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Review of *Addictions Counseling: A Competency-Based Approach* by Cynthia A. Faulkner & Samuel S. Faulkner

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politics of liberalism and conservatism. In fact, we could go as far as to say that viewing these ongoing contentions through the hermeneutic of compassion might well create the common ground we so desperately lack most of the time that will move the conversation forward.

Although one could easily be discouraged by the current state of impasse in social welfare politics in the world, and perhaps especially in the USA, there are a new voices coming forward pointing in some positive directions. One emerging influential voice is that of Astra Taylor, a young film maker and theorist who is looking for a language to move us beyond the restrictive assumptions that the pervasive neoliberal milieu imposes on us. In a recent writing, she suggests that a revival of the overarching concept of "solidarity" may be one pathway forward for the social thought of the new generation. I thought of that writing often in reading this book by Edward Murphy. One of the drawbacks of "solidarity" as it has been used in movements of history is that it too quickly can become a term of exclusion, creating an in-group and an out-group. Compassion in conjunction with solidary would make solidarity a much more inclusive concept. I can only hope that Murphy's book receives the wider reading it deserves.

Daniel Liechty
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Cynthia A. Faulkner & Samuel S. Faulkner, *Addictions Counseling: A Competency-Based Approach*. Oxford University Press (2019), 237 pages, \$55.00 (paperback).

As a result of the emphasis on rising opioid overdose deaths and attempts at understanding and offering solutions, there is growing attention directed toward treatment for substance use disorders. Preparing clinicians to practice with competence across disciplines is an emerging necessity. In this welcome addition to the literature, Faulkner and Faulkner connect curriculum, practice, and certification standards of various professional tracks to the art and science of addiction counseling to embrace a broader context. Rooted in education and practice-based competencies,

the design supports the educator in teaching and the student in learning. Taking a cue from human resources, Faulkner and Faulkner use knowledge, skills, and values-oriented criteria to demonstrate proficient counseling techniques with persons living with substance use disorders.

The focus on competency and standards associated with evidence-based treatment protocols can help educators disseminate knowledge about treating substance use disorders from within their respective disciplines. This transdisciplinary perspective encompasses approaches from the counseling and social work fields, while not excluding individuals who may be entering the profession from another avenue. Faulkner and Faulkner are scholars with a significant amount of practice experience. They thoughtfully chose to include placement criteria, known by the acronym ASAM, that have remained fairly consistent regarding guidelines based on symptoms and not necessarily the substances of use. The education and practice-based competencies address curricula guidelines while simultaneously prioritizing areas of practice which exposes students to common interventions in addiction treatment settings.

One highly valued characteristic of the book is the case study approach that walks the reader through a treatment episode from beginning to end. Case studies allow clinicians to combine theory with practice, demonstrating specific competencies in conjunction with subjective data from in-vivo experience. However, a drawback involves the inability to fully capture the panoramic nature of addiction treatment due to what is inevitably left out of the narrative.

There are problems with this book, however. The case study used in this book reveals questionable cultural competency regarding the family constellation and support system. In particular, the decision to describe the client as raising her children "on her own with little or no support" (p. 12) while there was clear evidence that their father was involved in daily co-parenting and living in close proximity indicates a failure to appreciate such cultural difference in relation to family structure. In addition, friends were described as "close" (p. 13), yet only the children were included in family sessions. While certainly an opportunity to analyze the recommendations and explore other options, this has potential of creating discomfort for counselors and students of color. Similarly, the chapter on diversity deserved more

attention and expansion in some areas including people of color and adolescents. The inclusion of other special populations such as impaired professionals and recovering professionals would have also been beneficial to expand the discussion. A more thoughtful consideration for alternatives to 12 step models of recovery seems relevant as well. Finally, there is absent attention on the dynamics of managed care and its impact on addiction counseling, adherence, outcomes and placement.

The full scope of addiction counseling is vast and an ongoing process, and it warrants a more comprehensive text that includes material to stimulate critical thinking skills about this specialty. The current state of access to addiction treatment in the general population certainly justifies discussion about cost and treatment philosophy around the country to address disparities within the field.

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