

Risks & Rewards of Value-Based Policy Advocacy



Joanne Rains Warner, DNS, RN
University of Portland, OR
APHA November 2007

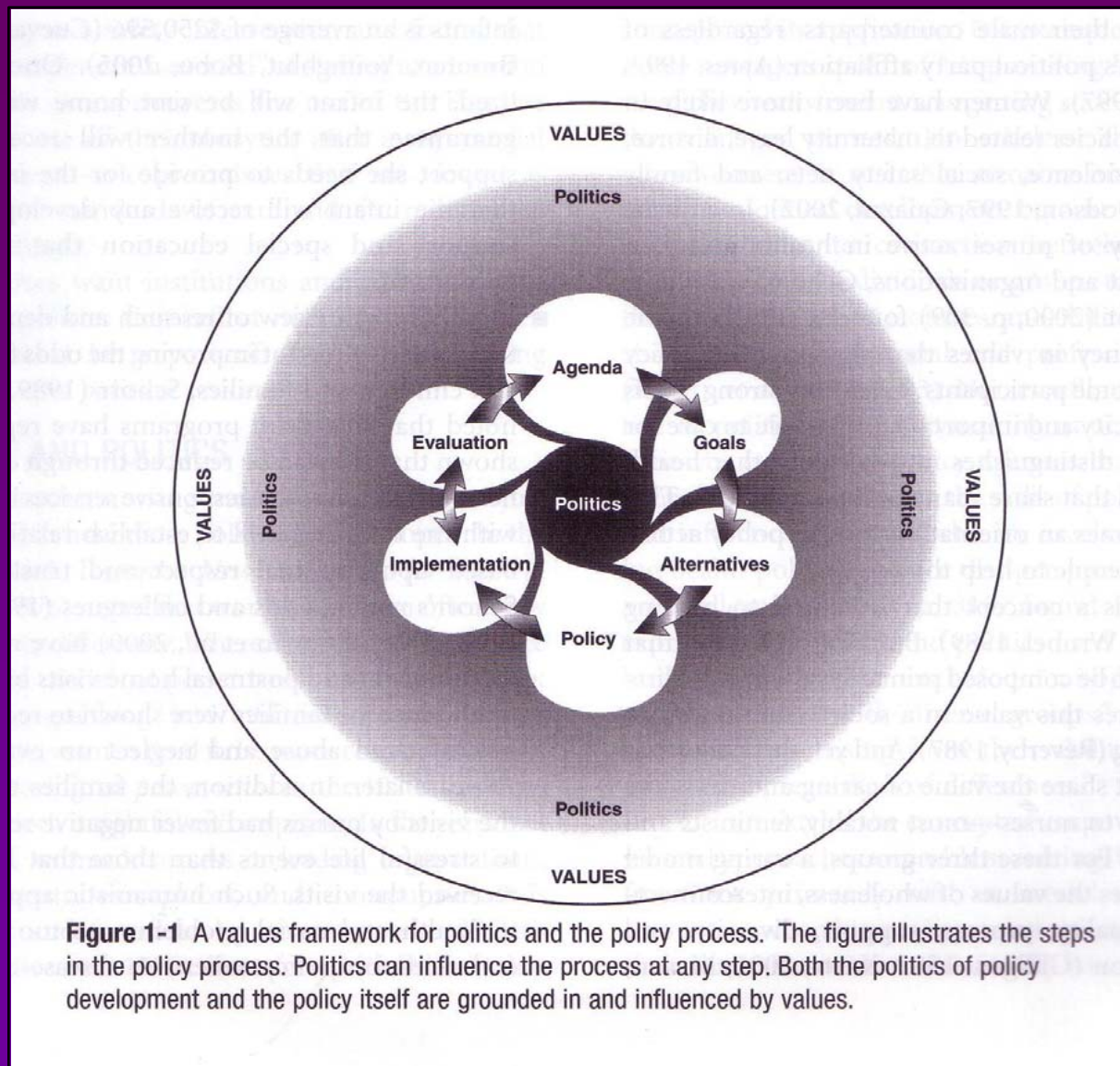
Values...

- We seek a world free of war and the threat of war.
- We seek a world with equity and justice for all.
- We seek a world where every person's potential may be fulfilled.
- We seek an earth restored.



Value-Laden Policy Advocacy

- A vision of a preferred world
- Values that support this world view:
 - Personal
 - Political ideology
 - Religious/spiritual
 - Disciplinary
 - Institutional
 - Societal



Mason, Leavitt, & Chaffee. (2007). *Policy & Politics in Nursing and Health Care*. St. Louis: Saunders, p. 5.

Inevitable & Potential Tensions Between...

- Preferred worlds
- Avenues to achieve them
- Values and science
- Personal and institutional values or mission
- Power differentials

Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL)

- “Quaker lobby in the public interest”
- Quaker witness on Capitol Hill
- Brings spiritual values to bear on public policy
- Strives for congruence in social, economic & environmental aspects of life with spiritual values
- Nonpartisan



FCNL History

- First registered faith-based lobby group
- Formed in middle of WWII around issues of draft and war
- Throughout the years, focused on:
 - Quaker testimonies/beliefs
 - Long term consequences
 - Root causes
 - Interrelationships of issues

Personal FCNL History

- Member of Committee 1988 - present
- Policy Committee from 1989 - 1995
- Executive Committee from 1997-2002
- Clerk and Assistant Clerk 1998 - 2002
- My favorite expression of faith and public health nursing

Quaker Testimonies

vs.

Public Health Values

- | | | |
|--------------------------|---|----------------------------------|
| • Equality | ↔ | • Human Dignity |
| • Community | ↔ | • Aggregate |
| • Simplicity | ↔ | • Clarity of focus |
| • Peace & social justice | ↔ | • Social Justice |
| • Integrity & truth | ↔ | • Truth and faithfulness to fact |

1st Story & Reflection

- Communicating (convincing) my public institution
 - Connecting the dots
 - Links to discipline, values, mission
 - Framework of expanded policy leadership
 - Cohen 1996
 - Fawcett and Russell 2001
 - Not the avenue for rising academic stars

2nd Story & Reflection

- RWJ Health Policy Fellowship interview
 - “Too moral” & “too liberal” for an appointment on Capitol Hill
 - Cost of going public with values unknown

3rd Story & Reflection

- Offending an undergraduate student
 - Collision of pacifism and ROTC pride
 - Lessons of context for example
 - Mindfulness of power differential
 - Continue to model integration and action
 - Include explicit caveat without ‘right’ and ‘correct’

Lessons Learned

- Powerful synergy can come from personal, political and professional value integration.
- Be intentional regarding costs and benefits.
- Help others connect the dots.

Final Lessons Learned

- Celebrate open doors, accept closed ones.
- Mentor others on this journey regarding risks & rewards of value-laden work.
- Daring to go public allowed wholeness, lived passion and undivided soul.