Charge from the Board of Directors

The Commission on Educational Policy (COEP) is charged to prepare, at periodic intervals not to exceed seven years, a statement of social work curriculum policy to encourage excellence in educational programs and to be used by the Commission on Accreditation (COA) in formulating and revising accreditation standards; to identify educational issues in need of attention at all levels of social work education; to establish priorities for action in the area of educational policy and planning; to review current Council on Social Work Education programs related to educational policy and planning; to refer pertinent educational policy issues to various CSWE bodies; and to recommend means of implementing and coordinating activities in order to support and extend the Council's education leadership role.

Members:

Rebecca Burgess Brigham, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill*
Brian Anderson, Jackson State University
Nicole Bromfield, University of Houston
Christina Bruhn, Aurora University
Dwight J. Hymans, Association of Social Work Boards*
Robert Kersting, Westfield State University
Randy Magen, Boise State University
Susan E. Mason, Yeshiva University
Lisa McGuire, James Madison University*
Debra McPhee, Fordham University
Lynn Milgram Mayer, Catholic University of America
Christopher Mitchell, University of Illinois at Chicago
Larry Ortiz, Loma Linda University
Andy Safyer, Adelphi University (Chair of COA)
Matthew Theriot, University of Tennessee at Knoxville
Francine Vecchiolla, Springfield College
Thomas Walsh, Boston College
*Rotated off the Commission on June 30, 2017

New members appointed July 1, 2017:
Estella Williamson, chair of the Council on Field Education, University at Albany
David Pooler, chair of the Council on Practice Methods & Specializations, Baylor University
Peter Maramaldi, Simmons College
Jennifer Henkel, Association of Social Work Boards
Meetings

The Commission met at the APM in Atlanta, GA in fall 2016 and in Alexandria, VA in spring 2017.

Activities

COEP engaged in the following activities this past year:

1. We have been working with groups of faculty and practitioners to develop curriculum resources guides related to the 2015 Educational Policy and Accreditation Standards. With support from universities, grants and organizations funding development of these guides, curricular guides in the area of gerontology, economic well-being, military social work, trauma and macro social work practice have or are being developed. Two guides have been published this year on gerontology (with support from the John A. Hartford Foundation) and economic well-being (with support from the New York Community Trust). Hard copies will be available at APM for purchase. Additional guide meetings planned for the spring include an advanced generalist guide being developed in partnership with CSWE’s Council on Practice Methods & Specialization (CPMS) and a regulation & licensing guide in partnership with ASWB.

2. COEP Chair Debra McPhee and CSWE Liaison/VP of Education Jo Ann Regan met with both COEP Councils – Council on Field Education (COFE) and Council on Practice Methods and Specialization (CPMS) to ask that the Councils as a whole to review their charges. We discussed ways to ensure strong alignment between the focus and priorities of the Councils and the focus and priorities of COEP. Council Chairs were then invited to meet with COEP at Spring Governance to report on any changes made to the charge of the Councils.

3. Reviewed all work to date completed in relation to the CSWE Board decision to Accredite Practice Doctoral Programs including the following:
   - History and Rationale for Decision to accredit practice doctoral programs-summary report
   - Specific charge from CSWE Board
   - Process and Timeline
   - Implications for COA & COEP

4. Created a subcommittee of made up of COEP Chair and three COEP members, COA Chair and three COA members, CSWE Director for Accreditation and CSWE Vice President for Education to developing a process and timeline for accreditation of practice doctoral programs.
5. COEP and COA Chairs met with NADD membership and NADD subcommittee to answer questions and receive feedback regarding recommended process and timeline of accreditation of practice doctoral programs

6. COEP Chair attended COA Spring Governance meeting to report on sub-committee work regarding accreditation of practice doctoral programs.

7. COEP chair participated on the CSWE Board bylaws committee to recommend changes regarding bylaws and the role of COEP.

8. Continued collaboration with COA and the Commission on Research to in gathering information that will be used to inform EPAS 2022.

9. At the spring governance meeting COEP began planning the work toward EPAS 2022. Identified preliminary focus and process for environmental scanning with respect to the future of social work practice and the changing context, challenges and changes taking place and anticipated in higher education and implication for relevance of social work education curriculum and program structure/delivery.

CSWE Strategic Plan

The work of COEP is aligned with one of the six goals of the CSWE Strategic Plan:

Goal 3: Ensure the quality and sustainability of social work education through accreditation of baccalaureate and master’s degree programs, research, and responsive faculty development.

Over the last 6 years, COEP has been engaged in activities to inform the development of EP 2015 in support of this goal. These have included focus group interviews with social work faculty, administrators, and field directors; researching the accreditation standards of other professional programs; examining pipeline issues that impact enrollment in social work educational programs; and numerous meetings and discussions with deans, program directors, faculty, and other constituency groups. The information gathered through these activities informed the development of the EP 2015 approved by the CSWE Board of Directors in June 2015.

