



**Department of Social Work
2020-2021 Scholarly Report
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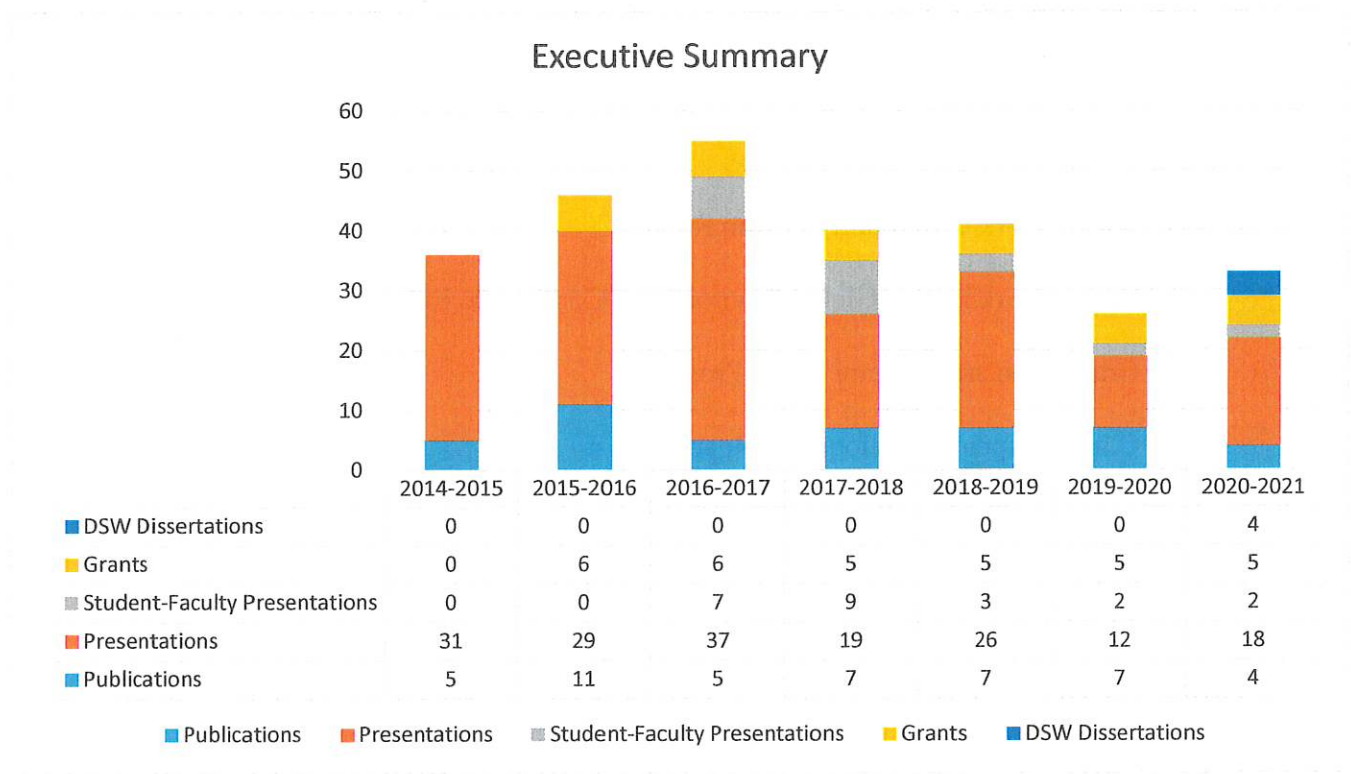
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- A. Social Work Community Forum Report
- B. Social Work in The Global Environment Conference Report
- C. Graduation and Alumni Event Program
- D. Clinical Updates Colloquium Report

1. Executive Summary

Figure 1.

Scholarly Report Executive Summary



2. Publications

Lyter



2.1 Lyter, S. C. (2021). Assess and address vestiges of childhood trauma in the social work classroom. *Social Work Research*, 45(2), 101-115. <https://doi.org/10.1093/swr/svab008>

Abstract:

Studies indicate that, for some, the appeal of the helping professions—including medicine, psychology, and social work—is their own history of trauma. Often labeled “wounded healers,” these people are believed to be motivated to help others, in part, by their own wounds. As social work educators, we have an obligation to remain informed about this phenomenon. Rates of depression and suicide as well as the important role of adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) in the lives of professional helpers behoove us to assess the challenges and provide effective classroom management and methods. This quantitative design, with consideration of action and translational research, included use of the Adverse Childhood Experiences, Brief Resilience, and Life Satisfaction scales. The BSW and MSW students in the study were found to have relatively high levels of adverse childhood experiences but also overall positive scores in resilience and life satisfaction. No relationship was found between ACEs and either brief resilience or life satisfaction. A low positive correlation was found between resilience and life satisfaction. The lower scores among non-White cultural groups demand further inquiry.

Free access:

<https://academic.oup.com/swr/article/45/2/101/6306980?guestAccessKey=31381bd6-9fe0-42f5-b034-723e7040ebe3>

Stoeffler



2.2 Reed, D., Stoeffler, S.W., & Joseph, R. (2021). Suicide, race, and social work: A systematic review of protective factors among African Americans. *Journal of Evidence-Based Social Work*, 18 (4), 379-393. <https://doi.org/10.1020/26408066.2020.1857317>

Abstract:

Purpose: Suicide among African Americans has increased significantly in the past 15 years, yet it remains a neglected topic in social work research. This systematic review examines social work's contribution to suicide research while focusing on the social context in which African Americans live.

Method: Using critical race theory, we examine protective factors specific to African Americans that may mitigate suicide risks. Results reveal that the social work profession has produced 20 suicide-related studies between 1980 and 2018.

Results: Identify three types of protective factors against suicide among African Americans. These are: micro-level factors (private regard / strong African American identity and impulsive response to discrimination), mezzo-level factors (family support and the role of women), and macro-level factors (social support, poverty and lack of awareness, religion, access to care, and internal response to community violence).

Conclusion: Findings demonstrate evidence of the relationship between protective factors and suicide among African Americans. Implications for the use of Critical Race Theory in Social Work research and practice are provided along with implications to advance suicide training in social work education programs.

Wei



2.3 Pillai, V. K. & Wei, F. H. (2020). Phases of childhood stunting and their correlates in India. *Kerala Sociologist*, 48 (2), 309-325.

Abstract:

Malnutrition in general and stunting, has been found to have long-term effects such as poor cognitive development and economic productivity. The purpose of this analysis is to assess the impact of selected socioeconomic variables on several stages of stunting in India. Data were obtained from a sub-sample of 17,239 households (NFHS-3 of India) with a live child between the ages of approximately two and five years old. Generalized Ordinal Logistic regression' (GOLR) is used to examine the effects of selected determinants on stunting. Stunting is lower among boys than girls. We find that mother's characteristics such as years of education, and environmental variables influence stunting significantly. The influence of mother's characteristics is consistently significant across all stages of stunting while the effects of environmental variables are more stunting phase specific. Due to the inconsistent effects of the variables across the four phases of malnutrition, developing separate models from various phases of stunting would be beneficial for assisting households with children to transition from higher phases of stunting to lower phases.

2.4 Wei, F. H. & Stere, M. J. (2020). Protective and risk factors of alcohol use among southeastern Pennsylvania youth. *Social Development Issues*, 42(3), 109-120.

Abstract:

The purpose of this study was to identify the risk and protective factors of alcohol use in the past 30 days among southeastern Pennsylvania youth. The study utilized the Pennsylvania Youth Survey (PAYS) 2015 to analyze the findings. PAYS collected the data from youth in the 6th, 8th, 10th, and 12th grades on substance use perceptions and attitudes. The data were collected in odd years. Risk factors that showed important effects on youth alcohol use in the past 30 days were: (1) Community: laws and norms favorable toward drug use and perception of accessibility to drugs; (2) Family: family management, family history of antisocial behavior, and parental

attitudes that favor drugs; (3) School: academic failure; and (4) Peer/Individual: all risk factors recognized by PAYS except depression and attitudes toward antisocial behavior. The only protective factor that showed significant effect on youth alcohol use in the past 30 days is family opportunities for involvement. This study also provides implications for social welfare policies, social work practices, education, and future research.

3. Presentations

DeBiase



- 3.1 DeBiase, L. (2021, August) *Trauma-informed supervision*. National Association of Case Management Conference. Las Vegas, NV.

Abstract:

This session will focus on trauma-informed supervision. I take the participant through the development of the trauma informed lens. I will look at trauma-informed care at the individual, agency, and community level. I will apply these principles to trauma-informed supervision and leave the participant with strategies to implement them.

- 3.2 DeBiase, L. (2021, July). *Trauma-informed care for resource parents*. Somerset County Children and Youth Services, Somerset, PA.

Abstract:

This session will look at the development of trauma-informed care. The effect of trauma on the brain and on children. The presenter will leave the participants with strategies to effectively deal with trauma reactions and to build resilience in the children the resource parents care for.

- 3.3 DeBiase, L. (2021, April). *Resource parents' trauma knowledge and beliefs*. Graduate Student Research Symposium at Widener University, Chester, PA.

Abstract:

In this presentation, I will provide an in-depth review of the literature concerning foster child trauma and resource parents' knowledge and skills on providing trauma-informed parenting. I will also offer a conceptual framework for studying this problem comprised of the following elements: contemporary trauma theory, the impact childhood trauma has on a parent, the impact childhood trauma has on the foster child, and a trauma-informed system of care. I will explain how this framework will be used to develop a study that could begin to fill this stark gap in the social work knowledge base and discuss the implications this research holds for social work education, practice, and research.

3.4 DeBiase, L. (2021, April). *Building resilience in children*. Webinar: National Association of Case Management.

Abstract:

This presentation will look at how adversity affects children's behavioral, social and emotional functioning and the different ways children respond to these experiences. It will also look at the definition and science of resilience and evidence-based practices that can be used to help build resilience in children who have experienced adverse childhood experiences.

Stoeffler



3.5 Stoeffler, S.W. (2021, August). *Looking at poverty through the lens of critical theory: Addressing issues with definition, measurement, and attribution*. 71st Annual Meeting of the Society for the Study of Social Problems, Chicago, IL, (Virtual).

Abstract:

Critical theories contend that social problems, such as poverty, are produced by social structures and cultural assumptions of dominant groups that are used to oppress and exploit those of a lower position. These theories share the goal ending or reducing oppression by replacing oppressive institutions and policies with ones that are unoppressive, or at least less oppressive. Looking at poverty definition, measurement, and attribution through the lens of critical theory provides an opportunity to see how these factors are influenced by dominant groups to oppress and that they can be reimagined to be less oppressive.

Absolute definitions of poverty while in theory capturing universal and timeless elements of human need are nonetheless rife with concerns. They are based off the concept of minimum subsistence and that there is a certain standard by which people should live and if one falls below that level then they would be considered poor. While food, water, clothing, and shelter undoubtedly are included in minimum subsistence, other elements like healthcare, transportation, education, and childcare are often excluded. Even if the inclusion of elements was broadened, there is the issue of how much is necessary to reach the minimum. From a critical theory perspective one can see how the definition of the social problem can be manipulated in such a way as to minimize its scope and significance.

The federal poverty measure is based off an absolute definition of poverty. Specifically, the 1963 formula, which has not been modified except for inflation, consists of multiplying the basic family food budget from that year by three. Even if this was somehow exact, it fails to consider the many issues found in absolute definitions about what to include in the list of items for basic needs and what level is needed to reach the minimum. Suffice it to say, even if the measure was accurate when it was created, it is no longer and if anything should be much higher today. Having the measure be so inaccurate plays into the hands of the dominant groups.

The competing frameworks related to poverty attribution are individualistic theories and structural theories. Experts are near universal in their support of structural

explanations of poverty accounting for most of the poverty experienced in the United States. Likewise, social work, a profession with a declared mission address both the condition of, and those experiencing poverty, is decidedly in support of poverty being primarily structural in nature. However, the most popular attribution for the American public is that of individualistic explanations. These explanations portray poverty as a result of individual failings and the poor are viewed as lacking motivation to work or get ahead.

There is a need to look at the factors of poverty definition, measurement, and attribution and see how they are influenced by dominant groups to oppress. However, that is not the end of the discussion, rather it is the beginning. By changing the narrative, less oppressive institutions and policies can be created.

3.6 Batts, H., Joseph, R., & Stoeffler, S.W. (2021, July). *The radical welcome and engagement restoration model*. 22nd Biennial Conference of the International Consortium for Social Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, (Virtual).

Abstract:

Community development scholars and practitioners have advanced a constellation of practice models aimed at addressing community issues. These models—although meritorious—fail to capture the depth and breadth of the problem of engagement suppression in Black and Brown communities. In other words, there are several shortcomings associated with existing frameworks of community engagement. One of them is the lack of involvement of community members in all aspects of the process, especially in the conceptualization phase. In effect, traditional community practice models are not built on both the cultural perspectives and realization of oppression of Black and Brown communities. Most of the current practice models are not construed in a way that fosters opportunities for minority leadership. Their inorganic nature and lack of transformative power make them sometimes inapplicable in time and place.

This presentation seeks to address this gap in the literature by proposing the Radical Welcome and Engagement Restoration Model (RWERM), a community practice framework that challenges structural and/or oppressive conditions and forces that suppress minority engagement. The RWERM is an initiative of the Promise Neighborhoods of the Lehigh Valley, located in Allentown, Pennsylvania that seeks to address engagement suppression. Through active listening, responsive programming, and fostering authentic relationships, PNLV has played a key role in activating and engaging those closest to the pain of the issues plaguing their communities. With an explicit commitment to its RWERM that strives to decolonize community organizing and center community priorities and leadership in the stories and experiences of local context experts, the PNLV believes communities can increase a sense of hope, belonging, and individual and collective agency. Embracing the premises of Paulo Freire's Pedagogy of the Oppressed, Morton Grodzins' Concept of Critical Mass, and Derrick Bell's Critical Race Theory, the RWERM represents a replicable hyper-localized approach to dismantling the weaponization of voice and agency through restoring relationships, community engagement, and building community capacity. This presentation provides a description of the RWERM and includes the purpose and rationale, theoretical

connections, historical development, highlights its key principles, and theoretical assumptions. The RWERM connects with a conference track of showcasing a social development response to the global challenge of racial injustice.

- 3.7 Stoeffler, S. W., & Joseph, R. (2020, November). *The community empowerment framework: A benchmark for Christian social work*. 70th Annual Convention of the North American Association of Christians in Social Work, Washington, D.C., (Virtual).

Abstract:

Across the globe, individuals and families have faced a broad range of contemporary social problems in the shape of loneliness and divorce, social isolation and homelessness, poverty and income inequality, crime and incarceration, illiteracy, and human trafficking to name a few. These social issues have plagued communities in both developed and underdeveloped countries. Christian social workers carry a dual mission with ethical responsibilities emanating from the professional world as well as the religious environment. Both their profession and religion compel them to transform the world into a peaceful and inclusive living place for all human beings, regardless of their ethno-racial backgrounds. To do so, Christian social workers would benefit from empowerment; a concept that not only bears the hallmarks of social work but also parallels the teachings of the Lord Jesus-Christ.

The Christian Church is a central institution in almost every community. Many scholars have established a positive connection between Christianity and community empowerment. Churches have become a source of support, economic development, and social change for various ethnic groups, primarily the African American community (Barnes, 2011; Boyd-Franklin, Smith Morris, & Bry, 1997; DeVore, 2007; Evans, 1992; Moore, 1991; Morris & Robinson, 1996; Wilson, 1996). Notwithstanding its importance for religious communities, empowerment has not received considerable attention in the Christian social work literature. For example, over a 45-year period, the journal *Social Work and Christianity* published only 20 articles related to empowerment. After scrutinizing the articles by hand for any variant of the term empowerment in their titles and/or abstracts, six articles contained little to no content on empowerment and thus were excluded. Of the remaining 14 articles, only three of them associated a definition with empowerment. The lack of attention to empowerment is not significantly different for the *Journal of Religion and Spirituality in Social Work*, formerly known as *Social Thought*.

Outside the Christian social work literature, though, empowerment is buzzword. A simple search of the term on Google Scholar generates about 2 million hits. Yet, there is still a lack of clarity in terms of proceedings (Joseph, 2020). To help address this problem, scholars have made various recommendations; however, existing models are mostly related to community empowerment as an end product rather than a process. In addition, these models are not primarily related to Christian social work. This presentation highlights the historical connection between empowerment and the religious world, describes empowerment and its usefulness for community practice, and proposes the Community Empowerment Framework (CEF) to provide a process-oriented understanding of empowerment in Christian social work.

