Placer County

Poverty Simulation

with Tiela Chambers

Training Description

Poverty Simulation immerses participants in scenarios that provide a simulated experience of those living in poverty. Participants take on the role of a person living in a low-income community. Each participant receives a packet that identifies their particular role to play. Some participants play the role of the consumer, while others play the role of a business or agency in the community (ie. the bank, the employer, the pawnshop, etc.).

- *Consumers receive information that identifies their family structure, their individual circumstances, and their family's financial situation. (Example: Single dad with two children ages 10 and 13; Dad has a part-time job that pays $60/week; Rent on their apartment is $150/month; Additional expenses are also identified.)*
- *Participants playing family roles must get through four 15-minute "weeks" and complete activities that mimic what families everywhere do – go to work (or look for work), get kids to school, feed the family, pay the bills, keep the family safe, etc.*
- *Families will also encounter challenges they need to respond to in the course of this mock "month."*

There is an extensive debriefing at the end of the simulation exercises. Participants typically have a strong need to talk about the challenging experience, issues came up for them, and their insights resulting from the simulation experience. We take time to talk about the impact of what we've learned, the work participants do, and we review the goals and results of this simulation program.

Examples of how this workshop has been used:

- Part of strategic planning for judges or social services providers
- Cultural competence/humility training
- Team-building effort
- Launch or promote a public service program
- Mechanism to discuss diversity, equity, and inclusion
- Start conversations about systems, structures, and ways to better serve the public

Training Date and Time

Thursday October 12, 2023
1:00pm to 4:00pm
Location: *Loomis Veteran's Memorial Hall*
5945 Horseshoe Bar Road 95650

Registration is available in Placer Learns

◊ Placer County Employees access Placer Learns through the Learning Zone on their MyPlacer.

◊ External Users (non-county employees) access Placer Learns through this External User Login

For accessibility requests (e.g. ADA access), special needs, questions and/or to provide feedback, please contact Placer County designee, SOC Placer Learns Administrator at: PlacerLearns-SOCadmin@placer.ca.gov