Council on Field Education (COFE)

Old Business

The Council on Field Education met two times during the 2016-2017 year, once at the 2016 CSWE APM in Atlanta and once via video conference on March 13, 2017. A key outcome of the Council’s work was the review and amendment of its charge. The Council made revisions and submitted the amended COFE charge to CSWE for approval. The COFE’s new charge was approved and posted on the CSWE website.

COFE also conducted an analysis of member representation, with field education expertise, among the councils and commissions. We learned that other councils and commissions have limited representation of colleagues with field education experience. We discussed strategies for encouraging our field colleagues to consider applying to other councils and commissions.
COFE served in an advisory capacity in the development of the training, “Managing a Field Education Program – A Training for New Field Directors”.

**COFE Committee Reports**

**Field Connect Session**
The Council on Field Education hosted the annual **Connect Session: Connecting with Field Education: Sharing Best Practices** on Saturday November 5, 2016 from 3:15pm to 4:45pm. Rebecca Brigham, the Chair of COFE, and other COFE members were part of a Connect Session planning committee that met over a seven-month period. The planning committee consisted of:

- Rebecca Brigham (University of North Carolina)
- Estella Williamson, Planning committee chair (University at Albany, SUNY)
- Saundra Ealy (Arizona State University)
- Riva Zeff (Seattle University)
- Heather Gillis (Tulane University)
- Rebecca Jackson (University of Tennessee, Knoxville)
- Raesa Kaiteris (Yeshiva University)

The event consisted of 14 topic roundtables facilitated by one or two COFE members or invited facilitators. We invited the Georgia Field Education Collaborative to cover a topic, but they did not attend. The entire session was scheduled for 90 minutes this year that included three 20-minute sessions. Attendees had the option of attending three different sessions or attending 2 or 3 topical tables. The topics covered a range of issues in field education and the role of field directors. There was a total of 67 **attendees**. We received 45 evaluation responses from attendees (a 67% response rate).

**Research and Publications**
Continuing its work on the field survey report, “Findings From the 2015 State of Field Education Survey: A Survey of Directors of Field Education on Administrative Models, Staffing and Resources”, COFE discussed plans for working with CSWE to use data to provide information about emerging issues and resource needs for field education.

**Nominating Committee**
The nominating committee reviewed applications for membership to COFE. Five members rotated off the COFE and five new members were elected. The new members are: Stephanie Lyons (Indiana University), Mary Maurer (University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign), Greg Merrill (University of California at Berkeley), Tami Randohl (Park University) and Melissa Reitmeier (University of South Carolina). An orientation was provided to the new membership. Five members rotated off the COFE, including outgoing chair, Rebecca Brigham (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill).
Education and Training Committee
The committee continued its work on finishing the on-line learning academy. There is a plan to have committee members take the class and report on their experiences. A formal report will be provided at the 2017 CSWE APM.

New Business
COFE meetings for 2017-2018 will be held on October 18, 2017 at the APM and March 12, 2018 via video conference.

Respectfully submitted,

Estella Williamson
Chair, Council on Field Education

Council on Practice Methods and Specializations Report

Report period: July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017

Leadership: Lisa McGuire continued in her role as Chair of the Council (beginning in fall 2013) during this time period. Nadine Bean served as the assistant taking notes at meetings. David Pooler accepted the Council Chair position on July 1, 2017.

Meetings: During 2016-17, we conducted one half-day meeting in Atlanta at APM as well as our Connect session at that conference. We also convened four teleconferences (07/12/16; 10/14/16; 2/21/17 and 7/13/17).

Members:

Lisa McGuire, James Madison University (Chair)*
Nadine Bean, West Chester University
Cassandra Bransford, SUNY Binghamton
Jennifer Clemens, Shippensburg University*
Sarah Ferguson, University of St. Catherine and St. Thomas
Elise Fulmer, West Virginia University*
Daria Hanssen, Marist University
Sara Keiser, University of Tennessee*
Tina Maschi, Fordham
Denise Montcalm, University of Nevada, Reno*
Claudia Moreno, Dominican College
Tamarah Moss, Howard University*
David Pooler, Baylor University
Suzanne Pritzker, University of Houston
Kelly Ward, Monmouth University

*Rotated off the Council on June 30, 2017
We had six members rotate off the Council this year* and three new members have been added. They are: Denice Liley, Boise State University; Janine Mariscotti, La Salle University; Karen Slovak, Malone University.

Dana K. Harmon joined the council as the new staff Liaison, while Mary Kurfess rotated off.