- 3.8 Reed, D., & Stoeffler, S.W. (2020, November). *African-American protective factors against suicide: A systematic review*. 70th Annual Convention of the North American Association of Christians in Social Work, Washington, D.C., (Virtual).

Abstract:

Theorizing the constructs of protective factors for African Americans is a relatively new area of inquiry among social work research, but not particularly new to other disciplines. Although many studies produced by other disciplines have revealed promising results related to the resilience of African Americans, few have articulated the social ecology of African Americans from a social work perspective and one's ability to utilize those protective factors, such as religion, in difficult times. Uncovering these protective factors can prove vital when faced with life stressors and can be paramount to developing culturally appropriate interventions.

This workshop presents a systematic review that sought to determine social work's unique contributions to suicide research on African Americans and to investigate identified protective factors against suicide for this population. The study takes place within a context where suicide within this population has dramatically increased in recent years. Social workers are the largest direct mental health service providers in the United States (Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2016), have a vested interest in cultural competency (NASW, 2003), and have a distinctive professional perspective. Within this workshop the specific study findings will be expanded upon for their larger meaning. Implications will focus on social work practice, social work research, social work leadership, and social work education as well as how Critical Race Theory (CRT) can be incorporated into each of these within a Christian social work context. Ultimately this workshop serves to provide insight into social work's contribution to suicide research on African Americans up to today and underlines the need for continued research and focus on this population while incorporating one's faith as a potential method to mitigate suicide.

- 3.9 Irish, D.J., & Stoeffler, S.W. (2020, October). *Tenant rights education and perceptions of personal empowerment in families experiencing homelessness*. National Association of Social Workers – PA State Conference, Virtual.

Abstract:

This presentation examines whether providing tenant rights education can raise critical consciousness and feelings of personal empowerment among adults experiencing family homelessness. A recent intervention research study indicates that tenant rights education could be a promising vehicle for empowering homeless families with skills for successful tenancy and avoiding future eviction.

Svistova



3.10 Bhat, M., Svistova, J. and Andre, J. (2021). “Perceptions of Community-Driven Welfare in Mutual Solidarity Microfinance Groups in Haiti.” *International Consortium for Social Development*, Johannesburg, South Africa. (Previously submitted to *The Joint World Conference on Social Work Education and Social Development*, Rimini, Italy that was cancelled due to COVID-19).

Abstract:

Research has shown that interventionist, top-down, demand-driven microfinance that lacks a holistic approach, has little impact on poverty or quality of life (Bannerjee et al., 2015). Such interventions fail to utilize and go against collectivist traditions that exist in most cultures of the Global South. The goal of solidarity building has taken a back seat, if not been completely abandoned with global development’s entrenchment into philanthro-capitalist and bottom-of-pyramid rhetoric.

In the midst of such interventionist, neoliberal welfare logic, we found a unique example of solidarity-based mutual aid in our ongoing, mixed-methods study of 8 Mutual Solidarity (MUSO) groups in Haiti (n=200). MUSO microfinance is a model indigenous to Haiti (Pasini, 2019), which is interaction and savings-driven. Savings are collected towards separate goals in three boxes, one of which is a red box for members’ non-credit/non-entrepreneurial needs. The preliminary findings indicate overwhelmingly positive perceptions of the solidarity box. Specifically, 96% of the study participants reported contributing to the solidarity fund. 98.5 % of the respondents perceived the red box as a useful tool for their community. While only 41.5 % of the sample reported benefiting from the solidarity fund, about 99 % expressed that they felt they could personally depend on their MUSO group in the time of distress. Qualitative data indicates that group members use the fund to get out of debt, treat sickness, pay for funerals, as well as celebrate child birth, weddings, and other tragic and festive life events.

We conclude that such positive perceptions of this community-driven and self-managed welfare model results in a strong sense of solidarity and resilience among

members. Honoring and capitalizing on traditions of collectivism can be the backbone of holistic microfinance interventions aimed at poverty alleviation and sustainable development. It is empowering, self-deterministic and allows for better matched needs and resources.

- 3.11 Gross, K., Bhat, M. and Svistova, J. (2021). “Entrepreneurship of the Poor: Experiences from the Global South to the Global North.” Roundtable presentation. *22nd Biennial Online Conference of the International Consortium for Social Development*.

Abstract:

In understanding and addressing social and economic inequality one must explore comparable patterns of endemic causes, the exploitative systemic forces, and structural barriers apparent across various global contexts. In the last decade, there has been a growing consensus across state, civil society, and private actors on the use of entrepreneurship as an inclusive and disruptive approach to solving poverty. As authors, we emphasize that entrepreneurship interventions must protect and promote wellbeing of marginalized populations rather than aiding the propagation of exploitative global systems. In this presentation, the authors will critically reflect on their experiences as practitioners and researchers on entrepreneurship of the poor in India, Haiti, Malawi, and USA. They will draw on their collective experiences of studying, designing, implementing, and providing on-going support to entrepreneurship-based poverty alleviation interventions. Viewing entrepreneurship as a processoriented framework the authors will discuss the significance of meeting people or communities where they are. This includes the factors that shape people’s quality of life, their assets and livelihoods, financial literacy, access to financial services – savings, credit, insurance micro-business skills – and production and marketing processes. Particular attention will be given to empowerment-based participatory approaches like community building, participatory action research as tools for practice, culturally rooted practice, indigenous knowledge systems, decolonization of development/social work, and the need for reflexivity and critical thinking. The presentation looks to open up a critical dialogue among peers, to exemplify the role of social workers in economic inclusion work by viewing people and communities as crucial resources to the promotion of social justice and global equity/equality.

- 3.12 Svistova, J. and Lee, A. (2021). “From a Community Needs Assessment to a Behavioral Health Coalition: A Road Map for Community-Engaged Scholars.” *International Conference on Practice Research*, Melbourne, Australia.

Abstract:

Social service organizations experience unprecedented struggles of donor-driven modus operandi, competition for clients, growing resource scarcity, and being stretched too thin, all the while serving more clients and dealing with more complex problems. In such service provision conditions, careful strategic planning and data-driven decision

making, resource allocation, and program development are imperative for effective practice. Community needs assessments are essential means for exploring needs as identified by local community residents and professionals and have been used in a wide varieties of contexts/settings.

This presentation will focus on an example of a community needs assessment in rural Pennsylvania, USA targeted at assisting a local social service organization in their strategic planning efforts. Presenters will share the details of planning and implementing the community needs assessment and experience-based tips for success related to community resident recruitment, collaboration with other service providers, and research capacity building for community leaders. The impact of this particular community needs assessment extended way beyond assisting a local organization. The findings resulted in the initiation of a local behavioral health coalition and incited discussion about hiring social work professionals in local schools. The purpose of the presentation is to provide community-engaged scholars and university-involved practitioners with practical tools for designing and implementing need assessment initiatives in their communities.

- 3.13 Svistova, J. Bhat, M., and Andre, J. (2021). “Cross-Cultural Research for Social Development: Lost & Found in Culture.” International Congress of Qualitative Inquiry, Urbana-Champaign, IL (Previously submitted to the *International Conference on Practice Research*, Melbourne, Australia that was postponed to 2021; abstract withdrawn.)

Abstract:

Awareness of cultural norms of being and doing, of the researcher and the researched, is a critical foundation for successful cross-cultural research. Preparedness to navigate and harness culture, lays the foundation for effective translation of concepts, research procedures, examination of assumptions made from perspectives of culture and academic rigor.

We come at this from a layered cultural, autobiographical perspective of diverse professional, ethnic, cultural, religious, linguistic and national identities of a research team members who collaborated across cultural and national borders to design and execute a research project. We argue that as researchers, our cultural histories dictate our engagement in the process of meaning-making. It determines how we ask questions, who we ask them to, where we look for existing evidence and answers, how we look for them, and whose truth is most important to us. Such cultural complexity is essential to grapple with while trying to decipher and solve complex social problems, such as global poverty and wealth inequality. As researchers and practitioners, invited to study and evaluate the popular Mutual Solidarity (MUSO) type of Microfinance in Haiti, it was important to make sure that our research was not lost in culture and translation.

The presentation will discuss our iterative process of conceptualizing the research, navigating academia in the United States (issues like IRB, fundraising, sampling

procedures) and dealing with challenges of field research implementation (gatekeeping and diplomacy, issues of data collection and confidentiality, language barriers, use of culturally appropriate research procedures and measurement tools). We will share the lessons learned and specific needs expressed by community leaders for future research collaboration.

Svistova & Harris

- 3.14 Svistova, J. Harris, C., and Kulp, C. (2021). “Revolutionizing Focus Group Data Collection via Zoom: Lessons from a State-Wide Study on Mental Health.” International Congress of Qualitative Inquiry, Urbana-Champaign, IL.

Abstract:

There is a general agreement that qualitative data collection tends to be time consuming and expensive, especially when focus groups are the primary method of data collection. Extending beyond the length of time it takes to collect significant amounts of focus group data, added layers of complexity are: coordination of data collection locations, people’s availability and focus group times, travel time to data collection sites, transcription and coding processes add. Studying populations from “geographically dispersed areas” (Matthews, Baird, and Duchesne, 2018; Stewart et al., 2016) such as across a state, country or across the globe, presents a particular challenge for coordinating and executing focus group data collection.

Use of videoconferencing platforms such as Zoom, Skype, Webex, and others offer a promising alternative to conducting in-person focus groups and a means to address some of the issues related to the complexity of qualitative research (e.g. Iranis, 2019; Lobe, 2017; Matthews, Baird, and Duchesne, 2018). Improved internet, cellular functions and specialized enhancements of communication applications have revitalized the focus group approach to qualitative research by expanding the way groups interact in an online environment (Stewart et al., 2016). The ability to engage in a synchronous, real-time focus group with a trained moderator has resulted in an experience closely aligned with the traditional face-to-face focus group experience of the past without constraints such as geography or physical distancing (Morrison, et al., 2020). Smaller size of group composition is suggested for online focus group format, as compared to in-person focus group data collection (Lobe, 2017).

As recommended with less common approaches to information gathering (Fox et al, 2007), the presenters will provide reflection and reflexivity directly related to their practical experiences and lessons learned conducting online focus groups in their study

exploring access to mental health services in rural Pennsylvania from the perspectives of service providers, insurance representatives, and service users. The presenters will cover specifics related to 1) preparing for focus groups, such as assigning team roles, setting up Zoom and transcription, sending clear instructions to prepare and join; setting registration and consent through Survey Monkey and 2) executing focus groups, such as issues related to several participants joining on one device, participants calling in over the telephone, and camera off/on during the focus group session.

Vafeas



3.15 Vafeas, J. (2021, March). “Response to Need and Opportunities: The Center for the Study of School Social Work (C3SW).” 17th Annual Community Forum, Kutztown, PA.

Abstract:

This is a presentation of a preliminary study of needs assessment for school social work in Pennsylvania. The study will be using a social indicators approach and perform a secondary data analysis to answer research questions related to the current status of school social work in Pennsylvania, the regulatory environment in which school social work is being practiced, examine current proposals for expanding the role of school social work, and provide estimates of need for trained school social workers. The presentation will define school social work, describe the school environment in which school social work is practiced. Examine current educational policy trends and present the efforts currently undertaken by the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE). Using data from PDE, demographic and educational background characteristics of School Social Workers and their places of employment will be analyzed. Compensation of school social workers will be analyzed along the lines of size and geography of school districts and the various professional employed to fit the needs of school for social work services. Implications for social work curricula and policy development will be examined

Wei



3.16 Wei, F. H., Goodman-Hinnershitz, M., & Stere, M. J. (2021). *Substance Use Among Youth Populations in Eastern Pennsylvania Schools*. Eastern Educational Research Association (EERA) 2021 Conference, Virtual, February 18-19.

Abstract:

The purpose of this study was to identify the substance being used and the perceptions of drug using among youth in eastern Pennsylvania schools. The significance of this study is to provide the substance prevention services and education that can help reduce substance use among youth populations. This pilot study collected the data from youth from 8th to 12th grades in eastern Pennsylvania. The study used convenience sampling to recruit the participants, and flyers were posted in libraries, community centers, and schools. A total of 57 youth participated in six semi-structured focus groups. All parents provided consent and the youth provided the assent to participate in the study. The results and implications were presented.

Wei & Hanna

- 3.17 Wei, F. H. & Hanna, E. P. (2021). *Assessing Critical Thinking Among Master of Social Work Students*. Eastern Educational Research Association (EERA) 2021 Conference, Virtual, February 18-19.

Abstract:

This study intends to implement and formally evaluate a new/innovative methodology designed to teach students how to think critically for decision making in social work education and practice. Critical thinking is a careful thinking process of what can be true and can be applied to any belief, statement, and assumption (Kirst-Ashman & Hull, 2015). The researchers conduct a Cognitive Emotional Methodology (CEM) to teach students critical thinking skills and use a standardized measurement tool to evaluate its outcome. The Cognitive Emotional Methodology follows four steps: what I feel, what I believe, what I know, and what I do.

This study utilized CEM model in one researcher's seminar classes to teach students critical thinking skills. The data were collected from one Master of Social Work (MSW) seminar. In order to evaluate the teaching outcomes, this study used the California Critical Thinking Skills Test (CCTST) to collect quantitative data and utilized paired t test to analyze the data. The researchers provided the CCTST at the beginning of the Fall 2017 and the end of the Spring 2018 semester. The results and discussions were presented.

Weller



3.18 Weller, M.R. (August, 2021). *Supporting professionals' comfort with uncomfortable topics*.

National Association of Case Managers Annual Conference, Las Vegas, NV.

Abstract:

Case managers should convey confidence and competence when communicating about sexuality. Technologically has changed relationship dynamics in many ways.

Communication, verbal and non-verbal, continues to be the most important skill in navigating all relationships, especially intimate ones. This session supports case managers in their ability to address sexual wellbeing.

4. Student-Faculty Collaboration Presentations

Wei



- 4.1 Ravnell, T. L. & Wei, F. H. (2020). *African American Dialysis Patients' Self-medication Management*. National Social Science Association Real Time Virtual Fall Conference, Online, October 12–14.

Abstract:

This study conducted a systematic review of African American dialysis patients' self-medication management. The study discussed how trust between dialysis patients and health care providers affect patients' self-medication management. In addition, the factors affecting dialysis patients' self-medication management were discussed. The implications on social work practice and future research were included.

Vafeas



4.2 Vafeas, J. & Brossman, R. (2021). *The Need for School Social Work in Pennsylvania: A Preliminary Study*. KU Inspires, A Celebration of Research and Creativity, Online, April 21.

Abstract:

This is a presentation of a preliminary study of needs assessment for school social work in Pennsylvania. The study will be using a social indicators approach and perform a secondary data analysis to answer research questions related to the current status of school social work in Pennsylvania, the regulatory environment in which school social work is being practiced, examine current proposals for expanding the role of school social work, and provide estimates of need for trained school social workers. The presentation will define school social work, describe the school environment in which school social work is practiced, and examine current educational policy trends and present the efforts currently undertaken by the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE). Using data from PDE, demographic and educational background characteristics of School Social Workers and their places of employment will be analyzed. Compensation of school social workers will be analyzed along the lines of size and geography of school districts and the various professional employed to fit the needs of school for social work services. Implications for social work curricula and policy development will be examined.

5. Grants

Harris, Wei, & Weller



5.5 Harris, C., Wei, F. H., & Weller, M. R. (Jan. 2021-Dec. 2021). Social Isolation in Rural Pennsylvania. Funded by the Center of Rural Pennsylvania. Total Funding received: \$46,867.

This is a 1-year research project. The purpose of the project is to analyze the extent of social isolation among rural Pennsylvanians 65 years of age or older, identify evidence-based programs that minimize social isolation, evaluate the determinants of social isolation, and evaluate current Pennsylvania programs and services and determine replicability in Pennsylvania. We conducted a three-phase research project: Literature review, telephone survey, and focus group.

Stoeffler



5.1 Pennsylvania Higher Education Suicide Prevention Coalition Mini-Grant, \$750

Abstract:

The funds were used to towards speaker fees for the Kutztown University Department of Social Work's 5th Annual Clinical Updates Colloquium. The colloquium featured two speakers, Dr. Stacey Freedenthal, LCSW and Kim Cook, MSW, MA, LCSW-C. Dr. Freedenthal presented *Helping the Suicidal Person: Moving Beyond Fear and Defensive Practice* and Ms. Cook presented *Telehealth: Ethical Implications for Sustaining and Thriving in Virtual Clinical Practice*.

