

Observation Assessment #2

Type of Observation: Client Meeting

Mentor: Anna Rupani

Location: Mosaic Family Services, Inc.

Date: Thursday, February 15th

Time: 3:15 pm - 4:45 pm

Assessment:

This week, I was so excited to go on my second observational mentor visit because I once again got the chance to witness how Anna interacted with her clients. Sitting in on client meetings is extremely eye-opening because in them, I learn not just what Anna does on a day-to-day, regular basis, but what the difficulties and dynamics are in her meetings with clients.

For the meeting I sat in on this week, I listened as Anna went over a divorce decree with one of her clients and explained all of the nuances of the legal jargon. This was particularly fascinating, because the first client meeting I sat in on last week was similarly going over a divorce decree, but an intern was doing most of the talking to provide the intern practice, and at the first meeting, there was also a translator. It shocked me how much a translator could change the flow of a meeting, because although the translator was obviously fluent, the barrier of her presence really changed the meeting as a whole. At this meeting, however, Anna spoke directly and by herself, so I really got a vision of what her job working independently, is like. I still wonder after the meeting, though, if she feels the disconnect of a translator, too? I would assume so, just because it seemed so papable to me, but maybe after so many years of practice, she's gotten so used to it, that it's almost just as natural.

I was also really interested to learn about all of the intricacies of divorce. I never knew how thorough a divorce was until listening to Anna go over every single aspect of this particular split and how absolutely everything, down to every single asset, and every visiting weekend, is severed between the couple. I assume that it's not always as divided

in a normal divorce, but that with the domestic violence aspect, things are generally more carefully scrutinized as a result.

There were also a few moments during the meeting where I got a sense of the emotional vulnerability of the client. There were definitely times during the meeting where I got an idea of how hard the divorce was on the client and even though it was quite clearly desired, still incurred a lot of emotion on the client's side, simply because of the turbulence of the time. Because of this, I saw how Anna responded and got a clear picture of how she maintained her professionalism through the entire meeting, making sure to comfort, but not dwell on, the mixed emotions of her client.

Overall, there was so much that I took away from this meeting. I feel like I have a tendency to say that with every single mentor visit I go on, but with this one especially, I really did see the value of the program I'm currently in. There's so much to take away from all the trips I go on, and I'm so excited for where this will take me-- not only for the rest of the year with my Final Product, but for the rest of my life with making decisions in my life on my plans and goals for years to come.