



COUNCIL ON SOCIAL WORK EDUCATION

## **COMMISSION ON EDUCATIONAL POLICY**

**Debra M. McPhee, COEP Chair**  
**March 2020**

### **Report to the Board of Directors For 2019 Activities**

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

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

#### **Members:**

Brian Anderson, Jackson State University  
Nicole Bromfield, University of Houston  
Laura Bronstein, Binghamton University  
Christina Bruhn, Aurora University  
Antoinette Farmer, Rutgers School of Social Work  
Jennifer Henkel, Association of Social Work Boards  
Robert Kersting, Westfield State University  
Randy Magen, Boise State University  
Debra McPhee, Fordham University (Chair of COEP)  
Lynn Milgram Mayer, Catholic University of America  
Peter Maramaldi, Simmons College  
Christopher Mitchell, University of Illinois at Chicago  
Deana Morrow, West Virginia University (Chair of COA)  
David Pooler, Baylor University, (Chair, Council on Practice Methods & Specializations)  
Karen Rice, Millersville University  
Matthew Theriot, University of Tennessee at Knoxville  
Francine Vecchiolla, Springfield College  
Estella Williamson, University at Albany (Chair, Council on Field Education)

#### **CSWE Staff**

Jo Ann Regan (COEP Staff Liaison)  
Mary Kurfess

CSWE, Vice President of Education  
CSWE, Director of Accreditation

The Commission on Educational Policy (COEP) met in Alexandria, VA in spring 2019 and at

APM in Denver, CO in fall 2019.

## ACTIVITIES

Councils reports have been provided to COEP at both the spring 2019 and fall 2019 COEP meetings:

- COFE - Estella Williamson, Chair
- CPMS - David Pooler, Chair

## Practice Doctorate

Over the past 3 years, COEP has been consistently updated with respect to the joint Practice Doctorate accreditation process and asked to review and provide feedback on revisions to the drafts of the framework document provided by the Practice Doctorate Committee that includes representatives from both COEP and COA:

COEP Representatives: Debra M. McPhee, Bob Kersting, Chris Mitchell, Larry Ortiz  
COA Representatives: Andy Safyer, Beverly Black, Tom Gregoire

In June 2019 COA elected to create a separate COA Practice Doctorate Workgroup to review and recommend revisions to the most current version of the Practice Doctorate framework document. COA invited COEP to provide one non-voting member. Christopher Mitchell has served as the COEP representative and provided updates and the opportunity to provide feedback on the documents.

## Joint COEP - COA EPAS 2022 Committee

The work of the Joint COEP - COA EPAS 2022 Committee continues.

**Charge:** A joint standing committee composed of COEP and COA members whose responsibilities are to: 1) prepare draft educational policies and accreditation standards to be presented and approved by individual commissions (COEP and COA) 2) serve as the initial advisors for issues of interpretation regarding educational policies and accreditation standards.

**Function:** The joint standing committee will prepare educational policies, accreditation standards, and EPAS development timeline. The joint standing committee will report to both COEP and COA on the iterations of the educational policies and accreditation standards. Current approval processes will remain. COA will approve accreditation standards and COEP will approve educational policies.

The committee members were as follows:

**COEP representatives:** Debra M. McPhee, dean, Fordham University, COEP chair; Nicole Bromfield, University of Houston; Chris Bruhn, Aurora University; Estella Williamson, Seattle University, Council on Field Education chair

**COA representatives:** Deana Morrow, West Virginia University, COA chair; Lisa Clifton, Southeastern University; Michele Hanna, University of Denver; Lynette Reitz, Lock Haven University; Thomas Walsh, Boston College

**COR representative (advisory):** Shari Miller, University of Georgia

**CSWE staff:** Jo Ann Regan, CSWE vice president of education; Mary Kurfess, CSWE director of social work accreditation; Julie Rhoads, CSWE director of educational initiatives & research

In March 2019 the Joint COEP - COA EPAS 2022 Committee met with two Commissions to solicit specific feedback on the five environmental scanning priorities identified by COEP for EPAS 2022

- Commission on Global Social Work Education (CGSWE)
- Commission for Diversity and Social and Economic Justice (CDSEJ)

### **5 Priorities:**

1. Diversity, Equity & Inclusion
2. Technology & Information Literacy
3. Data Driven Standards
4. Field Education and the changing practice context
5. Changes and Challenges to Higher Education

### **EPAS 2022 Survey**

An EPAS 2022 Feedback Survey was developed using the five priority areas as the organizing framework. The survey was sent to the CSWE membership in spring of 2019.