The colloquium was attended by 567 individuals what included students, alumni, faculty, staff, administrators, and community members. Of the people who attended the event, 403 completed and returned the conference evaluation questionnaire. The event received overwhelmingly positive feedback. The overall rating of the presentations was 81% excellent and 19% good; 99% indicated they would likely or very likely recommend the event to a colleague; 99% indicated they found the webinar platform to be excellent or good; 99% also are likely or very likely to attend the event in the future. The qualitative responses were equally positive. As an example, one participant wrote, "Today's session was excellent. It was a really good use of my time. I have already reached out to some friends who were not in attendance to discuss take-aways."

Svistova



5.2 PASSHE Faculty Professional Development Council grant (PI, 2021)

- *Gaps in Mental Health Policy Filled by Faith Leaders: Identifying the Gaps and Understanding the Faith Leaders' Experiences - \$ 8,000.*

This qualitative research project is proposed to explore the landscape of mental health policies and regulations in Pennsylvania and to understand the role of faith-based leaders in filling the gaps in mental health service provision in rural Pennsylvania. By understanding their experience, which often comes about as a result of policy gaps, improved collaborations can be fostered between the service providers and the faith-based leaders in rural communities. Additionally, through the analysis of the mental health policy and regulation documents applicable to Pennsylvania consumers, the constrictions that providers work under will be better understood and areas of need could be identified to bring to the attention of legislators. This will allow service providers to become better supported, thereby reducing the burden placed on faith-based leaders. Funding will support hiring two graduate students and data collection process.

5.3 Kutztown University Research Grant (PI, 2020-2021)

- *Gaps in Mental Health Policy Filled by Faith Leaders: Identifying the Gaps and Understanding the Faith Leaders' Experiences - \$ 5,000.*

Abstract of research proposal (please limit to this space): This qualitative research project is proposed to explore the landscape of mental health policies and regulations in Pennsylvania and to understand the role of faith-based leaders in filling the gaps in mental health service provision in rural Pennsylvania. By understanding their experience, which often comes about as a result of policy gaps, improved collaborations can be fostered between the service providers and the faith-based leaders in rural communities. Additionally, through the analysis of the mental health policy applicable to Pennsylvania consumers, the constrictions that providers work under will be better understood and areas of need could be identified to bring to the attention of legislators. This will allow service providers to become better supported, thereby reducing the burden placed on faith-based leaders. Funding will support hiring two graduate students and data collection process

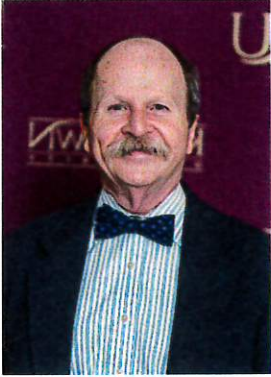
5.4 Kutztown University Research Grant (Co-PI, 2020-2021)

- *Twitter Analysis of the Dissemination and Utilization of Public Health Coronavirus Messaging - \$ 5,000.*

Abstract of research proposal (please limit to this space): Researchers will track the dissemination and utilization of critical public health information generated by key public health entities (specifically, CDC issued guidelines) via Twitter. Patterns in public responses to or adoption of public health guidelines will be traced by examining Twitter messages posted by laypersons, focusing on those mitigation behaviors such as social distancing and masking. The proposed project will contribute valuable insights into the process by which public health policy actions and prevention/mitigation guidelines are perceived and utilized by the public.

6. Notable Activities

Bender



6.1 RACC Foundation, Board Member (2020-2021)

6.2 Haven Behavioral Hospital of Eastern Pennsylvania (2020-2021)

Abstract:

Monthly Patient Safety and Performance Improvement Meeting

6.3 Reading Symphony Orchestra Board Member (2020-2021)

6.4 Co-County Wellness Services, Board Member (2020-2021)

6.5 RSO Violins of Hope

Kovarie

6.6 Professional Services to Children, Youth & Families, Board Member (2020-2021)

6.7 Berks County's Public Drug & Alcohol Intake & Case Management Agency, Board Member (1995-present)

6.8 PA Attorney General's Board of Physicians, Appointed Board Member (2002-present)

6.9 Prosecutors, Law Enforcement Investigators, Attorney General's Medical/Legal Advisory Board on Child Abuse

Stoeffler



6.10 Attended the Institute for Research on Poverty Teaching Poverty 101 Workshop at University of Wisconsin-Madison (Virtual), May 24-27, 2021

Abstract:

This workshop is directed to college-level instructors across the social sciences who expect to teach a course on poverty in the intermediate future. The larger purposes of this workshop are to support participants' knowledge of available research and resources around poverty and preparedness for successfully engaging students in approaching and understanding the information and research in this field.

Weller



6.11 Society for the Scientific Study of Sexuality, Allentown, PA – Continuing Education Planning Committee Rater Fall 2020-present

Description: Society for the Scientific Study of Sexuality

The Society's wide range of disciplines among its members, conference participants, and Journal authors make SSSS an important part of the sexuality research community. Members include anthropologists, biologists, educators, historians, nurses, physicians, psychologists, sociologists, theologians, therapists, and many other disciplines.

The Society will sponsor a scientific meeting each year, and this meeting will be called the Annual Meeting. The Society Annual Meeting will be the only meeting venue with invited plenaries, concurrent research presentations, and large-scale sponsors and advertisers. The Continuing Education Planning Committee Rater assists with determining speakers and presenters for the Annual Meeting.

6.12 Service Access and Management, Inc., Reading, PA Board Member – Program Committee Chair, October 2009 – present

Description:

In accord with the By-Laws of Service Access & Management, Inc., this person, along with the other fourteen (14) Directors, is responsible for the business and affairs of the corporation. Directors serve in good faith, to further the stated purposes of the corporation. S/he serves with care, inquiry, skill and diligence.

Essential Functions:

1. Through regular attendance at meetings, monitors the activities of the corporation to insure the corporate mission is fulfilled.
2. Participates on at least one committee for the corporation.
3. Along with the other directors, participates in the approval and monitoring of the budget and the strategic plan.

6.13 Weller, M. R. [Editor]. (2019 – 2021). *Journal of Mental Health and Social Behavior*.

Description: Review Process

Journal of Mental Health and Social Behavior employ single blinded peer review process. The author's details will be revealed to the Reviewers, while the authors are reserved blinded from Reviewer details in this process. After the Review process, the handling Editor will solicit at least two expert Reviewers in the field with the title and an abstract of the manuscript to take up the peer review process. Reviewers are expected to give a prompt response when approached. This is intended to advance the correctness, clarity, and wholeness of manuscripts and helps editors to decide whether the manuscript has to be published or not. Reviewers should provide reviews with clear suggestions and honest corrections to the Editor who will again forward the review reports as such to the author for further process.

7. Student Awards List

7.1 Deans' Stand Out Students

Donna Ayers
 Hadley Rae Faust
 Julia Hansen
 Jeneil Jones
 Jillian Horton
 Katelyn Scott

7.2 CWEB and CWEL

Fall 2020/Spring 2021:
 Amanda Martinez C-WEL
 Katelyn Kissling C-WEL
 Katherine Poupos C-WEL
 Marie Rossignoli C-WEL
 Natasha Rodriguez C-WEL
 Tanya Ebling C-WEL

Summer 2021:
 Amanda Martinez C-WEL
 Rebecca Kratz C-WEL
 Katherine Poupos C-WEL
 Cindy Le C-WEB
 Donna Ayers C-WEB
 Elizabeth Lessig C-WEB

7.3 Research assistants

Jillian Horton, MSW Student
 Julia Hansen (Laudadio), MSW Student
 Ashley Balbeuna, BSW Student
 Samantha Kochanek, BSW Student
 Jesse Wilkinson, BSW Student
 Kelly Smit, DSW Student
 Abby Harris, Communication Design student

7.4 Diversity Prize 2021 Winner

BSW- Aleah Grimshaw
 MSW- Michael Piora
 MSW- Rebekah Brossman

8. Doctoral Student's Dissertation

Marshall



8.1 Awareness of and Value Placed on School Social Work: A Study of Pennsylvania's Public School Administrators

Jennifer Marshall, LSW

Committee Chair: Dr. John Vafeas

Committee Members: Dr. Julie Lewellyn and Dr. George Ioannidis

Abstract:

Social workers have been a part of the school community for over 100 years and, although they have proven integral in the lives of students and families, their roles and functions are not clearly understood by their chief school administrators. Administrators' awareness of the role and function of school social workers holds implications for the delivery of these services. This study explored administrators' level of awareness and the level of value placed on the role and function of school social workers based on the three components of the School Social Work Practice Model developed by the School Social Workers Association of America: to provide evidence-based educational, behavioral, and mental health service; to provide a school environment conducive to student learning; and to maximize access to school-based and community-based resources. This study also explored the relationship between the level of awareness and the level of value placed on the role and function of school social workers. Findings from this study showed Pennsylvania public school administrators are aware and do value the role and function of school social workers. Further findings showed a significant positive relationship between the level of awareness and the level of value placed on the role and function.

Hassler



8.2 Who Do We Think We Are? A Qualitative Exploration of Social Work Identity

Michael W. Hassler

Committee Chair: Dr. Stephen W. Stoeffler

Committee Members: Dr. Juliana Svistova and Dr. Heather L. Girvin (Millersville)

Abstract:

Since the inception of the profession, social workers have struggled to identify a common understanding of social work, its fundamental activity, and the role of the worker. Utilizing a phenomenological approach, this qualitative study explored the following questions: 1) What is the participant's lived experience of social work identity? and 2) How is this understanding of identity similar to or different from that of other helping professionals who perform similar activities? Semi-structured interviews, conducted with 22 social workers in the field, diverse in education, practice area, and experience, highlighted parallels among the various experiences, and advanced the exploration of the essence of social work identity. The interviews investigated the presence of role ambiguity and/or role conflict in the experience of each social work participant, as well as their response orientation to conflict (i.e., expedient, moral, and moral-expedient) and the possible effects of ambiguity (i.e., super and sub identities) on their understanding of their own social work identity. While saturation was not reached, the analysis indicated that the participant's job description, workplace expectations, and their inability to adequately distinguish their role and activity from that of other helping professional performing the same task or occupying the same role affected the understanding many had of their own social work identity. Themes included super and subordinate orientations, role or activity dominance, identity modifiers, and conflict resolution orientations. These findings may be used to inform future research of social work identity as well as the unifying element(s) of the profession.

McCormick



8.3 Effectiveness of a Social Work Informed Casework Training Curriculum for Paraprofessionals in Non-Profit Social Service Agencies

Mindy L McCormick

Committee Chair: Dr. Janice Gasker

Committee Members: Dr. Gregory Shelley and Dr. John Vafeas

Abstract:

This work presents a comprehensive study of the effectiveness of a social work informed casework training curriculum specifically developed for use with paraprofessionals, those without a four-year degree, working in a social service agency. Many studies have been written outlining the benefits of paraprofessional support in social service agencies, but little exists in how to properly train and support those paraprofessionals in their job roles. This study was designed to evaluate a new training curriculum to be utilized in meeting that very need within the field. Multiple inferential analyses were conducted using pre- and post-test scores of 143 participants working in a national non-profit agency across multiple states. There were two primary research questions explored for this study. Research question 1: *Does this training curriculum increase participants' knowledge of best practice interventions for service delivery to vulnerable individuals and adults?* Research question 2: *Does this training curriculum increase paraprofessional participants' knowledge of best practice interventions for service delivery to vulnerable individuals and adults?* Inferential analyses utilized in this study found that there was a significant difference between pre- and post-test scores of paraprofessionals and professionals trained utilizing the Social Work Informed Casework Training Curriculum. This study has led to recommendations of evaluation of current new-hire training and on-going training and support programs within non-profit social service agencies utilizing paraprofessionals to provide support to vulnerable populations. This study further

recommends and evaluation and possible future study around on-going training and supervision for professionals within non-profit social service agencies. An evaluation of the transfer of best practice knowledge around this area and how it is carried out into the field could be extremely valuable to social work programs preparing professionals for leadership roles within social service agencies.

Chico



8.4 School Social Workers and Threat Assessment Teams: Exploring Roles, Perceptions, and Outcomes

Alicia Chico

Committee Chair: Dr. Janice Gasker

Committee Members: Dr. John Vafeas and Dr. Jonathan Kremser

Abstract:

The sordid history of school shootings has changed the school environment and the education system forever. While school shootings are considered a rarity, violence in schools is not. Many entities and agencies work to create safety techniques, procedures, and protocols to keep all students safe, the goal of threat assessment teams is to prevent school violence while supporting the students. In many states, school social workers operate on the fringe of school safety and threat assessment teams. The purpose of this mixed-methods, descriptive study, was to assess the roles of school social workers on threat assessment teams through a researcher-generated anonymous questionnaire. The questionnaire was geared to high school principals and school social workers from Pennsylvania school districts and asked participants about their perceptions and familiarity of social work skills, services, and threat assessment teams. A qualitative content analysis was conducted to assess the compatibility and congruence of the threat assessment framework and school social work practice model, CSWE competencies, and elements of service. The study explored if perceptions affect school social workers' participation, quality of participation, and impact on threat assessment teams. Lastly, it assessed if the presence of a social worker on a threat assessment team influenced the type of interventions used by the team.

9. Notable Events

9.1 Social Work Community Forum

The Kutztown University Community Forum, organized by the Department of Social Work, is a gathering of social work professionals, university community members, and community leaders. The purpose is to raise consciousness about-and craft solutions to-community needs, particularly as they pertain to families. Forum 2021 was held virtually due to COVID-19.



Friday, March 19, 2021 8:45am-4pm

Chair: Dr. Sharon Lyter

Total Attended: 1,069 people

(419 via Zoom webinar, 650 views on YouTube)

9.2 Social Work in the Global Environment Conference

9th Annual Social Work in the Global Environment Conference on Social Determinants of Health: Local-Global Challenges for Vulnerable Populations

In an effort to provide an expansion on the understanding of how global events are connected to local issues, Kutztown University has been hosting annually the Global Environment Conference since 2011. The aim of the Social Work in the Global Environment Conference is to contribute to the local-global perspectives in social work, utilizing the strategy: thinking globally and acting locally. The global conference attendees are students, faculty, and human service professionals. The theme for the 2020 conference was Social Determinants of Health: Local-Global Challenges for Vulnerable Populations. The conference focused on issues relating to three sub-themes: environmental impacts and issues, regional and national conflicts, and challenges to health systems/delivery that affect the health and well-being of vulnerable populations.

The conference included panel discussions and presentations from both invited speakers and peer-reviewed proposal submissions from across the globe including the Netherlands, Ghana, Canada, as well as speakers from various areas in the United States. Presentation topics included climate change, food production and zoonotic disease; migrant health and chronic diseases; addressing food insecurity; the global impact of for-profit detention; mental health; telehealth; the vulnerability of persons with disabilities; naming and confronting racism; social justice conversations; the dilemma of migration; and domestic violence. The conference also included a Pre-Conference Virtual Self-Care Day organized by the Kutztown University student group, Social Workers and Advocates of Kutztown, which focused on self-care for change makers. Over 400 participants attended our virtual conference last year. The theme for the 2021 virtual conference is Social Work in the Covid Environment: Long-term Impacts and Global-local Challenges for Vulnerable Populations. We are expecting to host over 600 participants. Please find a link to our conference home page for full report. Link: <https://www.kutztown.edu/academics/colleges-and-departments/liberal-arts-and-sciences/departments/social-work/social-work-events/global-environment-conference.html>



Friday, November 6, 2020, 8am-4pm

Chair: Dr. Barth Yeboah

Co-Chair: Dr. Juliana Svistova

Total Attended: 442 people

(224 via Zoom webinar, 218 views on YouTube)

9.3 Graduation and Alumni Event

The Annual Graduation and Alumni Event that is organized through the Department of Social Work brings together graduating students and alumni alike to celebrate their achievements in the academic and professional settings. Due to COVID-19 this event was held over Zoom.



Friday, April 30, 2021 6:00pm-7:30pm

Chair: Dr. Edward Hanna

Total Attended: 165

9.4 Clinical Updates Colloquium

The Department of Social Work's Annual Colloquium and Clinical Updates 2021 focused on suicide prevention and helping the suicidal person and telehealth, ethical implications. The colloquium was held virtually due to COVID-19.



Friday, January 8, 2021 8:30am-4pm

Chair: Dr. John Vafeas

Co-Chair: Dr. Stephen Stoeffler

Total Attended: 567 people

9.5 Field Education Workshop

The purpose of the Field Education Workshop facilitated by the Department of Social Work is to educate field instructors and the students, on their role and function while at their host agencies. Due to COVID-19 the workshop was held over Zoom.



