban Planning?

- There's an intrinsic and crucial relationship between identification and spatial relationship
 - It takes a village
 - Dime con quién andas y te diré quien eres
- Unlike Urban Planning, Social Work places people first.
- Biopsychosocial perspective - holistic
- It is a field that helps us understand
- There is plenty of room for advocacy within Urban Planning, yet we as Urban Planners are not taught to be advocates.

Advocacy in Urban Planning

- Understanding Positionality, Power, and Privilege
 - We've been conditioned to see ourselves as observers of the built environment when in reality we are also participants of the ecology
 - Built-environment as object vs subject
- City vs city
 - city that lives behind chamber doors, and behind bureaucratic processes
 - City that lives at the intersection, street vendors, carne asadas, cookout
 - Harmonies in the environment → lived, built, and felt.
- Who are you committed to?

“Wild tongues can't be tamed, they can only be cut”

-Gloria Anzaldua

“Provide a wider range of choices for those who have few”

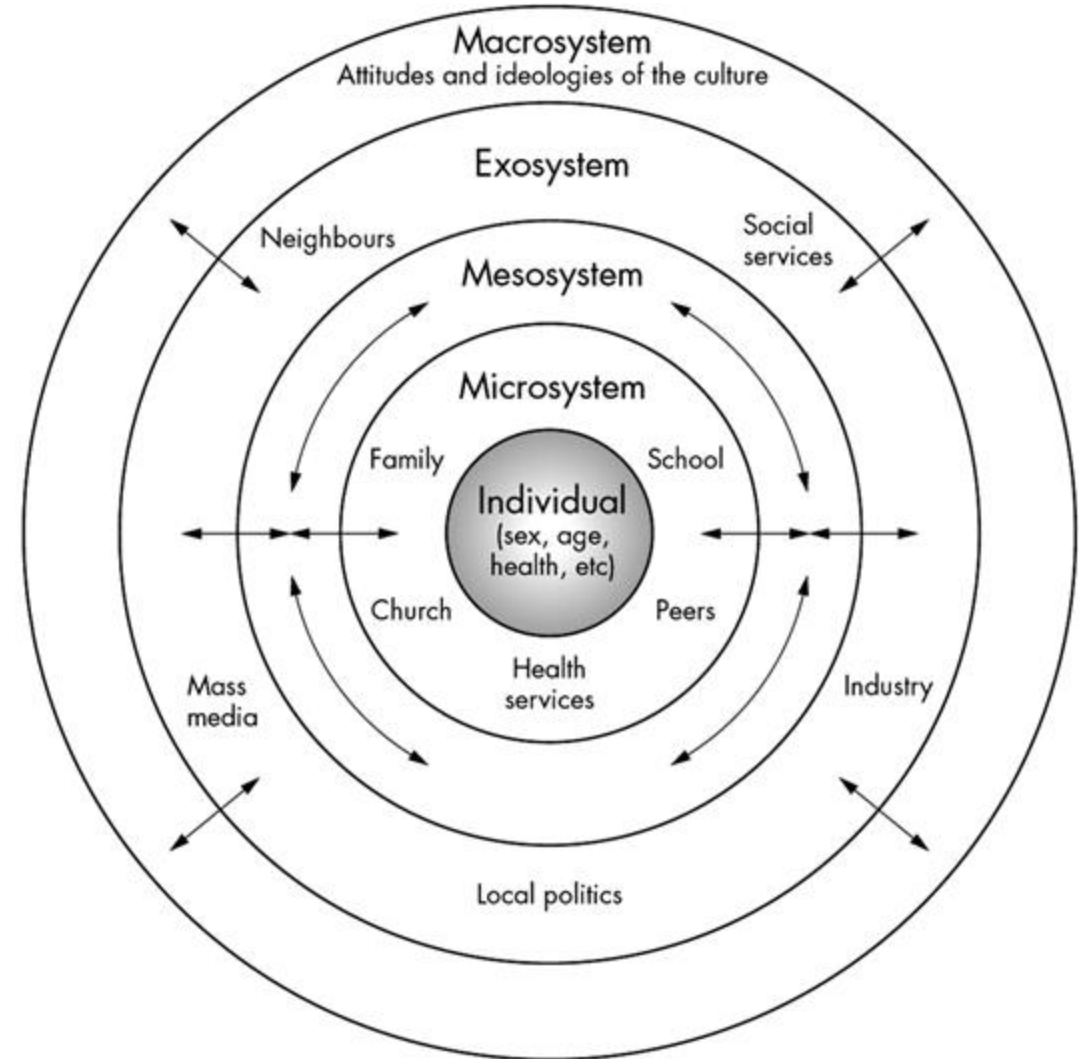
-Norman Krumholz

- South Central
- Bus Rider Union
- BA in Dance, St. Olaf College
- Master of Social Work
- Master of Urban Planning

