This week’s lecture and readings discuss leadership. Two types of management/leadership skills are contrasted – transactional skills and transformational skills. While the distinction between the two may seem clear in the reading posted for this week “Leadership for Public Health” Table 10-3, the distinction is less clear in practice. For example, the Accountable Care Act of 2010 expanded the Medicaid program. Is this transformational leadership, as more persons are assured coverage by a health plan? Alternatively, is it transactional leadership as it is an extension of the status quo rather than addressing the need for fundamental change in the U.S. health system?

Instructions:

i. Each student is expected to make two postings: an initial posting and a response to another student’s posting.

ii. In an initial posting, each student should write a paragraph that briefly describes a leadership or policy decision and then succinctly discuss why it is characteristic of either transactional or transformational leadership based on a few traits from Table 10-3. The leadership/policy topic should be reasonably current and can come from a) your personal work experience, b) experiences reported about a health services or a related organization or industry, or c) a public policy or regulatory decision. The intent is to analyze and characterize leadership or policy decisions, and examples can include both favorable and “needs improvement” examples of leadership (2 points).

iii. In your second posting, you should respond to a student and agree or disagree with their assessment by identifying additional traits from Table 10-3. Alternatively, students can suggest other decisions that could have been made regarding the scenario, which would better conform to transformational leadership (1 point).