Tuesday, August 25, 2020

Chair: Professor William Bender

Co-chair: Dr. Heather LaBarre

Total Attended: 146 people

9.6 The Social Work Diversity Prize

The faculty of the Department of Social Work sponsors and funds an annual Diversity Prize, awarded each year to the students who provide the most creative, comprehensive presentation on the celebration of diversity in their own lives. This creative project may take any form you wish. Examples include poem, essay, work of fiction, video (on DVD), drawing, collage, photograph, painting, poster, performance art (on DVD).



March 5, 2021

Chair: Dr. FangHsun Wei

Total submission: 14 Projects (8 BSW projects and 6 MSW projects)

Appendix

- A. Social Work Community Forum Report
- B. Social Work in The Global Environment Conference Report
- C. Graduation and Alumni Event Program
- D. Clinical Updates Colloquium Report
- E. Field Day Report
- F. Diversity Prize Brochure

**17th Annual Community Forum:
Education Enterprise in Transition: A Call to Action**

The Kutztown University Community Forum, organized by the Department of Social Work, is a gathering of social work professionals, university community members, and community leaders. The purpose is to raise consciousness about—and craft solutions to—community needs, particularly as they pertain to families.

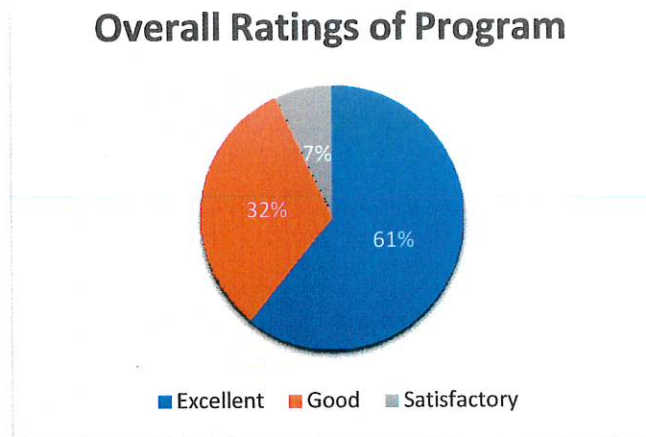
The 2021 Forum raises awareness of the issues surrounding the Transition of the Education Enterprise and the impact on families in the social environment in an effort to promote best practices and a systemic, ethical response to regional and global needs. Experts identify best practices and social work professionals serve as catalysts to build and strengthen alliances across the practice continuum.

Faculty and students from Kutztown University as well as participants from our local communities, attended the conference.

419 people attended via the Zoom webinar, and there was an additional 650 views on YouTube Live, for a total of 1,069 people attending forum.

Of the people who attended the conference, 508 completed and returned the conference evaluation questionnaire. The responses were collected and analyzed to ensure the quality of future conferences and will be taken into account for future conference programs and proceedings.

The results indicated that 93% of the respondents rated the sessions they attended as excellent or good.

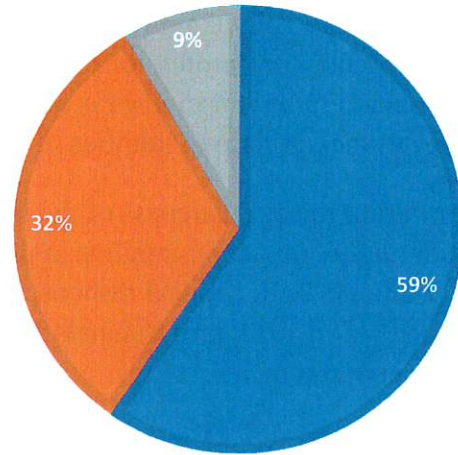


91% of the respondents rated the morning presentation only as excellent or good.

90% of the respondents rated just the afternoon presentation as excellent or good.

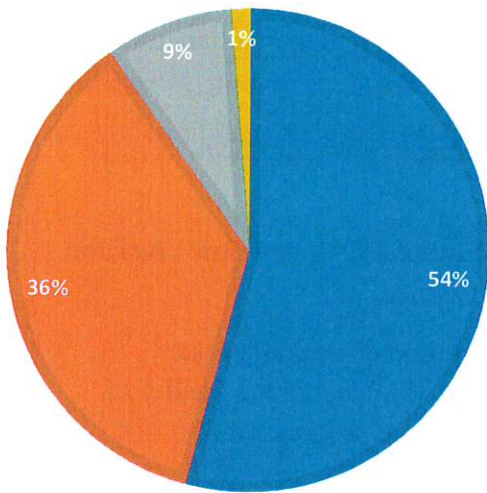
MORNING PRESENTATION

■ Excellent ■ Good ■ Satisfactory

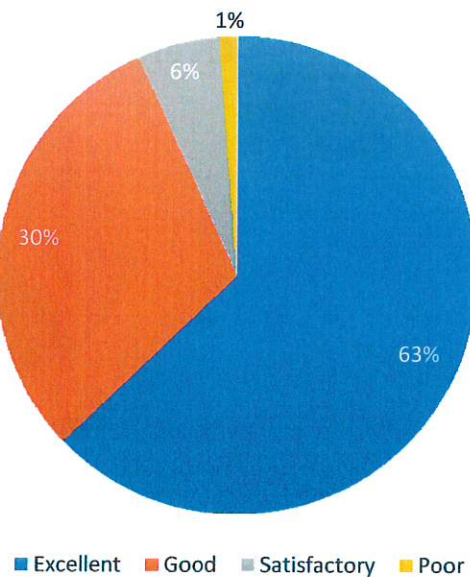


AFTERNOON PRESENTATION

■ Excellent ■ Good ■ Satisfactory ■ Poor

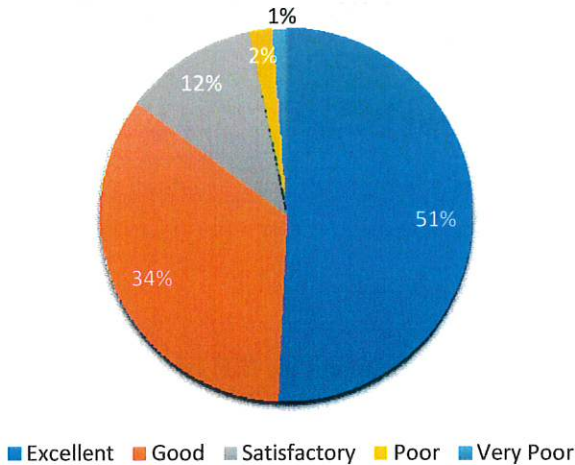


Overall Webinar Platform



93% of the respondents rated the overall webinar platform as excellent or good.

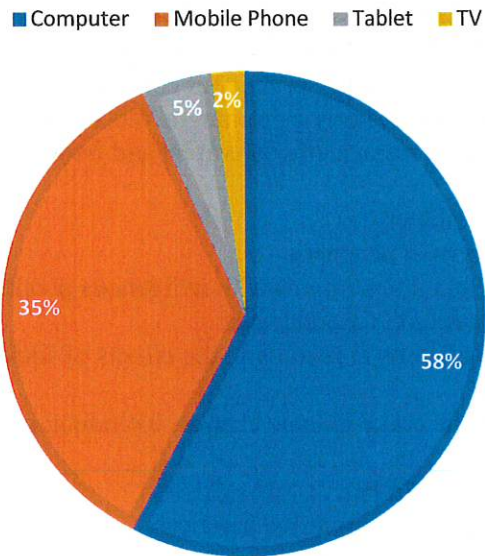
Value of Interaction among Community Forum Participants



85% of respondents indicated that the value of interaction among Community Forum participants were excellent or good.

In terms of their involvement, 85% of respondents indicated that the prime reason for participating in the Community forum was for CE's for licensing and 49% were because they were interested in the topic.

DEVICE TYPE



For those who watched the forum through the YouTube livestream, 58% watched from a computer, 35% using a mobile device, 5% using a tablet, and 2% using a television.

IDEAS FOR FUTURE FORUM TOPICS

Topics relating; to becoming successful social workers that will be conducive to our clients and our environment. The balancing of work and family in the social work career successfully without affecting the other. Mandate reporting topics. The policymaking is influencing changes to better our client's needs and the environment's greater good—the racism in removing Black and Latino children from their families in the Children and Youth Service Department.

Resources and job opportunities for SWK students

Pandemic Anxiety

Social Media and Mental Health

Policy in social work

Medical Social Work

Racial Inequity

Cultural Competency

Ethics

Trauma

Medication-assisted treatment for addictions medication as primary treatment for MH issues vs counseling alone or combined w/ medication

Promoting voter rights locally and nationally

Recognizing and Responding to the Impact of Institutional Discrimination on Families: Micro, Mezzo, and Macro

Grief and loss

BIPOC

Incarceration V. Education: How resources are placed into the state and federal corrections system as opposed to the post -secondary education system in the US and Pennsylvania.

Learning more on what we can do as advocates in our local communities in regards to civil/social injustices. I am speaking specifically on Police Brutality/murders that has been going on for too long in this country. This has a strong psychological effects on families/children that look at law enforcement more in fear that protecting/serving our community.

Social Isolation- particularly pertaining to older Americans during COVID

Topic surrounding women empowerment and issues women may face in the work force

COVID-19

Trauma and Resiliency

School Truancy post pandemic

Working with and interventions with indigenous peoples/Native Americans. (How to) Introducing new legislation at state and federal levels.

Mental Health of teens in relation to the effects of social media

LGBTQ

Social work in the era of climate change, including: social justice, policy, health (physical & mental), ethics

Mental Health Law in Pa

Cultural competency, restorative practices

Attachment and brain mapping

Professional Social Work Identity Development Thinking globally, acting locally

Mindfulness and other interventions in clinical practice for reducing and eliminating anxiety and persistent worry

partnering with police departments....

Collaboration among macro, mezzo, micro level social workers and how to provide best practice while shifting among these. Integrating macro/micro/mezzo practice efficiently even when highly specialized.

Multidisciplinary collaboration: i.e. mental health and social justice. The rise and influence of social

media personalities on mental health and their “self-care” recommendations-how does it impact clinical practice based in research.

Child abuse

Veterans and aging, homelessness, substance use

Diversity and Inclusion in the workplace

Disability awareness

Governments interaction and influence on Social Work practice

Trauma, ACES

Understanding and identifying our microaggressions Updating our policies so they are anti-racist and equitable Social Work and Environmental Justice - the impact of the environment on social determinates of health Social Work Police - how social workers can work jointly with law enforcement How will COVID-19 change social work practice for the better?

I ask this every year, but as an LSW in the first Mental Health and Aging program implemented in a nursing home in PA (now approved for Magellan funding!!!) PLEASE focus on social work with the aging population!!!!

Integrated Behavioral Health with Primary Health Care

community / grassroots organizing; program development; effective advocacy for disenfranchised populations; mezzo and macro level practice; social justice initiatives

Social work in prisons

Dismantling whiteness/white supremacy culture in social work

RESPONSE CATEGORIES: FUTURE TOPICS

AGING

I ask this every year, but as an LSW in the first Mental Health and Aging program implemented in a nursing home in PA (now approved for Magellan funding!!!) PLEASE focus on social work with the aging population!!!!

Veterans and aging

Social Isolation- particularly pertaining to older Americans during COVID

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH (mental health; substance use disorders)

Medication-assisted treatment for addictions; medication as primary treatment for MH issues vs counseling alone or combined w/ medication

Integrated Behavioral Health with Primary Health Care

Mindfulness and other interventions in clinical practice for reducing and eliminating anxiety and persistent worry

Mental Health Law in Pa

Mental health/Social media

Mental Health of teens in relation to the effects of social media

CHILD & FAMILY

Child abuse

removing Black and Latino children from their families in the Children and Youth Service Department.

psychological effects on families/children that look at law enforcement more in fear that protecting/serving our community

School Truancy post pandemic

Topic surrounding women empowerment and issues women may face in the work force

COVID-19

Pandemic Anxiety

Social Isolation- particularly pertaining to older Americans during COVID

School Truancy post pandemic

How will COVID-19 change social work practice for the better?

Social Isolation- particularly pertaining to older Americans during COVID

DISABILITY AWARENESS

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, INCLUSION

SUPREMACY INJUSTICE SOCIAL JUSTICE, civil/social injustices. I am speaking specifically on Police Brutality/murders that has been going on for too long in this country. This has a strong psychological effects on families/children that look at law enforcement

racism in removing Black and Latino children from their families in the Children and Youth Service Department.

Racial Inequity

Cultural Competency

Promoting voter rights locally and nationally

Recognizing and Responding to the Impact of Institutional Discrimination on Families: Micro, Mezzo, and Macro

BIPOC

Dismantling whiteness/white supremacy culture in social work

Diversity and Inclusion in the workplace

Understanding and identifying our microaggressions Updating our policies so they are anti-racist and equitable Social Work and Environmental Justice - the impact of the environment on social determinates of health Social Work Police - how social workers can work jointly with law enforcement

GRIEF & LOSS

LGBTQ

MEDICAL

Medical Social Work

JUSTICE SYSTEM; POLICE; PRISON/CORRECTIONS

SUPREMACY INJUSTICE SOCIAL JUSTICE, civil/social injustices. I am speaking specifically on Police Brutality/murders that has been going on for too long in this country. This has a strong psychological effects on families/children that look at law enforcement

Police Brutality/murders that has been going on for too long in this country. This has a strong psychological effects on families/children that look at law enforcement more in fear that protecting/serving our community.

partnering with police departments

Social Work Police - how social workers can work jointly with law enforcement
Incarceration V. Education: How resources are placed into the state and federal corrections system as opposed to the post -secondary education system in the US and Pennsylvania.

community / grassroots organizing

POLICY & COMMUNITY ORGANIZING

community / grassroots organizing

grassroots organizing; program development

Government interaction and influence on Social Work practice

Working with and interventions with indigenous peoples/Native Americans. (How to)
Introducing new legislation at state and federal levels.

Mental Health Law in Pa

SOCIAL WORK PROFESSION

Government interaction and influence on Social Work practice

Professional Social Work Identity Development

Social work in the era of climate change, including: social justice, policy, health (physical & mental), ethics

Resources and job opportunities for SWK students

TRAUMA

Trauma, ACES

Trauma and Resiliency

WOMEN

Topic surrounding women empowerment and issues women may face in the work force



9th Annual Social Work in the Global Environment Conference

Social Determinants of Health: Local-Global Challenges for Vulnerable Populations

**NOVEMBER 6, 2020 - 8:00 A.M.-4 P.M. - VIRTUAL
CONFERENCE NEWSLETTER**

In an effort to provide an expansion on the understanding of how global events are connected to local issues, Kutztown University has been hosting annually the Global Environment Conference since 2011. The aim of the Social Work in the Global Environment Conference is to contribute to the local-global perspectives in social work, utilizing the strategy: thinking globally and acting locally. The theme for the 2020 conference was “*Social Determinants of Health: Local-Global Challenges for Vulnerable Populations.*”

The conference focused on issues relating to three sub-themes: environmental impacts

and issues, regional and national conflicts, and challenges to health systems/delivery that affect the health and well-being of vulnerable populations. The conference included panel discussions and presentations from both invited speakers and peer-reviewed proposal submissions from across the globe including the Netherlands, Ghana, Canada, as well as speakers from various areas in the United States.

Presentation topics included climate change, food production and zoonotic disease; migrant health and chronic diseases; addressing food insecurity; the global impact of for-profit detention; mental health; telehealth; the vulnerability of persons with disabilities; naming and confronting racism; social justice conversations; the dilemma of migration; and domestic violence. The conference also included a Pre-Conference Virtual Self-Care Day organized by the Kutztown University student group, Social Workers and Advocates of Kutztown, which focused on self-care for change makers.



Conference Implementation Team

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Moderator

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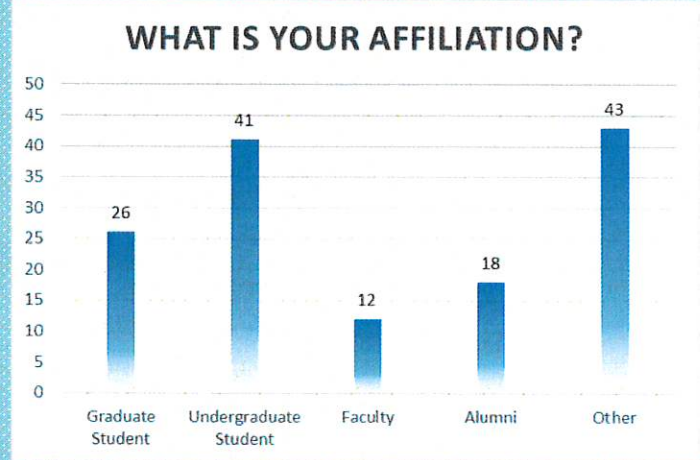
Evaluation Feedback and Results

Of the 442 participants, 224 people attended via the Zoom webinar, with an additional 218 views on YouTube Live.