There were 2,827 invitations sent with 586 responses. Program respondents accounted for 236 of the responses, with 140 MSW representatives (52.0% of MSW programs) and 216 from BSW programs (41.3% of BSW programs). The overall response rate, including individual members, was 20.7%.

In June of 2019 the Joint COEP-COA EPAS 2022 Committee met to review the work of COEP, including the survey findings, and discuss recommended changes for the educational policy for EPAS 2022.

### **The overall survey findings indicated the following:**

- Most respondents were positive about the impact of the accreditation standards, including diversity, field education, and the administrative standards for faculty and administrative time.
- Deans and directors were more positive about the effects of the standards on the program.
- There was fairly even interest on the inclusion of global perspectives, interdisciplinary and interprofessional perspectives, equity, inclusion and environmental justice in the revision of the EPAS.
- Regarding field education, most respondents responded positively about the potential for changing the traditional structure and allowing students to use paid employment hours. However, 80% of respondents said their field structure does not differ from the traditional model.
- Respondents indicated that programs were using technology as a teaching/instructional tool more than preparing students for the information/digital age.

The Joint COEP-COA EPAS 2022 Committee made several recommended revisions to EPAS 2015 for EPAS 2022. The recommended changes were sent to all commissioners on both COEP and COA for review and feedback.

Draft 1 of the EP for the 2022 EPAS included the final recommended revisions by the Joint COEP-COA Committee and incorporated additional feedback from other commissioners on both Commissions. Draft 1 was then sent to the entire CSWE membership for review and feedback. The feedback will be reviewed by the Joint EPAS 2022 committee and final work on the educational policy will be done at the March 2020 COEP meeting.

In addition, two membership information and feedback sessions were held at the 2019 APM.

The revision of the EP and standards has been designed to be a thoughtful, 3-year, inclusive and collaborative process that includes public comment periods and feedback sessions on three drafts. The intent of both COEP and COA is to solicit feedback from as many constituents as possible in as many ways as possible.

## **FALL 2019**

COEP welcomed two new Commissioners

- Antoinette Farmer, Rutgers School of Social Work
- Karen Rice, Millersville University

New chair for the Commission on Accreditation

- Deana Morrow, West Virginia University

New CSWE Director of Accreditation

- Mary Kurfess

## **Specialized Practice Curricular Guides**

***New Guides Released:*** Macro Social Work Practice, Licensure & Regulation, Homelessness.

***Guides in Development:*** Substance Use, Environmental Justice and Infant and early childhood mental health and development neuroscience

***Other Guides Released:*** Curricular Resource on Issues of Disability and Disability-Competent Care, Screening, Brief Intervention and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT) Curricular Resource and The Names Steps Guide- Addressing Anti-LGBTQIA2S+ Microaggression

## **Field Institute Feedback Session – 2019 APM**

COEP Chair, Debra McPhee, COA Chair, Deana Marrow and COFE Chair Estella Williamson facilitated a feedback session with the Field Education Institute. The session was also attended by the members of COEP. The session was designed to gather feedback on the educational policy draft and field education.

## **CSWE Membership Feedback Sessions -2019 APM**

Two EPAS 2022 information and feedback sessions were held at the 2019 APM.

## Council on Field Education (COFE)

### Summary

The Council on Field Education (COFE), which operates under the auspices of CSWE's Commission on Educational Policy, worked on several goals during the 2018-2019 program year. These goals included:

- Strengthening collaborative relationships with the COEP and CSWE.
- Collating scholarship resources for field educators in and on field education.
- Identifying ways to provide relevant resources to the field education membership.
- Contributing to the planning process for EPAS 2022.

The COFE had 19 members representing BSW and MSW-accredited social work programs around the country. Members represented diverse field programs, which is an area of focus within the COFE's charge (i.e. rural/metropolitan, small/large programs, geographic regions). However, it lacked representation from the Pacific Northwest region of the United States.