**Activities:**

**I. Revising Charge**

A major endeavor for the Council over the past three years has been drafting a new charge, which was accepted by COEP at their Spring governance meeting (2017):

The Council on Practice Methods and Specializations is a council of the Commission on Educational Policy. The Council identifies and addresses issues relevant to the preparation of students in the context of current and future social work practice. The council makes recommendations about strategies which cultivate relationships with professional agencies and individuals to strengthen the educational preparation for social work practice.

The Council on Practice Methods and Specializations shall have the following functions:

- To identify contemporary and emerging opportunities and challenges related to the educational preparation of students for social work practice.
- To identify promising practices that increase practitioner input at the program level;
- To facilitate practitioner and agency linkages with CSWE.

In discussing the charge with COEP at the 2017 spring governance meeting, it was agreed that both the Field Council and CPMS Council should serve as a way for COEP to get information as well as share information with the constituencies of field and practice faculty. This will be of particular importance as we take on the task of preparing for the 2023 EPAS. Lisa McGuire agreed to lead a discussion with council members at the APM 2017 meeting on some preliminary questions to begin this process.

The proposed revised charge and functions of the Council align with the following goals of the CSWE Strategic Plan, Vision 2020: Strengthening the Profession through Research, Education, and Career Advancement:

Goal #2: Strengthen social work through identification and dissemination of emerging technology and innovative models, pedagogies, and practices.

Goal #4: Develop partnerships with organizations, agencies, corporations, and foundations both within social work and those external to social work to enhance collaboration on issues critical to social work education.
II. CSWE Connect sessions at 2016/2017 APM

The CPMS successfully hosted a “Connect” session for the 2016 Annual Program Meeting titled “Building an Interprofessional Lens for Social Work Education and Practice”, and much of the activity on the council was focused around planning and implementing this session. The council as a whole believes that collaborative practice is one of the important emerging trends in social work education and conveniently, the theme of the Atlanta APM. Attendance was strong and it is clear that Interprofessional Education is a topic of interest to many social work educators.

After discussing the interest and expertise during the APM 2016 meeting in Atlanta, we decided to again submit a proposal for a “Connect” session focused on the emerging area of cognitive and affective processes as outlined in the 2015 EPAS. We decided to ask Marion Bogo to be a “guest” participant on this topic and she readily agreed. Much of the teleconference work has been around developing the proposal and planning the session. A proposal was submitted entitled “Exploring, Teaching and Assessing Cognitive and Affective Processes for Social Work Practice” which was accepted for presentation at the 2017 APM.

The proposed activities from the APM session align with the following goals of the CSWE Strategic Plan, Vision 2020: Strengthening the Profession through Research, Education, and Career Advancement:

- **Goal #2:** Strengthen social work through identification and dissemination of emerging technology and innovative models, pedagogies, and practices.
- **Goal #4:** Develop partnerships with organizations, agencies, corporations, and foundations both within social work and those external to social work to enhance collaboration on issues critical to social work education.
- **Goal #5:** Promote the preparation of social work graduates who can practice effectively in an increasingly diverse and global practice environment.

III. Developing Curriculum Guides for the 2015 EPAS

The council continued to assist with the development of curriculum guides for specialized practice areas, using the EPAS 2015 guidelines. Two guides are nearing completion, both of which have external funding: the Gero-Ed materials on gerontological social work and the effort on economic well-being. Lisa McGuire met with Joann Regan and Dana Harmon from CSWE in June 2017 and discussed how CSWE might assist in moving the Advanced Generalist guide forward as there is not likely to be an outside funder for this issue. A conference call was held on July 13th, 2017 with Joann Regan, Dana Harmon, David Pooler, Kelly Ward and Denise Montcalm to discuss next steps. Joann Regan outlined that CSWE has a process for developing curricular guides, so that that the guide itself would not be developed by the CPMS, but that key members of the council interested in developing this guide would be asked to provide leadership in the CSWE process for developing the guide.
The activities around developing and support the curriculum guides align with the following goals of the CSWE Strategic Plan, Vision 2020: Strengthening the Profession through Research, Education, and Career Advancement:

Goal #2: Strengthen social work through identification and dissemination of emerging technology and innovative models, pedagogies, and practices.

Goal #5: Promote the preparation of social work graduates who can practice effectively in an increasingly diverse and global practice environment.

Summary

In sum, the Council on Practice Methods and Specializations is pleased to have updated its charge and to have clarified our relationship with COEP, hopefully to strengthen our mutual purposes. We are continuing to build on the expertise of our members to submit and present Connect sessions that are relevant to social work educators working to prepare practitioners for the challenges of today’s practice environment. As we begin to look forward to the 2023 EPAS, the council will need to embrace our charge and identify strategies to ensure that a broad range of practice is presented to CSWE in moving professional education forward.

Respectfully submitted,

David K. Pooler, Ph.D., LCSW
Chair CPMS