Of the people who attended the conference, 140 completed and returned the conference evaluation questionnaire. The responses were collected and analyzed to ensure the quality of future conferences and will be taken into account for future conference programs and proceedings.

Based on the collected responses, 26 of the respondents were graduate students, 41 undergraduate students, 12 faculty, 18 alumni, and 43 reported as other (not attending or working for Kutztown University).

Over three quarters (86.2%) of the respondents heard about the conference from their course instructors or from KU announcements through email.



Overall Ratings of Presentations



The results indicated that 97% of the respondents rated the sessions they attended as excellent or good; 98% of the respondents indicated that the information from the sessions was congruent with the main theme of the conference; 100% of the respondents rated the conference as well organized.

93.5% noted that the Keynote Speaker was knowledgeable about the subject related to the theme of the conference; 100% of the respondents indicated that the discussions after the speaker's presentations were satisfactory.

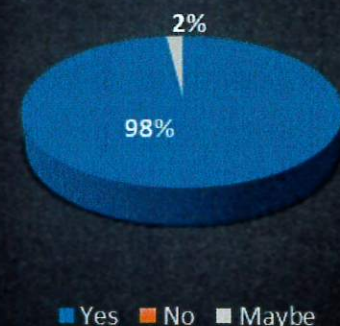
90.5% of the respondents indicated that the time allotted for each session was sufficient.

The results further indicated that 98% of the respondents gained valuable insight about local/global organizations responding to human needs from attending the conference.

Finally, 94.1% of the respondents indicated that they would attend a future Annual Conference on Social Work in the Global Environment at KU and 98.5% would recommend future conferences to others to attend.

In terms of their involvement, 24% of the respondents indicated that they would be willing to present a conference paper in the future, 28% indicated that they might present at a future conference, and 47% indicated that they would not present at a future conference.

Gained Valuable Insight





Qualitative Results and Feedback

Themes suggested for future conferences

- Health
- Integrated healthcare in the primary care setting
- Chronic physical health conditions and impact to MH; Topics specific to women- SDOH, pregnancy, postpartum, etc.
- Post-Covid community recovery
- Addressing mental illness among the elderly and supporting their families,
- Providing culturally sensitive support for social injustice for those with disabilities
- Human loss during COVID-19: long term social, emotional, psychological, physical, and behavioral implications on a global level
- End of life issues globally
- International social work
- Professional identity in social work in an international context
- International social work and how to become involved, how social work credentials and requirements differ from country to country.
- Disability, social protection, gender, and health education
- Social work and the environment
- Climate change
- Water quality in cities and third world countries
- Coping interventions around the globe from spiritual practices, emotional support animals, to pandemic, work, etc.
- LGBTQ rights
- Social work in the political environment
- Leadership
- Gun violence and prevention
- Domestic violence
- Effects of income and gender inequalities
- International child trafficking
- Children and family needs—seeking a holistic approach in serving in communities





Student Involvement

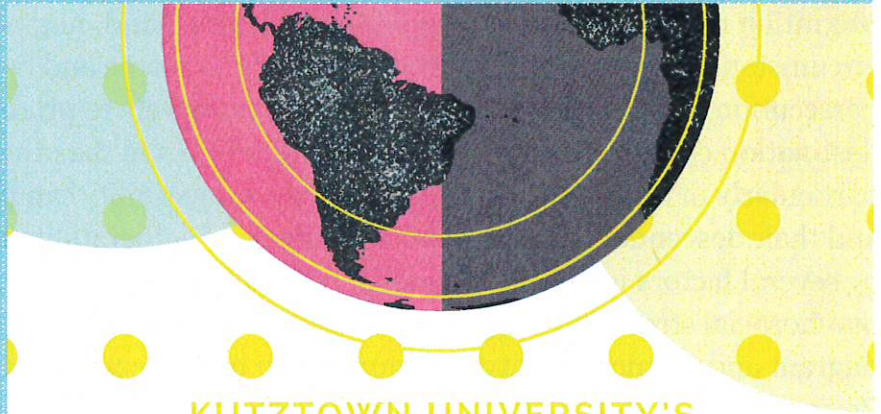
Social Workers & Advocates of Kutztown (SWAK)

The mission of the Social Workers and Advocates at Kutztown University (SWAK) is to offer Kutztown University students interested in social work the opportunity to network and convene with students, professors and community members to discuss public policy issues, community needs and concerns, as well as events pertaining to the social work field and to participate in advocacy work.

In 2020, students, faculty, and staff were invited to actively participate in a Virtual Self Care Day which included a presentation from Dr. Loretta Pyles, author of "Healing Justice: Holistic Self-Care for Change Makers", a virtual brown bag lunch and discussion of "What and How We Eat," a yoga session, a guided meditation for stress relief, a mindfulness sampler with Dr. Heather LaBarre, and a creative expressions presentation from Dr. Amy Pfeiler-Wunder.

There were on average, approximately 35 attendees throughout the day including students from the University of Ghana as well as Kutztown University.

The Advocates Guide to Self Care—<https://youtu.be/xpPAteQDSkl>



KUTZTOWN UNIVERSITY'S
SOCIAL WORK. DEPARTMENT

VIRTUAL SELF CARE DAY PRE-GLOBAL CONFERENCE EVENT

<https://kutztown.zoom.us/j/91578678303>

Meeting ID: 915 7867 8303

One tap mobile: 13017158592, ID:
91578678303#

WHEN: NOVEMBER 5TH 2020
TIME: 9AM-4PM

EVERYONE IS
INVITED!





Presentation Overviews

Migrant Health – Why Context Matters

Professor Charles Agyemang, Ph.D., University of Amsterdam

Ethnic diversity is an important feature of modern societies. All the indications are that the magnitude of the ethnic diversity will intensify due to the rising number of international migrants. Migration remains a double-edged sword. On one hand, migration can improve migrants' social circumstances through better education, higher income and by providing a safety net from persecution and violence while contributing massively to productivity and growth of both the destination countries and their countries of origin. On the other hand, migrants remain vulnerable particularly in terms of poor health and this vulnerability can perpetuate over time to affect migrants and their descendants for generations. Migrants vulnerability to poor health is thought to be driven by several factors including migration related lifestyle changes, poor social circumstances and psychosocial stress driven by structural discrimination. The current COVID-19 pandemic crisis in migrant and ethnic minority communities in high-income countries is a very good example. Promoting good health among migrant populations is in the best interest of both destination countries and the countries of origin because of the bidirectional contributions they make towards them. This lecture will discuss current migration patterns and how national contexts shape migrant health outcomes. Examples will be drawing from the RODAM study <http://www.rod-am.eu/> and the data on current COVID-19 pandemic in migrants and ethnic minority groups in high-income countries.

Global Climate Change, Food Production and Supply, and the Role of Science in Protecting Vulnerable Populations

Dr. Bibek Sharma, Ph.D., Food and Machinery Corporation

Global Climate Change is real and can disrupt agriculture which is an important sector which not only supports US economy but major economies worldwide. Climate change is one of the biggest challenges the humanity is facing, and agriculture fields that effect in a profound way. Even though, agriculture is a contributor of climate change, through proper steps and sustainable practices, agriculture can be a mitigator. The Global increase in human population, associated with ever shrinking areas of land available for agriculture is putting immense pressure on growers. The challenge is to feed the growing population but by balancing the needs of nature. Can agriculture, food supply, population, and climate change work together? What role can science and scientific community, innovation, and technology play? Where do manufacturers of plant protection products fit into this puzzle? Can sound climate and agriculture policies, and pesticide regulations co-exist? Do these changes help boost the socio-economic status and ensure social justice?

Addressing Food Insecurity on a College Campus

Leah Cassellia, MS, Kutztown University

College students with food insecurity face stressors and challenges that hinder the ability to live a healthy lifestyle, remain enrolled in college and achieve a degree. Learn about causes of college food insecurity, the impact of food insecurity on students and how colleges can address this critical issue.



Presentation Overviews

Climate Change & Zoonotic Disease: Implications for Social Work Practice

Michael Hassler, MSW, DSW Student, Kutztown University Department of Social Work

Climate change is a dynamic, complex, comprehensive, evolving, and multidimensional threat to humanity, that is neither theoretical nor distant. Life, as we've known it, is changing around us. Perhaps no climate-related challenge is graver and more frightening than that posed by zoonotic disease and global pandemic. This presentation will address the reasons for the increase in prevalence as well as the implications for social work practice.

Between a Rock and a Hard Place: Exploring the Global impact of For-Profit Detention

Melody Loya, LMSW-IPR, Department Head and Associate professor, Tarleton State University, Department of Social Work, Texas

This presentation explores the connection between the growth in for-profit detention centers and stricter immigration laws. As immigration rhetoric in the United States has heated up, more migrants may be choosing to migrate south fleeing the danger that is often present in their home countries. Using Nicaragua and Costa Rica as a foundation for understanding, we will explore the interconnectedness of U.S. immigration policies on a global stage as well as the danger of immigration policies to the health and well-being of families.

Mental Health in the Legislature, the Blurring of the Personal and the Professional, and a Call to Action

Mike Schlossberg, Pennsylvania State Representative

Mike Schlossberg has been an advocate for mental health for his entire legislative career, advocating for better funding, more access, and conscious efforts to reduce health care disparities while increasing the mental health workforce across all levels. For him, these issues are both professional and personal. Representative Schlossberg has suffered from depression and anxiety issues for his entire adult life, and he has attempted to use these stories to advocate for those who, like him, suffer from mental illness. In this presentation, Representative Schlossberg will give an overview of mental illness advances in the legislature, and where these areas currently stand. He will also discuss his personal story and how it made him a more effective advocate for mental health services, particularly in establishing public policy that reduces obstacles to care for vulnerable populations and to also make it more accessible for those hesitant to seek out support and treatment. Representative Schlossberg is the author of HB1459, which was signed into law by Governor Wolf as Act 69 of July 23, 2020, to facilitate timely access to treatment for first responders in Pennsylvania.

What Are Social Determinants of Health?

Your health is influenced by a wide range of factors, and the body you were born with is only one of them. Learn about some of the other factors that influence our health and what public health professionals do to address them.

<https://youtu.be/iiSuZngvCpY>



Presentation Overviews

Using Telehealth During COVID-19 Pandemic to Improve Patient Care and Maintain Productivity

Ashlee Stampf, MSW, LCSW, St. Luke's University Health Network

Telehealth has been an established delivery method of health care but not widely used until COVID-19 was declared a pandemic. After evaluation of the literature and real practice application, it was found that barriers of clinician buy in, funding and systemic changes were overcome. Federal and state governments coordinated with health care systems and insurances to ramp up telehealth use rapidly and deliver safe and effective healthcare while protecting the population from further spread of the virus.

COVID-19: The Vulnerability of Persons with Disabilities in Ghana

Dr. Augustine Naami, Ph.D., Department of Social Work of the University of Ghana

There is evidence that persons with disabilities continue to encounter barriers in society globally, which impede their participation and inclusion. The Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic which affected individuals, families, businesses, institutions and communities could adversely impact persons with disabilities. Persons with disabilities are less likely to be employed, but more likely to lose their jobs. The majority is unemployed or work in vulnerable employment, characterized by low income, lack of job security and job-related benefits. Workers with disabilities are more likely to lose their jobs in the COVID-19 era, which could further worsen their income, savings and economic resilience. Inadequate social protection, healthcare benefits and familial support, coupled with disability-related expenses, could add layers to the vulnerabilities of persons with disabilities, who are among the poor. Information, transportation, and built-environment inaccessibility, gender, age, geographic location are additional risk factors. The Ghana government COVID-19 response strategy, unfortunately, does not adequately address the needs of persons with disabilities. In this paper, we explore the vulnerabilities of persons with disabilities in the COVID-19 pandemic and recommendations to address their needs.

Naming and Confronting Racism as a Social Determinant of Health: The Application of Genogram as an Assessment Tool

Eric Kyere, Ph.D., Indiana University, IUPI, School of Social Work and Department of Africana Studies

This presentation draws on the history of racialized medicine to argue that the disparate health disparities that feature prominently in the U.S health system are indices of the costs associated with racism, and have political, economic, and medical imperatives. The history of racism's evolution is needed to address health disparities.

[Social Determinants of Health - an introduction](#)

The Social Determinants of Health are the conditions in which people are born, grow, live and age. They have a large influence on our health. It also determines health inequities, which is the unfair and avoidable health difference between different groups of people. In this video we take a look at the social determinants of health, what they are, how it impacts health and a useful framework to understand it. <https://youtu.be/8PH4JYfF4Ns>



Presentation Overviews

Facilitating Difficult Social Justice Conversations: Adopting and Utilizing African Concepts of Restorative Dialogue

Drs. Wanja Ogongi, Ph.D., Mary Gitau, Ph.D., E. Kerubo Orwenyo, Ph.D., Millersville University School of Social Work

Racial injustice conversations are often characterized by strong and powerful emotions and are approached ambivalently by most. Facilitating difficult social justice oriented conversations requires more than adopting politically correct “woke” terminology. The African concepts of restorative dialogue have been utilized to promote healing on the African continent for thousands of years, in situations that involve engaging in difficult conversations with a goal of healing and bringing reconciliation. This session will focus on a social justice healing circle the presenters have facilitated that is grounded on the African concepts of respect for humanness and worth of the person (*Ubuntu*), interconnectedness, interdependence, storytelling and importance of dialogue in facilitating healing and restoration.

The Dilemma of Migration: Experiences of Independent Adolescent Migrants from Selected West African Countries

Drs. Mavis Dako-Gyeke, Ph.D., Ernestina Korleki Dankyi, Ph.D., Richard Baffo Kodom, MPhil, Social Work & Alhassan Sulemana, University of Ghana, Department of Social Work

While independent migration among adolescents is common in West Africa, it has not received much attention in research and policy. Guided by the neoclassical economics, new economics of labor and social networks theoretical perspectives, the study investigated the experiences of independent adolescent migrants from selected West African countries.

Health inequities and their causes

There is ample evidence that social factors, including education, employment status, income level, gender and ethnicity have a marked influence on how healthy a person is. In all countries – whether low-, middle- or high-income – there are wide disparities in the health status of different social groups. The lower an individual’s socio-economic position, the higher their risk of poor health. Health inequities are systematic differences in the health status of different population groups. These inequities have



significant social and economic costs both to individuals and societies. This fact file looks at what health inequities are, provides examples and shows their cost to society.

<https://www.who.int/news-room/facts-in-pictures/detail/health-inequities-and-their-causes>



Speaker Biographies

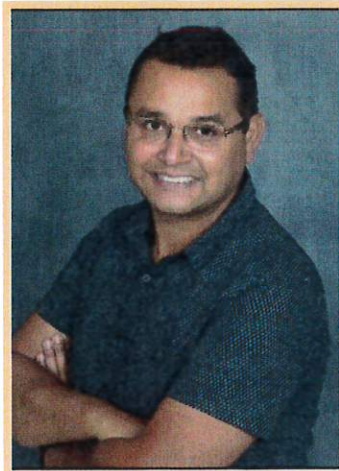


Professor Charles Agyemang, Ph.D.

Migrant Health – Why Context Matters

Professor Charles Agyemang is a Professor of Global Migration, Ethnicity and Health and Principal Investigator at Amsterdam University Medical Centres, University of Amsterdam. He received his PhD from Erasmus Medical Centre, University of Rotterdam, and master's degree at Edinburgh University Medical School. His research is focused on ethnic inequalities in cardiovascular diseases (CVDs) and NCDs in low- and middle-income countries. Professor Agyemang has about 20 years research experience and has authored/co-authored over 280 published papers, and edited several books. He is the PI of the RODAM study – European Commission funded

project on gene-environmental interaction on obesity & diabetes among African migrants. He is a fellow of the prestigious European Research Council (ERC) under the Consolidation Award program. Professor Agyemang is currently the Vice President of the Migrant Health section of the European Public Health Association. He is an Associate Editor for Internal and Emergency Medicine, and serves as an Editorial Board member for several journals. He was member of the WHO taskforce on NCDs in Migrant and was a member and a rapporteur of the Planning Committee for WHO Global Consultation on Migrant Health.



Dr. Bibek Sharma, Ph.D.