The COFE consisted of field directors and faculty who engaged in research in field education, and social work practice at clinical and macro levels. At the 2018 CSWE APM, COFE members were presenters at 18 field education sessions, which provided education and trainings on 1) field instructor trainings; 2) innovative field education program models designed to prepare students for professional practice in the field; and 3) studies evaluating students' achievement of social work competencies through field practicum. This active membership also supported the Annual Field Institute, which was held on November 8, 2018; its theme was on Interprofessional Education.

The COFE met two times during the 2018-2019 program year. The first meeting was held at the CSWE APM in Orlando, Florida on November 7, 2018. The second meeting was held virtually on March 11, 2019. COFE sub-committees met between COFE meetings to advance targeted objectives to achieve goals outlined for the COFE during the program year.

The COFE Chair participated in the CSWE Annual Spring Governance Meeting at CSWE headquarters on March 6-7, 2019. The primary agenda items for the meeting were the DSW degree accreditation and EPAS 2022. In further preparation for the EPAS 2022, CSWE brought together a joint committee of the Commissions on Accreditation and Educational Policy. The aims of the joint committee were to identify key areas of focus in the existing EPAS and to establish a writing group that would draft policies for these key areas. The Chair of the COFE served on both the joint committee and the writing group, which met on June 3, 2019 at CSWE headquarters.

The Council on Field Education had four sub-committees that worked to achieve goals outlined in its official charge. The four sub-committees were:

- COFE Connect Session Planning
- Research and Publications
- Nominations
- Education and Training

### COFE Connect Session

The Council on Field Education hosted its annual **Connect Session: Connecting with Field Education: Sharing Best Practices** on November 10, 2018 in Orlando, Florida. The COFE provided its annual report of goals and outcomes for the year. It also provided a forum for sharing best practices to address challenges in field education. There were 119 participants at last year's Connect Session, an increase of over 30% from the previous year.

Participant feedback about the event was consistent with previous years'; field educators consistently called for more time to network with colleagues and to learn about emerging issues/innovations in field education pedagogy and programming. In response to this recurring feedback, the COFE advocated for time being integrated into this year's Field Institute event. CSWE approved the recommendation, which resulted in the COFE sponsoring three field tracks on emerging issues in field education at the 2019 CSWE Field Institute.

#### Research and Publications

The Research and Publications sub-committee continued its collaboration with the Commission on Research. The workgroup decided to develop a resource of abstracts in field education (i.e. research in social work practice models in the field) and abstracts on field education (i.e. research on innovative field models within social work education). The workgroup compiled two data reports, which will be reviewed by the COFE at its annual meeting at the 2019 APM.

#### Nominations

To increase field representation among the various councils and commissions, the COFE continued to promote field directors' applications for open seats. While there has been an increase in field directors' representation on CSWE councils, representation has not kept pace on CSWE Commissions. In order to serve on a CSWE Commission, a representative must have experience serving as a site visitor for CSWE accreditation. The COFE will encourage field directors to apply to site visitor trainings when they are posted.

The nominations process has been changed, and only the COFE chair and CSWE representative have been approved to review COFE applications moving forward. As a result, the COFE will no longer have a formal Nominations sub-committee. The COFE welcomed four new members, who began their three-year terms in July 2019. The new members are *Aneesha Bharwani from the University of Denver; Froylana Heredia-Miller from Azusa Pacific University; Cynthia Peters from Arizona State University; and John Vassello from Binghamton University.*

#### Education and Training

The Education and Training sub-committee continued its work of identifying a repository of field resources for the membership and explored platforms for storing information that would be useful to field directors around the country. To better understand the range of resource needs among field colleagues, some members participated in a research project that identified the need for resources on new field instructor trainings and professional development. The group is exploring how best to provide these resources within the next year.

Respectfully submitted,

Estella Williamson, DSW  
Chair, CSWE Council on Field Education

### **Council on Practice Methods and Specializations (CPMS) Report**

**Report period:** January 31, 2019 to January 31, 2020

**Leadership:** David Pooler has served as the chair of the council since July 1, 2017. David's three-year term ends on June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2020 and a new chair will be appointed on July 1, 2020. Two

current members have indicated that they would be willing to serve as next chair (Raquel Warley and Susan Mason). This is the 5<sup>th</sup> year for David on the council, and he will re-apply to the council to serve out his final year as a member of the council and support the transition in leadership.

