Chapter Exercises for **Chapter 4: Advocacy in Social Work**

1. Consider attending a rally or some form of public advocacy event. Can you identify the objectives and desired outcomes of the gathering? Are social workers involved in the demonstration? How do you explain their presence or absence?

2. Contemplate attending a political fund-raiser or rally for a candidate. Be attentive to the seating arrangements and interaction patterns of participants. Is there an “inner circle” of confidants surrounding the politician? How are those in attendance given opportunities to ask questions or enter meaningful dialogue with the candidate?

3. Many schools offer a legislative day in the state capitol. Sessions allow students to listen to legislators and their legislative aides describe how the business of state government and the legislative branch takes place. Attend and ask questions about effective ways to become involved in political processes. How challenging do you think it would be to get involved? What seems to be the secret to accessing decision makers and policymakers?

4. Select a human service organization in which to serve as a volunteer. Observe social

workers at the agency and inquire about their typical workday and workweek. What

kinds of activities do they perform? Use the chart in Exhibit 4.5 to record information

about their time spent in activities such as advocacy and policy practice. Ask them

directly, if necessary. In summary, how much of their work is related to advocacy?