



COUNCIL ON SOCIAL WORK EDUCATION

Commission on Research 2011 Annual Update

Charge from the Board of Directors

The Commission on Research shall be the focal point for educational research in the CSWE. The Commission shall provide leadership for developing policy positions and promote social work education based research that is carried out by CSWE and its constituent programs. The Commission, in concert with other Commissions and Councils, shall identify and advocate for new and expanded public and private resources that advance the profession's research agenda, which can be used within social work and higher education, as well as with government agencies and the public. The Commission's purpose will be carried out by working with CSWE stakeholders, including the CSWE Commissions, Councils, work groups and task forces, and the Leadership Forum. The Commission will identify emerging areas of research and research methodologies in social work education; encourage and promote the development of curriculum tools and professional development opportunities with the goal of improving the teaching of research and evidence-based practice at all levels of social work education; speak to research ethics, study design, and research administration in terms of CSWE quality assurance and educational policy briefs. The full scope of work will be reviewed and determined on an annual basis and reflect the context of higher education as well as social work education and research more specifically.

Members

Mimi Abramovitz, Hunter College
Mercedes Bern-Klug, University of Iowa
Iris Carlton-LaNey, University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill
Kay Hoffman, University of Kentucky
Waldo Johnson, University of Chicago, chair
Peter Maramaldi, Simmons College
Barbara Rittner, University at Buffalo
Allen Rubin, University of Texas at Austin
Nancy Shore, University of New England
Pamela Twiss, California University of Pennsylvania
Karina Walters, University of Washington

Meetings

The Commission on Research had its inaugural meeting during the 2010 Annual Program Meeting in Portland, Oregon. Six of the commissioners were in attendance. The Commission met with CSWE President, Mit Joyner, and Executive Director, Julia Watkins, to discuss the charge to the newly formed group. One of the first tasks that the group has been asked to undertake is the development of a research agenda for CSWE. The research agenda would guide the projects undertaken by the Commission and by the Institutional Research division of CSWE.

The Commission on Research had its second meeting during the 2011 Spring Governance Meeting in Alexandria, Virginia. All of the commissioners except one were able to attend. The Commission reviewed the charge given to the Commission by the Board of Directors and the President in October. Then, they focused the remainder of their time in addressing the first task of the group, to determine the research agenda for the Commission on Research.

Research Agenda

Over the course of the past year, the Commission began work on a research agenda. The Commission outlined six broad areas that will guide the Commission research efforts:

- Describe and promote the social work research enterprise
- Gather data, using new and existing sources, to use in advocating for social work education at the local, state, and federal levels
- Collect information about social work education and research for knowledge building
- Help to describe the contributions of social workers to research and the unique contribution of social work to research
- Assist social work educators and students in connecting with mentors and collaborators
- Advance the public recognition of social work education through partnerships with federal agencies

These six areas have been broken into practical projects that the Commission will take on in the coming years:

1. Revise the Annual Survey of Social Work Programs
2. Develop a database of social work researchers based on areas of expertise
3. Collect data about research taking place in schools of social work (funded and unfunded)
4. Identify key findings from social work research (contribution of social work)
5. Work with Lewis-Burke and federal agency staff contacts to advocate for inclusion of social work in education surveys
6. Develop guidelines on research integrity in social work (building on the research statement published by CSWE in 2006)
7. Present initial work on the research integrity guidelines at APM and get input from educators and students
8. Develop a publication on the history of social work research

The Commission presented the draft research agenda to the Board of Directors in the March 2011 meeting. Since then, the Commission has already begun work on the first and second

projects. The Commission is working with the Institutional Research staff on considering revisions to the Annual Survey of Social Work Programs. The second project, to develop a database of member expertise, is one of interest to others within CSWE, including Lewis-Burke and the Commission on Professional Development. At the March 2011 Board meeting, it was decided that the Commission on Research would take the lead on this effort. The Commission will be sure to make sure the needs of other CSWE groups are taken into consideration as they move forward.