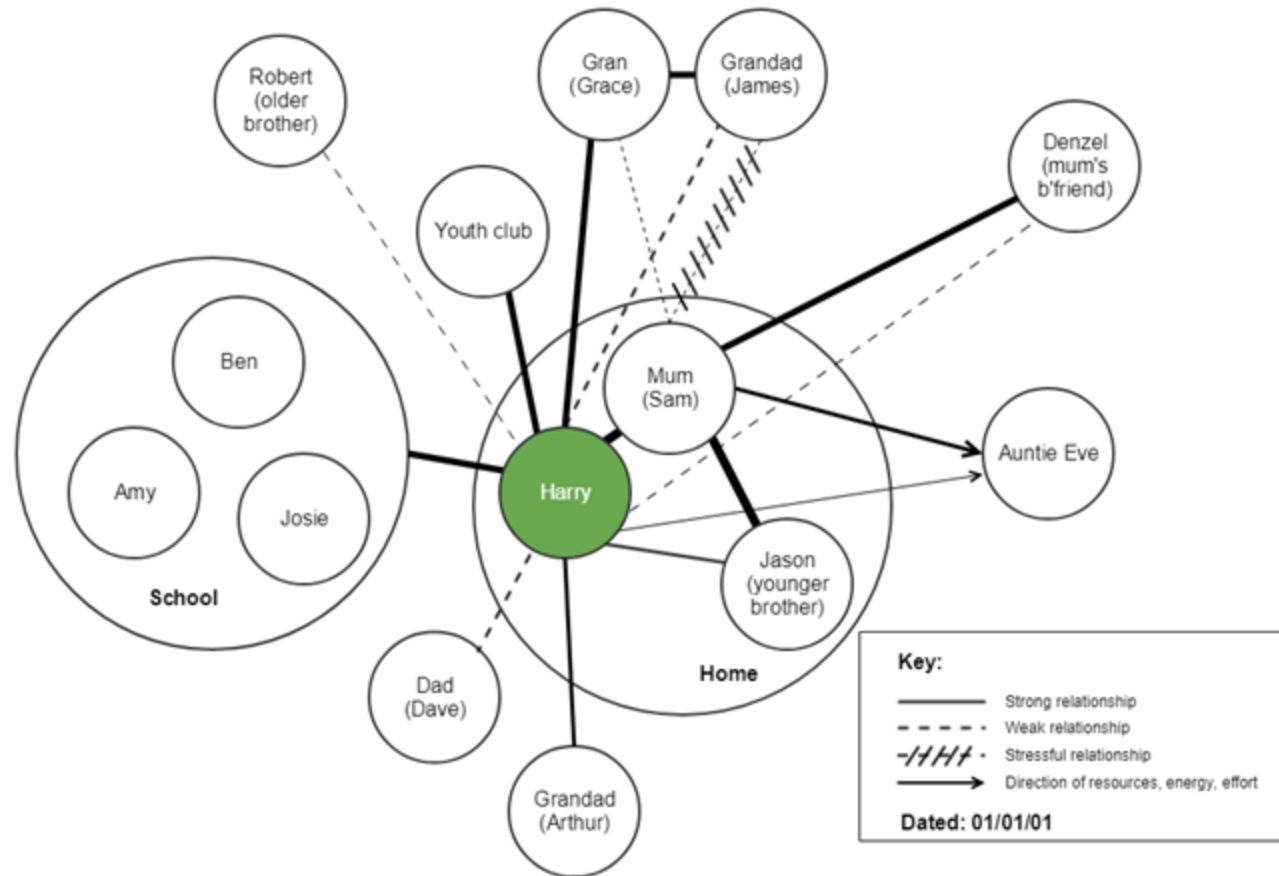


Social Work Practice

- Strengths Perspective
- Systems Theory
 - Person-In-Environment
- Countertransference
- Case Management



Strengths Perspective/Systems Theory



A client's personal, communal, and environmental strengths in their journey to healing.

How do we find strength?

Person-In-Environment Perspective acknowledges people at the center of design and the environment is built around them!

Countertransference

Countertransference reminds us that the only true experts are our clients and communities. Lived experiences should be leveraged and seen as truth, even when planners can't connect with them.

Remember: we are of service, not to be serviced.

Case Management

Assessment → Pre Design

Treatment → Design

Tracking → Construction

Termination → Evaluation

What are engagement strategies invite community to be a part of the design process from beginning to end?

Case Study 3: Arts + Culture

El Camino De Vermont

12.2 Mile walk honoring the community members that have been using public transit during a global pandemic. A piece centered on BioReconciliation and City Consciousness





Performance Theory:

- Being
- Doing
- Showing the Doing
- Explaining the Doing



El Camino De Vermont







Replied to your story



Reminds wen I would get off green line coming home to Gardena from the west side 😊



Replied to your story



I remember being so shook when they put the little park areas on the medians. The idea was brilliant for bringing green space into these hostile concrete landscapes, but those spaces are definitely not being utilized the way they were meant to be. It would be great to have those areas redesigned with more community input so they can actually benefit the people they were meant to. Because it's up to us to improve our city! Keep up the great work!! ✨



Tell us how we did!

Take a quick 2-minute survey to help us improve future Toolbox Tuesdays!

