

LEGISLATIVE HEARING AND SUMMARY

by Shirley Zimmerman
University of Minnesota

All students are expected to attend a legislative hearing or city council meeting dealing with an existing or proposed policy that addresses some problem experienced by families and submit a summary of their experience and observations (typed and double spaced). The summary should draw on one of the policy frameworks discussed in class to guide their observations and the development of their paper, highlight the goals and objectives of the policy or proposed policy under discussion, the values reflected in the goals and objectives of the policy or proposed policy, the roles and positions of persons participating in the discussion (i.e., chair, interest group representatives, etc.), and then draw on one of the family frameworks for coming to some conclusion about the implications of the hearing for families and their well-being. The summary is due on or before February 19.

To find out if and when meetings or hearings are scheduled, call the House Information Office, 296-2146. Ask to be put on the mailing list to receive meeting or hearing announcements. A schedule of meetings of other public bodies appears in the newspapers on Mondays. These meetings can substitute for a legislative meeting or hearing. Consider school board meetings, city council meetings, or any meeting at which some controversial policy issue related to families is being discussed. Although in-person attendance at hearings or meetings is encouraged and preferred, some meetings and hearings are televised on cable TV and viewing them on TV may substitute for actually attending them. CSPAN televises congressional sessions for both the House and Senate and these can be very interesting and informative.