



COUNCIL ON SOCIAL WORK EDUCATION

**COMMISSION ON ACCREDITATION (COA)  
REPORT TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
March 2020**

As Chair of the Commission on Accreditation, it is an honor and pleasure to work with Mary Kurfess, the CSWE Department of Accreditation team, and fellow members of COA. The past year has been busy for COA. Our activities for the year as well as challenges and opportunities for the future are as follows:

**Activities**

1. Review of 167 programs for initial accreditation or reaffirmation of accreditation;
2. Site visits and consultative review of 85 programs in candidacy;
3. Review of 128 first and second year candidacy reports, progress reports, restoration reports, and substantive change reports.
4. Review of 108 self-studies.
5. Executive Committee Review of 17 programs seeking waivers of specific accreditation standards;
6. Review and decision against approving a proposal for professional practice doctorate accreditation in June 2019 followed by development of a new work group with representation from COA, COEP, DSW directors, and accreditation staff and a new work plan to pursue pilot accreditation of the professional practice doctorate targeted for final approval in 2020;
7. Initiation of a Joint EPAS 2022 committee;
8. Initiation of accreditation for post-degree practice fellowships;
9. Orientation and training for new and continuing commissioners;
10. Revision of substantive change policy.

**Challenges/Opportunities**

1. Workload - The number of programs served by COA has increased 268% since 1980 (from 324 to 870). However, COA membership and Accreditation Department positions have not grown commensurately. Workloads per accreditation specialist range from 169 to 178 accredited programs. Commissioner workloads from March 2019 through February 2020, ranged from 149 – 170 program reviews per commissioner, and 2 -3 candidacy site visits per commissioner. Commissioners on the Executive Committee reviewed and made decisions on an additional 22 waiver requests, complaints, out-of-compliance-between-reviews reports, and a request for reconsideration.
2. COA Accreditation by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA) - COA and Accreditation Department operations need to more fully align with Council for Higher Education Accreditation standards.

3. Professional Practice Doctorate Accreditation – The workgroup approved draft versions of the definition, scope, and EPAS for public posting and stakeholder feedback in February. The work group will receive feedback, make revisions as needed, and then present the final product for COA approval and pilot testing in June 2020.
4. Post-degree Practice Fellowship Program – Monitor the newly approved accreditation of post-degree practice fellowship program; make adjustments if needed.
5. EPASS 2022 – Members of COA will participate on the Joint EPASS 2022 committee in developing the EPAS 2022, engaging in meetings with stakeholder groups, and presenting the final version to COA for approval.

The membership of COA includes the following:

<b>Name</b>	<b>University / College / Affiliation</b>	<b>Term(s) (1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> years served)</b>
Christopher Aviles	Buffalo State College (NY)	2 <sup>nd</sup> : 2015-2021
Beverly Black, <i>WG Chair</i>	Univ of Texas at Arlington (TX)	1 <sup>st</sup> : 2019-2020
Lisa Clifton, <i>WG Chair</i>	Southeastern Univ (FL)	2 <sup>nd</sup> : 2014-2020
Mike Daley	Texas A&M Univ-Central Texas (TX)	1 <sup>st</sup> : 2018-2021
Humberto Fabelo	Virginia Commonwealth Univ (VA)	1 <sup>st</sup> : 2018-2021
Catherine Gayle	Savannah State University (GA)	2 <sup>nd</sup> : 2015-2021
Jo Dee Gottlieb	Marshall University (WV)	1 <sup>st</sup> : 2019-2020
Tom Gregoire	Ohio State University (OH)	1 <sup>st</sup> : 2018-2021
Maria Gurrola	California State University Monterey Bay (CA)	1 <sup>st</sup> : 2019-2022
Michele Hanna	University of Denver (CO)	1 <sup>st</sup> : 2018-2021
Bill Heiss, <i>WG Chair</i>	Univ of Wisconsin-Madison (WI)	2 <sup>nd</sup> : 2016-2022
Laura Kaplan	Univ of Southern California (CA)	1 <sup>st</sup> : 2017-2020
Lisa Moon	Walden University (MN)	1 <sup>st</sup> : 2017-2020
Megan Morrissey	Univ of Minnesota-Twin Cities (MN)	1 <sup>st</sup> : 2019-2022
Deana Morrow, <i>Chair</i>	West Virginia University (WV)	2 <sup>nd</sup> : 2016-2022
Francis Origanti, <i>Vice Chair</i>	Avila University (MO)	2 <sup>nd</sup> : 2016-2022
Larry Ortiz	Loma Linda University (CA)	1 <sup>st</sup> : 2019-2022
Helen Petracchi	University of Pittsburgh (PA)	1 <sup>st</sup> : 2017-2020
Octavio Ramirez	Oakwood University (AL)	2 <sup>nd</sup> : 2014-2020
Lynette Reitz, <i>WG Chair</i>	Lock Haven Univ of Pennsylvania	2 <sup>nd</sup> : 2015-2021
Dennis Ritchie	George Mason University (VA)	2 <sup>nd</sup> : 2015-2021
Cliff Rosenbohm	George Fox University (OR)	1 <sup>st</sup> : 2017-2020
Halaevalu Vakalahi	Hawai'i Pacific University (HI)	1 <sup>st</sup> : 2017-2020
Thomas Walsh	Boston College (MA)	1 <sup>st</sup> : 2019-2022
Shelly Wiechelt	Univ of MD, Baltimore County (MD)	1 <sup>st</sup> : 2019-2022

Respectfully submitted,



Deana F. Morrow, PhD, LICSW, ACSW  
Chair, Commission on Accreditation