



COUNCIL ON SOCIAL WORK EDUCATION

## **Commission on Research July 2013-June 2014 Update**

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### **Charge from the Board of Directors**

The Commission on Research's mission is to advance rigor, relevance, and high ethical standards in the teaching and conduct of research related to social work education. Toward that end, the Commission on Research shall provide leadership in establishing key research priorities for improving social work education, in promoting the scholarship of teaching and learning within social work education, as well as in specifically promoting quality in research curricula across methods and paradigms in BSW, MSW, and doctoral education. The Commission is concerned with advocating for research supported policies, practices and programs within CSWE, helping to build relevant data bases that promote innovation in social work education, and with strengthening the connections between social work education-related research and social justice. It will complete its mission in partnership and collaboration with sibling Commissions, Councils and task forces within CSWE as well as other social work professional organizations committed to excellence in the science of social work.

### **Members**

Chair: Iris Carlton-LaNey, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Co-Chair: Pamela Twiss, California University of Pennsylvania

Mimi Abramovitz, Hunter College, City University of New York

Kia J. Bentley, Virginia Commonwealth University

Gauri Bhattacharya, Jackson State University (MS)

Barbara Jones, University of Texas at Austin

Peter Maramaldi, Simmons College (MA)

Barbara Rittner, University at Buffalo, State University of New York

Nancy Shore, University of New England (ME)

Karen Sowers, University of Tennessee at Knoxville

Karina Walters, University of Washington

### **Council on Social Work Education Strategic Plan**

#### ***Vision 2020: Strengthening the Profession through Research, Education, and Career Advancement***

- 1. Strengthen the position of social work within higher education, the national political environment, and in the perceptions of the general public.*
- 2. Strengthen social work through identification and dissemination of emerging technology and innovative models, pedagogies, and practices.*
- 3. Ensure the quality and sustainability of social work education through accreditation of baccalaureate and master's degree programs, research, and responsive faculty development.*
- 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.*

5. *Promote the preparation of social work graduates who can practice effectively in an increasingly diverse and global practice environment.*
6. *Develop and maintain a healthy, viable organization by ensuring effective management, strong leadership, diversity of the staff, and open communication among the staff, Board of Directors, Commissions, Councils and other governance and programmatic entities.*

### **Commission Meetings**

The Commission had face-to-face meetings at the 2013 Annual Program Meeting (APM) and the Spring Governance Meeting in March 2014. The Commission's subcommittees on the Annual Survey of Social Work Programs and the Member Database met periodically by conference call and e-mail throughout the year.

### **Revised Mission Statement**

During its meeting at APM-Dallas, the Commission revised its mission statement for greater clarity and focus and ushered the revisions through the Board of Directors.

### **Annual Survey of Social Work Programs**

*Strategic Plan Goals 1, 2, 4, and 5.*

The Annual Survey of Social Work Programs is the primary source of data on social work education in the United States. The Commission created a subcommittee on the Annual Survey (members: Peter Maramaldi and Pamela Twiss), which was charged to review the survey instruments, to discuss potential issues with the surveys, and to identify areas of the survey where input from social work educators might be particularly helpful at this time.

Revisions to the draft 2014 Annual Survey, based on findings and feedback from the 2013 Annual Survey and consultation with the Association of Baccalaureate Social Work Program Directors (BPD), will be discussed in the Commission meeting at APM-Tampa.

### **COR-CMPD Member Database Project**

*Strategic Plan Goals 1, 4, and 6.*

Another initiative of the Commission on Research is the development of a database of CSWE members' (faculty and doctoral students) research interests and expertise. The Commission created a subcommittee (members: Mimi Abramovitz and Nancy Shore) charged to coordinate this project with the Commission on Membership and Professional Development. The purpose of this database would be to facilitate collaboration and mentoring among CSWE members and for CSWE's use in government relations work (e.g., making recommendations for committee appointments). It is hoped that the fields would expand on CSWE's membership directory, so that it would be fully integrated with the website.

Over the summer, the joint COR-CMPD subcommittee developed fields of search for the faculty database and conducted a pilot survey among the COR-CMPD subcommittee members. A revised survey instrument will be discussed in the Commission meeting at APM-Tampa.

### **Grand Challenge Initiative**

*Strategic Plan Goals 1, 2, and 4.*

The Commission contributed a paper, “Workforce Development and Readiness,” to the Grand Challenge initiative of the American Academy of Social Work and Social Welfare. The Commission proposed two objectives to be accomplished within a decade: (1) develop new social work education research priorities to address 21<sup>st</sup> century issues and needs affecting health and mental health; and (2) identify and disseminate teaching innovations and educational models to infuse and integrate science and knowledge specific to health and mental health in social work education curricula.

#### **Feedback on the Draft EPAS**

*Strategic Plan Goals 5 and 6.*

The Commission contributed feedback to the Commission on Educational Policy and the Commission on Accreditation about aspects of the second draft EPAS that concerned the teaching and conduct of research in social work education. Among other things, the Commission suggested inclusion of ethical codes in the conduct of research in our ethics training, that additional language be added in several places on the explicit role of scientific inquiry and the science of social work, including advancing diversity and social justice. The Commission also suggested that current practice behaviors around “evaluative practice” be revised to reflect an appreciation of inquiry around the processes of practice (not just outcomes) and client response to services.

#### **Planning of the 2014 APM Connect Session**

*Strategic Plan Goals 1, 2, and 5.*

The Commission organized and submitted a proposal for its first Connect session at the 2014 APM (which has been accepted) on “Connecting Scholarship and Ethics.” The session will highlight the mission of the Commission and its goals for the next 5 years. It will focus on two specific topics, the upcoming faculty scholarship/expertise survey and responsible conduct of research involving community partnership and collaboration. Participant discussion will be encouraged.

#### **Collaboration With the Commission on Global Social Work Education**

*Strategic Plan Goals 4, 5, and 6.*

The Commission planned to collaborate with the Commission on Global Social Work Education, specifically with the Council on Global Learning, Research, and Practice, to promote responsible research, research integrity, and CSWE focus on education, research, and policy.