Global Climate Change, Food Production and Supply, and the Role of Science in Protecting Vulnerable Populations

Dr. Bibek Sharma is a Senior Global Research and Development Scientist, Ecotoxicology at Food and Machinery Corporation (FMC). FMC Corporation is an agrochemical company mainly focused on research, development, and global sales of plant protection products.

Dr. Bibek Sharma has a PhD in Environmental Toxicology from Texas Tech University. He is also a Diplomate of the American Board of Toxicology (DABT). Additionally, he is also an MBA Candidate at Carey Business School at Johns Hopkins University with specializations in Leading Organizations and Corporate Finance. Dr. Sharma's research mainly focuses around human and environmental toxicology with the goal on ensuring safety of chemicals. He has been actively engaged in research and development of chemicals for the past 10 years. Navigating through a complex world of global regulations coupled with the challenges of global climate change and shrinking agriculture landscape are some of the focus of Dr. Sharma's overall goals. Dr. Sharma also has published in several peer reviewed journals, book chapters, and has numerous presentations in professional and industry forums. He is an Associate Editor of the journal Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry and has been one of the top 15 reviewer of the same journal for 3 years in a row. He also actively leads and participates in various Industry Wide Task Forces. Dr. Sharma is also a member of the National Society of Leadership and Success-nations largest leadership society.



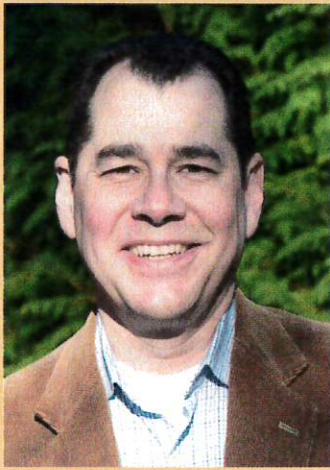
Speaker Biographies



Leah Cassellia, MS

Addressing Food Insecurity on a College Campus

Leah Cassellia is a student affairs professional with experience working in both public and private institutions. She is a fierce advocate for student needs with experience in residence life, new student orientation, student activities, student union operations and campus food pantry services. Leah's personal interests include listening to podcasts, sewing, working on Sudoku puzzles and spending time with her family.



Michael Hassler, MSW

Climate Change & Zoonotic Disease: Implications for Social Work Practice

Michael Hassler is a social work doctoral candidate at Kutztown University of Pennsylvania. He has a Master of Social Work Degree from Catholic University of America, a Master of Arts Degree in Theology from DeSales School of Theology, and a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Psychology from DeSales University. Currently, Michael provides therapy to Medicare/Medicaid consumers in an outpatient behavioral health care agency in Berks County. Previously, Michael worked with persons living with HIV – another zoonotic disease – in Philadelphia, New Castle County, Delaware, and Washington, DC. As an HIV social worker, he created and managed programs designed to address the needs of persons living with HIV, he provided direct care and linkage to resources, and he facilitated outreach, prevention, and public health programming.



Dr. Melody Loya, LMSW-IPR

Between a Rock and a Hard Place: Exploring the Global Impact of For-Profit Detention

Dr. Melody Loya, LMSW-IPR is an Associate Professor and the Department Head of Social Work at Tarleton State University. Dr. Loya has taught in higher education for 20 years, after having been a practicing social worker in the field of adoption and foster care. Melody is the wife of a police officer and a mom to two grown daughters, and is owned by one very spoiled Chihuahua. She loves to travel (Costa Rica is her happy place) and part of her self-care is taking Spanish lessons from a Costa Rican tutor.

Public Health – Concepts of Health and Its Determinants: By Natalie Lovesey M.D.

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Speaker Biographies



Mike Schlossberg, PA State Representative

Mental Health in the Legislature, the blurring of the personal and the professional, and a call to action

Representative Mike Schlossberg was first elected to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives on Nov. 6, 2012. Prior to his House service, he served as a member of Allentown City Council, becoming the youngest person ever elected to that office. Since taking office, Representative Schlossberg has brought \$53 million in new revenue to the financially challenged Allentown School District, helping to avoid teacher layoffs. This session, he has advanced bipartisan legislation to increase mental health services for first responders. In 2015, Governor Wolf signed Representative Schlossberg's Rape Survivor Child Custody and Support legislation into law.

Prior to his efforts to improve vaccination rates, Pennsylvania schools were some of the most under-vaccinated in the country.

The death by suicide of Robin Williams prompted Representative Schlossberg to share his own struggles with depression and anxiety in a Morning Call op-ed. His story set forth a very public conversation about mental health and stigma, a central focus for Representative Schlossberg. Since 2015, he has been a keynote speaker and has advanced legislation in the General Assembly. Congresswoman Susan Wild invited him to Washington, D.C. to help support efforts to enact federal legislation to improve mental health care delivery across the nation. He was also appointed to the Mental Health & Justice Advisory Committee for the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency and named Suicide Prevention Task Force Co-Chair by Governor Wolf.

Representative Schlossberg has received many professional awards, including the 2020 National Association of Social Workers Elected Official of the Year, 2019 Legislative Leadership Award from the PA Rehabilitation & Community, 2017 NASW-PA Legislator of the Year, and the 2016 "Allies in Action Award" from the American Federation for Suicide Prevention. Representative Schlossberg is an alumnus of Muhlenberg College (2005, magna cum laude) and Lehigh University. He is a member of the Phi Beta Kappa honor society.



Ashlee Stampf, MSW, LCSW

A Case Study of Using Telehealth During COVID-19 Pandemic to Maintain Patient Care and Productivity

Ashlee Stampf is a dually Licensed Clinical Social Worker in Pennsylvania and New Jersey. As a Bariatric Social Worker with St. Luke's University Health Network in the Weight Management Department, Ashlee evaluates, educates and supports patients through the stages of bariatric surgery and weight management,. She has presented on Emotional Eating, Mindful Eating Practices and Relationship Changes after Bariatric Surgery. Ashlee has had an extensive career in child, adolescent, and family therapeutic services prior to engaging in clinical medical social work. Ashlee is a

graduate of the Master of Social Work Program at Kutztown University.



Speaker Biographies

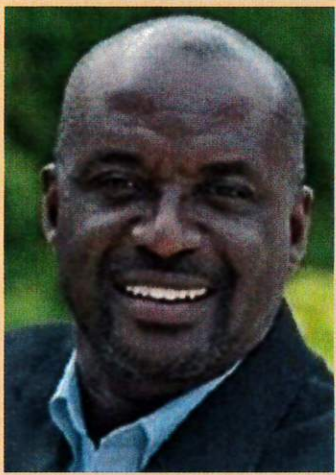


Dr. Augustina Naami, Ph.D.

COVID-19: The Vulnerability of Persons with Disabilities in Ghana

Dr. Augustina Naami is a lecturer at the Department of Social Work of the University of Ghana. She holds a BA degree in Economics from the University of Ghana, Master's and PhD in Social Work from the Universities of Chicago and Utah respectively. She had previously taught at the University of Northern Iowa in the United States of America. Dr. Naami teaches a range of areas in social work mostly with macro-level practice and policy orientations. Her research focuses on disability, mental health, the intersection of vulnerabilities, gender, social policy and poverty.

Dr. Naami has conducted research locally and internationally. She has presented her work globally as well as published in high-impact peer-reviewed journals. Dr. Naami serves on several boards of Civil Society and Faith-Based Organisations. Dr. Naami is currently a member of the Technical Committee which is reviewing the Persons with Disability Act of Ghana to align it with the United Nations' Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. As a member of this committee, she contributed immensely to reviewing the National Disability Law in Ghana (Act, 751).



Dr. Magnus Mfoafo-M'Carthy, Ph.D.

Magnus Mfoafo-M'Carthy is an Associate Professor at the Lyle S. Hallman Faculty of Social Work, Wilfrid Laurier University, Ontario, Canada. Dr. Mfoafo-M'Carthy holds a Masters and PhD in Social Work from Columbia University and the University of Toronto respectively. He is the 2009 recipient of the Hilary M. Weston scholarship for scholastic achievement and commitment to mental health. A former Associate Director of Laurier's Tshepo Institute for the Study of Contemporary Africa (TISCA) and a former Carnegie Diaspora Fellow at the University of Ghana, he has extensive policy, teaching, and research experience and has worked in adolescent and adult mental health organizations in New York City, British Columbia, and Ontario, including the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH)

in Toronto. He has previously taught at the Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work, University of Toronto and the School of Social Work, University of Windsor. Dr. Mfoafo-M'Carthy's research focuses on community-based / global mental health practice, disability, inclusive education, international social work, and Afrocentric social work practice. Dr. Mfoafo-M'Carthy has held numerous Canadian research grants exploring stigma, mental health, and disability. He travels regularly to Ghana and other African countries where he researches mental health and disability.





Speaker Biographies



Dr. Eric Kyere, Ph.D.

Naming and Confronting Racism as a Social Determinant of Health: The Application of Genogram as an Assessment Tool

Dr. Eric Kyere is an Assistant Professor of Social Work and Adjunct Professor of Africana Studies at the Indiana University, IUPUI. His overall research focuses on working with communities to theorize racism, examine and identify the underlying mechanisms by which racism restrict/deny people of African descent's access to psychosocial, educational and societal opportunities from an evolutionary standpoint, and ways to empower them to interrupt racism and advance social justice in their communities through education. He has expertise in a variety of areas including: students'

engagement, racial disparities in education and well-being, racial-ethnic socialization, racial identity and persons of African descent's developmental outcomes, parenting, equitable school climate, program evaluation, international social work, and human trafficking. He employs transdisciplinary approach to research and teaching. Specific to structural racism, his research employs the history of the Transatlantic Slave Trade and Colonialism to engage communities and educators in meaning making process to interrogate and interrupt its continuing effects particularly in the U.S and Africa. Dr. Kyere earned his BA in Social Work in 2006 from the University of Ghana, MSW in 2011 from the Kutztown University of Pennsylvania, and PhD in Social Work with a certificate in African Studies from the University of Pittsburgh in 2017.

The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World (SOFI 2019)

The latest edition of The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World (SOFI 2019) gives an updated estimate of the number of hungry people in the world, including regional and national breakdowns, and the latest data on child stunting and wasting as well as on adult and child obesity. This year, for the first time, the report presents the estimates of a new indicator: the prevalence of moderate and severe food insecurity based on the Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES). This new edition of the report also includes a special focus on economic slowdowns and downturns, which are among the main drivers behind the recent rise in world hunger. <https://youtu.be/zkyIDfglf2Y>



WHO's Video on Climate Change and Health

<https://youtu.be/L1AHQEqSPxQ>

Climate change - one of the biggest global health threats of this century

<https://youtu.be/w5ACXuG3Z18>



Speaker Biographies



Dr. Wanja Ogongi, Ph.D

Facilitating Difficult Social Justice Conversations: Adopting and Utilizing African Concepts of Restorative Dialogue

Dr. Wanja Ogongi is an Assistant Professor at the Millersville University School of Social Work where she has taught since 2015. Dr. Ogongi teaches a variety of courses in the BSW and MSW programs. Her primary areas of teaching include HBSE, Social Work Macro Practice, and Social Work Field Education. Dr Ogongi has practiced social work in the areas of International Human Rights (focus on women and children), Child Welfare, Refugees and Unaccompanied Minors, and Medical Social Work. Her areas of interest for research include women empowerment, social and community development, International social work education and practice, and issues affecting the African Diaspora in the United States .



Dr. Mary Gitau, Ph.D.

Dr. Mary Gitau is an Assistant Professor of Social Work at Clarke University, Dubuque, Iowa. Her educational preparation encompasses Education and Social Work. Her areas of teaching expertise include human diversity and cultural competences; social work research; human behavior; social work practice with communities and organizations, and global/international social work; and social work with immigrant and refugees. Mary's research interests include multicultural/diversity, cultural competencies, and educational access as strategy to eradicate poverty in developing countries. In addition to her teaching and research, Dr. Gitau has particular interest in advancing the practice of teaching, and community engagement and international social issues as they related to social work

practice. Born and raised in Kenya, she earned a master's degree in Social Work and a Ph.D. in Education both from the University of Wyoming, USA. Dr. Gitau's passion involves advocating and empowering marginalized population.



Dr. Evalyne Kerubo Orwenyo, Ph.D.

Dr. Orwenyo is a Visiting Assistant Professor at the National Catholic School of Social Service, Washington, DC. Dr. Orwenyo has a multidisciplinary educational background. She graduated with a Bachelor of Education in French Linguistics and English Literature from Kenyatta University in Nairobi, Kenya, a Master of Arts in International Studies from Morgan State University in Baltimore, Maryland, a Master of Social Work from Howard University and a Ph.D. in Social Work at Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey.

Dr. Orwenyo has substantial practice experience in case management, program management, and research. She conducts cutting-edge empirical and participatory community research with minority communities. Dr. Orwenyo teaches courses on diversity, social policy and international development.



Speaker Biographies



Dr. Mavis Dako-Gyeke, Ph.D.

The Dilemma of Migration: Experiences of Independent Adolescent Migrants from Selected West African Countries

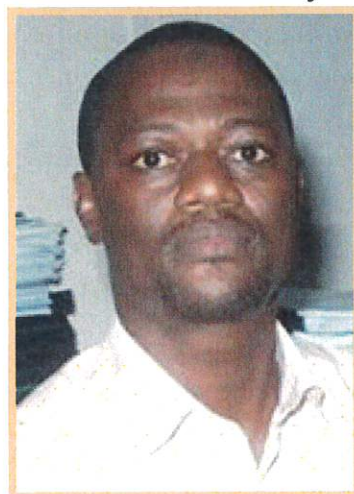
Mavis Dako-Gyeke is an Associate Professor and Head of the Department of Social Work, University of Ghana at Legon, Accra, Ghana. She has been involved in independent and collaborative research projects in the fields of child and family welfare; mental health with emphasis on stigmatization and discrimination; disability, migration; as well as adolescent and gender issues. Her current research projects focus on (a) independent migration among adolescents and (b) experiences of women living with obstetric fistula in Ghana.



Dr. Ernestina Korleki Dankyi, Ph.D.

Dr. Ernestina Korleki Dankyi holds a PhD in Migration Studies, a Master of Philosophy degree in Sociology and Bachelor of Arts degree in Social Work all from the University of Ghana. She aspires to be a world class childhood research scholar and one of Africa's finest child's right advocate. Her lifelong goal is to work assiduously towards the elimination of all forms of homelessness and streetism among children in Sub-Saharan Africa. It is her greatest desire that children will find a home preferably among 'family' within which they will grow and develop. Her research focuses on diverse groups of children and adolescents affected by both internal and international migration. She has for the past three years been working on

the mental health experiences of street children and adolescents. She was awarded a grant by the Society for Research in Child Development (SRCDD) to examine the existing institutions and programmes available for street children and how these are positioned to meet their mental health and other related needs. Her interest in street children and adolescents spans their general well-being and the micro and macro level structures that are responsible for providing care for them. She is also a 2016 Global Fellow with the Global Child Behavioural Health Fellowship programme funded by the McSilver Institute for Poverty Policy and Research at the New York University and a member of the Society for Research in Child Development.



Alhassan Sulemana, Ph.D.

Alhassan Sulemana is an assistant lecturer at the Department of Social Work, University of Ghana. His research areas include migration, child and family welfare as well as older people. He has done work on health issues confronting internal economic migrants (Kayayei), older people, drivers of independent migration among adolescents from selected West-African countries and current running a project on the living and working experiences of independent adolescent migrants.

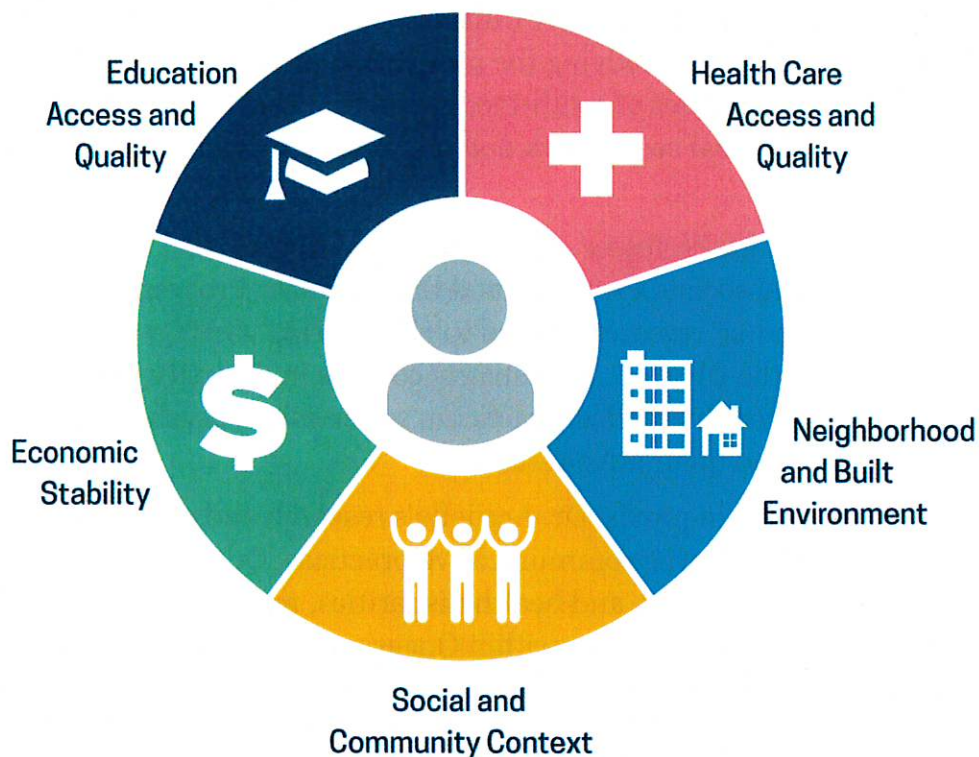


Speaker Biographies

Richard Baffo Kodom, MPhil, Social Work

Richard Baffo Kodom is an Assistant Lecturer at the Department of Social Work, University of Ghana, Accra, Ghana. His research interests include migration studies, family welfare, disability and health care. Currently, his research projects focus on independent adolescent migrants and women living with obstetric fistula.

Social Determinants of Health



Social Determinants of Health
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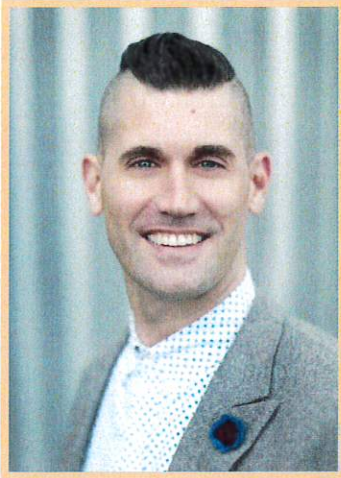
 Healthy People 2030

Poor Health: Assumptions, Facts, Opportunities | Abdul El-Sayed

How do social and economic factors influence health outcomes? Dr. Abdul El-Sayed explores these issues of unequal health and describes how public health can be leveraged to disrupt intergenerational poverty. Dr. El-Sayed is an internationally recognized expert in health policy, social determinants of health, and health inequalities. He is currently a candidate for governor of Michigan. He previously served as the Health Officer and Executive Director of the Detroit Health Department. Under Dr. El-Sayed's leadership, Detroit emerged as a state and national leader in public health innovation, with major initiatives to reduce infant mortality, promote vision access, and integrate early childhood services. His work on urban health policy has been featured by The New York Times, The Guardian, CNN, Al-Jazeera, and The Hill. <https://youtu.be/s84Rw2WUoq8>



Speaker Biographies



Dr. Tyler Argüello, Ph.D., DCSW, LCSW

Panel discussant on Social determinant of health: The vulnerable population and health inequalities

Dr. Tyler Argüello received his doctorate in Social Welfare from the University of Washington at Seattle, the same institution that granted his MSW (Health & Mental Health), BASW, and BA (Spanish Language & Literature). During his graduate studies, he was awarded two competitive pre-doctoral training grants, the NIMH Prevention Trainee grant and the NIH Multidisciplinary Clinical Research Trainee grant. These both facilitated his research studying the production of "HIV" as social discourse across various scales of multi-media and best practices in health communication.

His dissertation received a national social work doctoral research award from The Ohio State University.

Dr. Argüello became an Assistant Professor at the Division of Social Work in 2014. In 2019, he was appointed as both a tenured Associate Professor and the Graduate Program Director. Dr. Argüello continues to teach and to conduct research related to HIV/AIDS, LGBTQ+ communities, and communicative practices. In the Division, he instructs courses in diversity, difference, and social justice, advanced behavioral health practice, practicum supervision, psychodiagnostics, (social) work with LGBTQ+ publics, and qualitative research.

As a committed scholar invested in praxis, Dr. Argüello's research and clinical work is a transdisciplinary project that concerns communicative practices, Queer Theory, and the production of intersectional identities, sex/ualities, and health disparities, namely HIV. Currently, Dr. Argüello studies intergenerational stress and -divides within Queer populations, and is the Principal Investigator on multiple critical theory driven and multi-media studies on "HIV Stress Exchange", AIDS Survivor Syndrome, and long-term survivorship of Queer men, inclusive of all HIV statuses. Simultaneously, Dr. Argüello collaborates on other research projects concerning topics central to social welfare with interdisciplinary colleagues across campus and other institutions. These include projects on Californians' perceptions of social work and health and mental health, as well as a national community-based initiative regarding homelessness.

Concurrent to his scholarship and pedagogy, Dr. Argüello has been a practicing clinical social worker for over 25 years, primarily around community mental health, HIV/AIDS, and LGBTQ+ communities. He maintains a small private practice, provides clinical supervision, is a licensed independent clinical social worker (LCSW), a member of the Academy of Certified Social Workers (ACSW), and he is a Diplomate in Clinical Social Work (DCSW).

Health in the LGBTQ Community Improving Care and Confronting Discrimination

More than half of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer Americans report that they have experienced violence, threats or harassment because of their sexuality or gender identity. Nearly one in five LGBTQ people has avoided seeking medical care for fear of discrimination. In this Forum, experts in LGBTQ health explored health disparities and discrimination that impact the LGBTQ community. <https://theforum.sph.harvard.edu/events/health-in-the-lgbtq-community/>

BSW Candidates

Spring 2021

Hannah Ackerman
Jaguar Altine
Donna Ayers*
Nicole Baker
Marshae Batchelor
Nicole Boyer
Leighanne Burns
Steven Daniels
Brielle Davison
Soni Diaz
Joanna Dobson
Hailey Follett
Sara Garman
Katie Gorey*
Ryan Griffin-Silveri
Joshua Haas*
Emily Hain
Trena Hanley
Riley Kampa
Kara Kirkpatrick

Cindy Le
Cheyenne Lehman
Elizabeth Lessig
Elizabeth Maressa
Shania Mitchell
Amber Moyer*
Jennifer Moyer*
Nathan Mwenze
Carolyn Rene
Quaddriyah Rivers
Kayla Samec
Marah Schembri
Katelyn Scott
Kimberlyn Seaman*
Sydney Shands
Diane Shorter
Lindsey Smith*
Lindsay Smyth
Nicolette Sperczak
Fatoumata Tall*

Marissa Bonilla
Magestik Daniel*
Lexus Disbrow
Jemima Edouard
Tishun Graham
Ben Kanoff
Mikaela Larry
Alexa Lenhart
Gabrielle Loquasto
Patricia Mascarinas
Katelyn McCullough
Hailey Painter
Catherine Pratt
Kara Rhoads
Abigail Smaltz*
Andres Torres
Margaret Vergenes
Casey Williams
Alexa Zerbe

Summer 2021

Department of Social Work

April 30, 2021



MSW Candidates

Devon Baris
Eric Bevan
Kayla Bradley
Aleena Bujanowski
Sarah Cattin
Rachael Chineff*
Mia Dunn
James Flemming
Amelia Garraway
Elizabeth Gehringet*

Jeneil Jones*
Katelyn Kissling*
Julia Laudadio*
Jaime Malandra
Megan Mandracchia
Emily Manwiller
Ashley Mest
Marina Meyers
Carlie Mills
Stephanie Montilus

Brielle Nagle
Laura Navitsky
Breanna Prata
Emily Showalter*
Samantha Stoneback*
Ashley Swiezak
Ana Tuzio*
Mia-Sabrina Verneret
Amber Weber

DSW Candidates

Alicia Chico
Michael Hassler
Jen Marshall
Mindy McCormick



Celebrating the Achievements of Social Work Education at Kutztown University



Welcome Alumni

Dr. Carole Wells, Provost
Dr. David Beougher, Dean CLAS

Dr. John G. Vafeas *
Chair, Department of Social Work
MSW Program Director

Dr. Janice A. Gasker *
BSW Program Director

Dr. Sharon C. Lyter
DSW Program Director

Dr. Edward P. Hanna *
Graduate/Alumni Event Coordinator

Ms. Andrea Snyder
Department Secretary

Ms. Mary J. Bononno
Management Technician

Dr. Edward P. Hanna *
Moderator

Rebekah Brossman
Graduate Assistant

Faculty

Prof. William F. Bender *
Dr. Julie Lewellyn
Dr. Chris Harris
Dr. John Conahan
Dr. Yoon Mi Kim *
Prof. Amy Stein

Prof. Lydia Debiase
Dr. Juliana Svistova *
Dr. FangHsun Wei *
Dr. Mary Rita Weller *
Dr. Barth Yeboah

Phi Alpha Honor Society

Dr. Edward P. Hanna, * Advisor

Officers

Ana Tuzio
Amber Weber

Stephanie Iannuzzelli
Samantha Strobel
Alyssa Gagliardi

2021 Diversity Prize Winners

Aleah Grimshaw, BSW Candidate 2022
Rebekah Brossman, MSW Candidate 2022
Michael Piora, MSW Candidate 2023

Officers
President
Vice President
Treasurer
Secretary

Social Workers and Advocates of Kutztown

Dr. Stephen W. Stoeffler, * Advisor

Program

6:00 pm **Opening**

Dr. Edward P. Hanna

Congratulatory Remarks Dr. Carole Wells, Provost

Dr. David Beougher, Dean CLAS

Welcome

Dr. John G. Vafeas

* * *

Recognition

Dr. Edward P. Hanna

Phi Alpha

Social Workers and Advocates of Kutztown

Diversity Prize Winners

Introduction, Hooding, & Presentation of Pins to DSW Graduating Class

Dr. Sharon C. Lyter

Introduction, Hooding, & Presentation of Specialty Certificates & Pins to MSW Graduating Class

Dr. John G. Vafeas

Introduction and Presentation of Pins to BSW Graduating Class

Dr. Janice A. Gasker

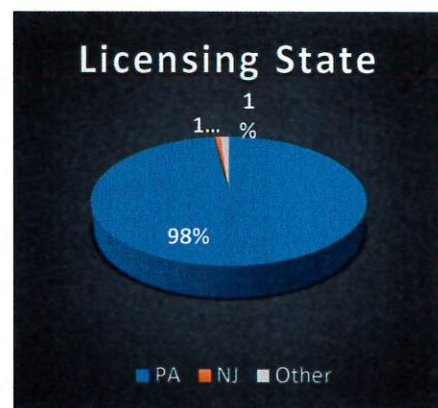
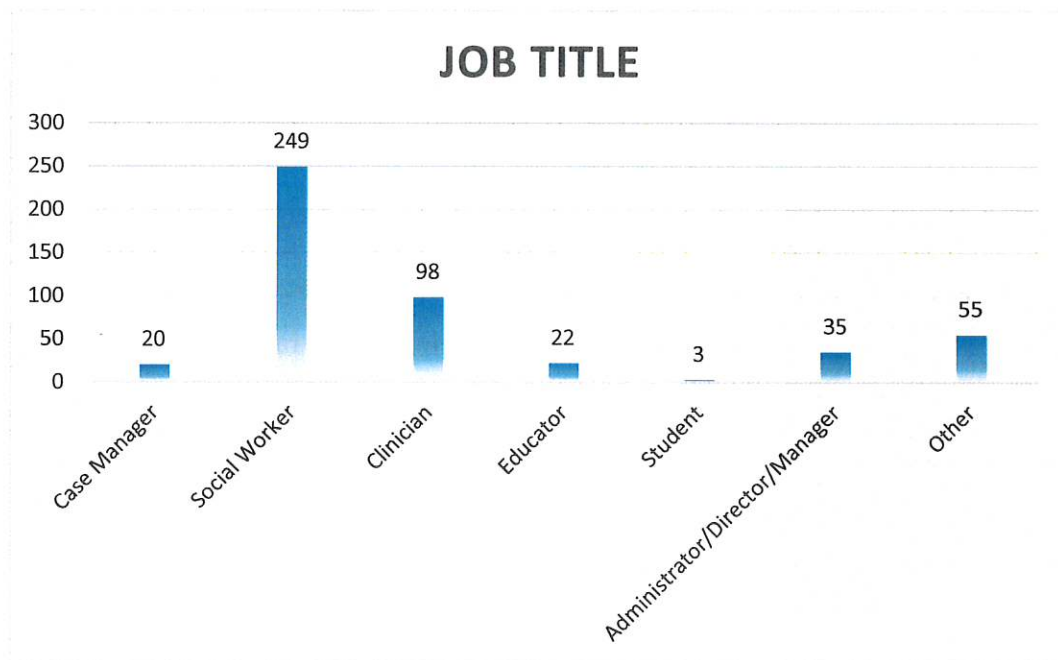
Closing Remarks

Dr. Edward P. Hanna

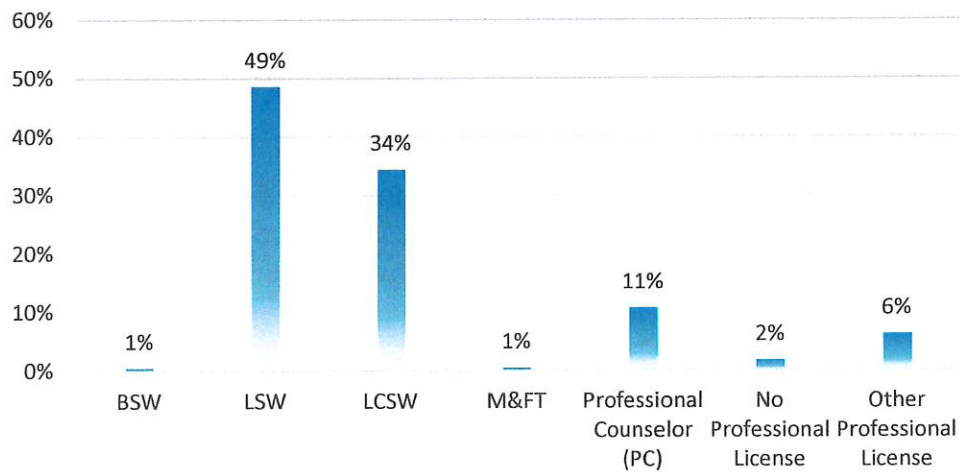
Clinical Updates Colloquium Report: 5th Annual Clinical Updates Colloquium

Of the 640 registrants, 410 people attended via the Zoom webinar in the morning and 390 attended via the Zoom webinar in the afternoon, and there were an additional 150 views on YouTube Live with the average of 2 views per attendee, for a total of about 567 unique individuals attending the conference. There was a no-show rate of about 11%, much lower than normal no show of 20-25% in prior years.

Of the people who attended the conference, 403 completed and returned the conference evaluation questionnaire. The responses were collected and analyzed to ensure the quality of future colloquiums and will be taken into account for future programs and proceedings.



LICENSING CREDENTIALS:



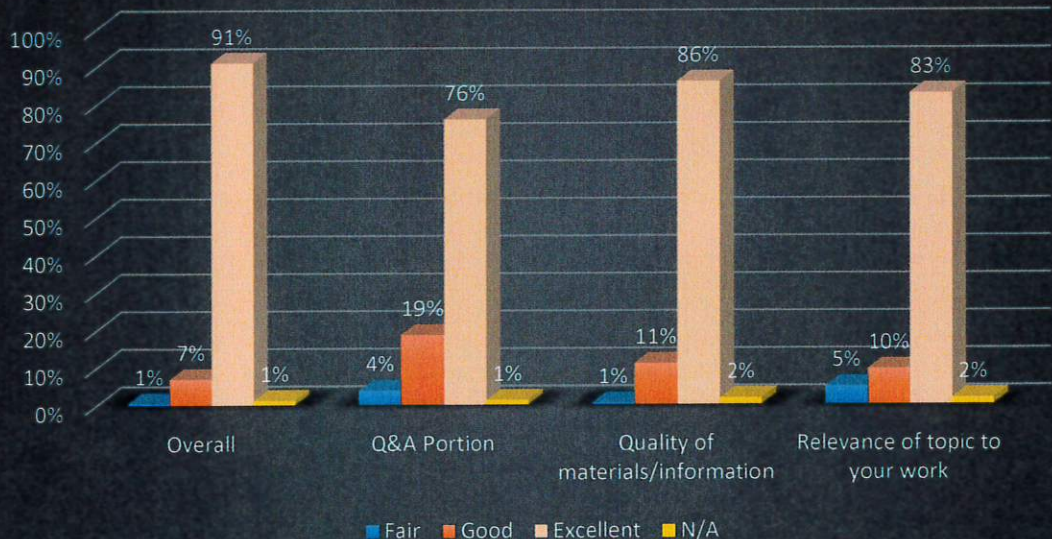
Overall Ratings of Presentations



On a scale from 1-5, 1 being lowest rating, 5 being highest rating

Excellent (5), Good (4), Fair (3), Poor (2), Very Poor (1)

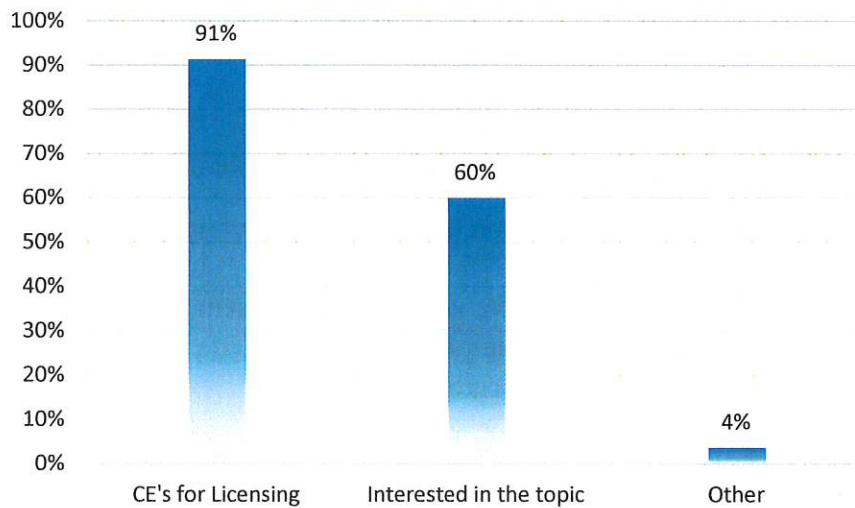
Morning Session - Suicide

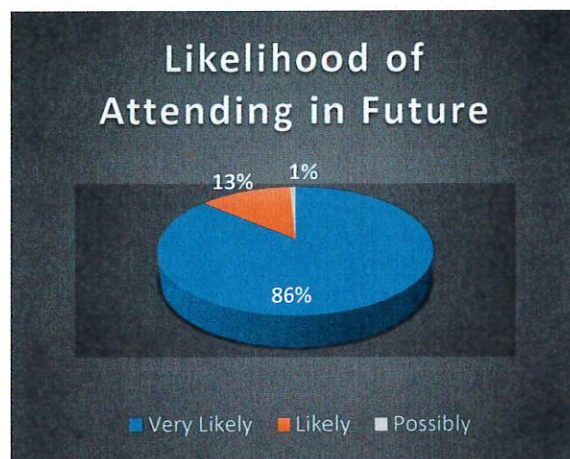


Afternoon Session - Telehealth



REASON FOR PARTICIPATING





Suggestions for future topics and speakers on clinical issues and/or suicide prevention

- more focus on suicide prevention (interventions, coping skills, predicting factors, etc.)
- suicide in different stages of life: young children, teens/adolescents, veterans, geriatric patients/aging population/end of life
- -trauma informed practice and care
- -motivational interviewing
- -COVID PTSD

General Comments

This has been the BEST suicide and ethics training that I have ever attended. Both presenters were engaging and knowledgeable.

That was great. This is the first online conference I have attended with moderators on the presentation for the presenter to see and interact with. It makes it more energized, lively when they can speak and see with someone else. I also liked the in the moment asking and interacting. Lovely as always. Such a blessing. Thank you all.

Terrific seminar. The morning session and speaker was particularly informative and enlightening. Every year is better and better-- your hard work and efforts are obvious with the consistent high quality of the event. Thank you for providing such a wonderful service to your community of professionals!

Such a great day of learning and information. After a (almost) year of virtual meetings and learning, this was by far the most well executed session. The format was engaging, and the presenters were fantastic. As someone who has grown accustomed to online learning, I would be very interested in future events using this platform as it allows for greater flexibility.

This was organized and presented perfectly! The Suicide module was the best suicide prevention training I have ever been to. It was applicable to my practice and my approach and so helpful. A very heartfelt thank you for providing this!

This Conference was excellent. I am an Alumna of KU's BSW Program (2004) and have been attending conferences held since that time. This may have been the best conference to date!

This has been the BEST suicide and ethics training that I have ever attended. Both presenter's were engaging and knowledgeable.

Outstanding work on the training. Both trainers were knowledgeable and easy to listen to. Also, kudos to Dr. Steven Stoeffler, for MC'ing a very unique and challenging virtual event.

Suicide training was best one I have ever been to in my 20 year social work career. Having also been a consumer in MH system with a family member, I greatly appreciated the approach she is promoting.

Today's session was excellent. It was really a good use of my time. I have already reached out to some friends who were not in attendance to discuss take aways.

I found the day to go by so quickly and I didn't want it to end! I really enjoyed it being online - didn't waste time driving, comfortable in my own home, etc.

With respect to the lending library, as a social justice topic, perhaps there should be discussion about the generally outrageous prices being charged for textbooks. Why should anyone have to pay hundreds of dollars for a textbook? It's mind boggling how publishing companies can charge so much.

I liked the video format. It allowed me to walk around and do general things while listening. I am a little ADHD and this was great. It certainly helped that the topics and speakers were exceptional

This was a better format than sitting in a large group format. Seemed more informal, and could hear the speaker where sometimes in person there are distractions.

Excellent presentations particularly the one on suicide. Tech services were excellent. Thank you for live streaming this to make it available to those of us on the wait list. It went without a hitch! Well run by the KU staff as well!

I very much appreciate that it was live-streamed on YouTube! Thank you for allowing even more people access to the program. I was nervous about the stream working well, but it was perfect! Thanks for all your efforts!

The morning presentation was fantastic. I've attended several lectures/trainings on suicide/suicide prevention, and this was well-beyond any previous training. For the last 8+ years I've worked daily with suicidal clients (in ED setting). I was surprisingly enlightened by the amount of new information I learned today. Dr. Freedenthal was great! Thank you.

This has been the most professional online workshop I've attended. The preparation and planning was evident. The morning workshop gave productive suggestions to help me practice my verbiage. It gave guidance on the social work perspective on suicidality. I usually attend suicidality trainings that come from the medical model, so I found this especially helpful. I have a similar appreciation for the afternoon session, I've attended ethics for telehealth through my employer. It's a good training, but broad and not specific to what's special about social work. One final point. It's hard to keep your 'telehealth' face 'on' for the whole day; articulating clearly and enunciating properly. I was really impressed with the presenters' professionalism and it was a model for me to keep practicing my telehealth mannerisms. Thank you for all the hard work put into this.

fantastic presentations, I feel more confident in my approach not only with approaching suicide and what to avoid saying and to say, but also the step by step protocol of telepractice which is a new, wonderful but scary change in the field ! thank you so much. I will be donating.

Thank you for giving an opportunity to attend through YouTube stream. The Colloquium was well organized and no inconvenience in online seminar. The topics are current.

Thank you for hosting a virtual event this year. Although we were not in person, it was very well put together and provided the same level of excellence as previous years.

It is always helpful to me when suicide prevention training includes real life scenarios and "real talk" not just textbook answers to problems. I feel the presenter was able to give real life feedback and wisdom in this training and I really appreciated it!

Feedback

Platform did not keep visual interest. Slides, with a tiny picture of the speaker was boring.

Please provide reference lists for books and other works for purchase/reading that the presenters present.

I loved the session on suicide prevention; however, I wish more focus was provided on interventions for the suicidal client.

I think there seemed to be a lot of questions during the presentation and it seemed to get the presenters off track.

It was frustrating when the speaker was interrupted with general comments or questions especially since they had not yet had an opportunity to address the specific area of the topic.



Evaluator: FangHsun Wei

**Field Instructors Meeting
Kutztown University Department of Social Work
August 25th (Tuesday), 2020**

Thank you for your participation in today's training. To ensure that we are best able to meet your needs as a field instructor, we would appreciate it if you could take a few minutes to complete the below. We look forward to working with you in the coming year. Thank you.

How well did this training address your needs as a field instructor?

1	2	3	4
Not at All	Somewhat	Well	Very Well

How satisfied are you with the virtual training?

1	2	3	4
Very Dissatisfied	Dissatisfied	Satisfied	Very Satisfied

Was the information you received through this training helpful?

1	2	3	4
Not at All	Somewhat	Helpful	Very Helpful

How satisfied are you with the networking opportunities during this training?

1	2	3	4
Very Dissatisfied	Dissatisfied	Satisfied	Very Satisfied

Please describe any areas of concern or questions that you have related to serving as a field instructor:

How can we best support you in your role as a field instructor?

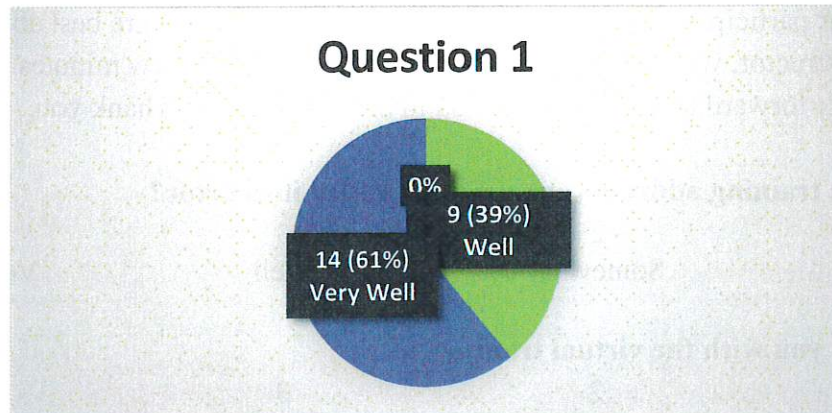
Please identify topics for future trainings that you would be interested in participating in:



Evaluator: FangHsun Wei

Q1 How well did this training address your needs as a field instructor?

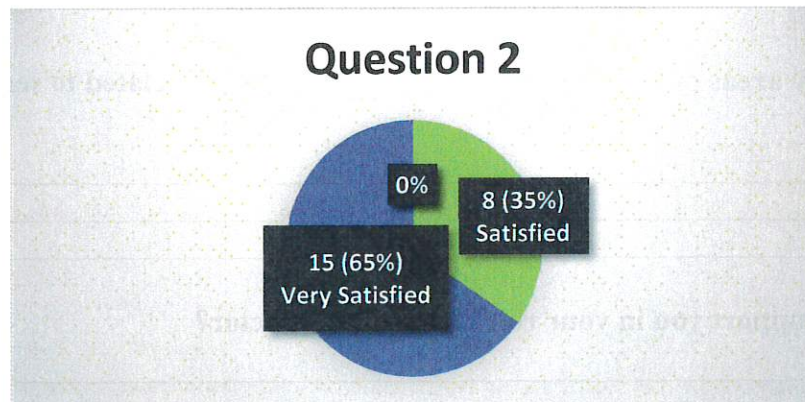
1 Not at All 2 Somewhat 3 Well 4 Very Well



There are 33 participants in this survey. 14 (61%) said the training addresses their needs as a field instructor very well and 9 (39%) said well.

Q2 How satisfied are you with the virtual training?

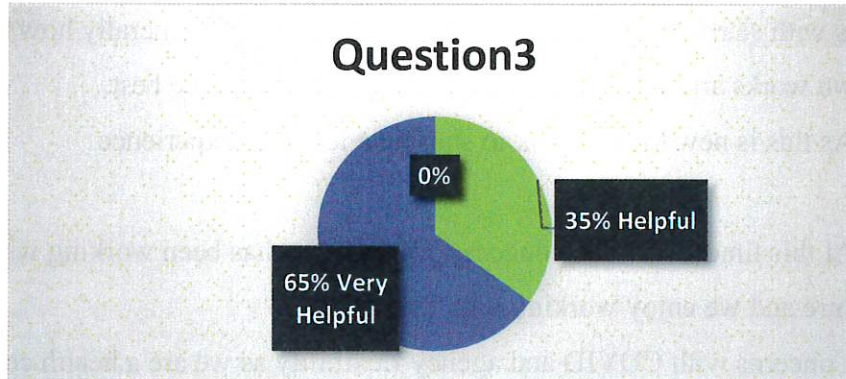
1 Very Dissatisfied 2 Dissatisfied 3 Satisfied 4 Very Satisfied



There are 33 participants in this survey. 15 (65%) said they are very satisfied with the virtual training and 8 (35%) said satisfied.

Q3 Was the information you received through this training helpful?

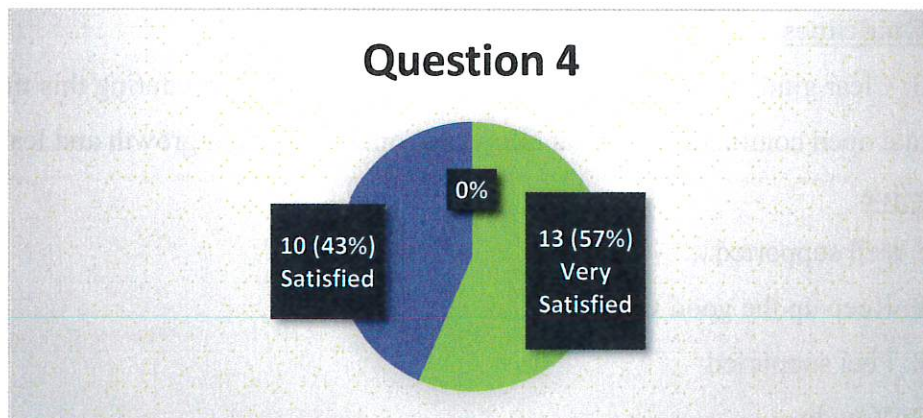
1 Not at All 2 Somewhat 3 Helpful 4 Very Helpful



There are 33 participants in this survey. 15 (65%) said the information they received through this training is very helpful and 8 (35%) said helpful.

Q4 How satisfied are you with the networking opportunities during this training?

1 Very Dissatisfied 2 Dissatisfied 3 Satisfied 4 Very Satisfied



There are 33 participants in this survey. 13 (57%) said they are very satisfied with the networking opportunities during this training and 10 (43%) said satisfied.



Evaluator: FangHsun Wei

Q5 Please describe any areas of concern or questions that you have related to serving as a field instructor:

New Field Instructor

Case 2: As with starting anything new, I am unfamiliar with generally how the program at Kutztown works and what guidance will help the student the best.

Case 11: As this is new to me I look to sharing a learning experience

Others

Case 13: At this time, I have no concerns. CONCERN has been working with KU interns since my hire and we enjoy working with them.

Case 19: Concerns with COVID and agency flexibility as we are a health center.

Q6 How can we best support you in your role as a field instructor?

Open Communications

Case 2: I appreciate being able to e-mail questions when I have them.

Case 17: Continuing to be available should questions/concerns arise

Case 19: communication and availability.

Case 23: Continue to be available for questions and concerns.

Clear Guidelines

Case 13: Clear guidelines are helpful as we navigate a new norm during this time. I appreciate open communication that allows for optimal student growth and learning.

Supportive

Case 5: Well supported...

Case 18: Keep up the good work.

Case 20: Feel supported

Case 22: You do.

CEU

Case 10: Your CEU events are super!



Evaluator: FangHsun Wei

Q7 Please identify topics for future trainings that you would be interested in participating in:

Case 10: Supervisory techniques and skills.

Case 13: Burnout and how to protect against it.

Case 18: Ethics of virtual practice.

Case 19: Ethical dilemmas for students and how to handle them.



THE SOCIAL WORK PRIZE

Celebrating Diversity

is a cash prize awarded each year to the social work major (s) who provide the most creative, comprehensive presentation on the celebration of diversity in their own lives.



PRIZE INFO

Two cash prizes will be awarded in the amount of

\$500 each.

(One for a BSW student and one for an MSW student.)

This creative project may take any form you wish. Examples include poem, essay, work of fiction, video (on DVD), drawing, collage, photograph, painting, poster, performance art (on DVD).

Submission implies that the work is your own.

Deadline:

Please submit your electronic application form by noon on **Friday March 5th!**

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/DiversityPrize2021>

Deliver the project on March 5th between 10Am-12PM to **OM 333**

For more information contact,

Dr. FangHsun Wei at wei@kutztown.edu.

Prizes sponsored by:

KUTZTOWN
UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WORK