**Meetings:** Since the last report we conducted a half day meeting at the 2019 APM, as well as facilitated a Connect Session at APM. We also convened zoom video conference meetings in February, March, April, May, September, and January. A new member orientation was given for Susan Mason in July. Lastly, Estella Williamson (chair of COFE), David Pooler, and Raquel Warley met via video conference in January 2020 to talk about ways that CPMS and COFE can better work together and share information.

### **Current Members (12) \*new: July 1, 2019**

David Pooler, Baylor University  
Nadine Bean, West Chester University  
Sarah Ferguson, St. Mary's University (of Minnesota)  
Denice Liley, Boise State University  
Janine Mariscotti, La Salle University  
Kelly Ward, Delaware State University  
Karen Slovak, Malone University  
Toula Kourgiantakis, University of Toronto  
Raquel Warley, Adelphi University  
Elizabeth Whitney, Simmons University  
Janice Berry Edwards, Howard University  
\*Susan Mason, Yeshiva University

Sarah Ferguson's was the only member whose term finished in June 2019, but she re-applied and has been appointed for 3 more years. Susan Mason is our newest member.

Marilyn Gentner is our CSWE staff liaison. She has been very active and supportive of the council.

### **Activities:**

#### **I. CSWE Connect sessions at 2019 APM**

The CPMS successfully facilitated a connect session at the Annual Program Meeting. The session was entitled "Professionalism: Opportunities and Challenges for Social Work Education". We facilitated discussion among 4 groups and asked questions of participants about different dimensions of professionalism. We took notes and will use the substance of the notes to aid in writing the book on professionalism

#### **II. Professionalism in Social Work Practice**

Most of our monthly meetings have focused on discussing professionalism and developing a book proposal for CSWE press, which we submitted for review before APM 2019. We heard back in December 2019 that the proposal needed more depth and explanation about how this book would be different than what already exists or add to existing literature.

In response we are going to work this Spring to refine our proposal and we have decided that we will use the lenses of procedural and meta-competence to identify behaviors that connect with

each content area (use of self, or diversity, etc.) and we will group each content area in ways to link with EPAS competencies. We also will include case vignettes.

This is to ensure that not only are we thinking about how this is unique, but we are grounding the content in ways that will be useful for social work educators. We plan to resubmit this in May. If there is not a full bite from CSWE press we plan to submit the book for publication elsewhere, but it would no longer be a product of CPMS.

This is the current table of contents: It does not reflect revisions we are making in the re-submission of the book proposal.

#### Section I: Professionalism: From Past to Present

1. History of Professionalism (background and context) –Susan Mason and Eve Mayer
2. Ethics & Standards of Practice in Social Work – Kelly Ward and Raquel Warley
3. Professional Competencies in Social Work Education and Practice – Toula Kourgiantakis and Janine Mariscotti

#### Section II: Self of the Student

4. Culture, Diversity, and Social Justice – Eunjung Lee and Toula Kourgiantakis
5. Use of Self in Social Work Education – David Pooler and Denice Liley
6. Self-Care Practices and Professionalism in Social Work Education and Practice – Janine Mariscotti and Elizabeth Whitney

#### Section III: Professionalism in the Classroom and Field

7. Supervision and Field Education – Raquel Warley
  8. Social Work Professionalism in the Digital Age - Karen Slovak and Rena Palloff
  9. Professionalism in Interprofessional Education and Collaborative Care – Nadine Bean
- Conclusion – Janine Mariscotti and Toula Kourgiantakis

### **Summary**

The Council on Practice Methods and Specializations has a better understanding of how to support COEP to strengthen our mutual purposes. We are working to strengthen communication and collaboration with COFE. We continue to build on the expertise of our members to present Connect sessions that are relevant to social work educators working to prepare practitioners for the challenges of today's practice environment. As we look forward to the 2023 EPAS the council is embracing our charge and identifying strategies to support professional social work education. We hope to have approval to work on the book on Professionalism in Spring 2020, which we believe will help social work educators ground CSWE competencies and standards.

Respectfully submitted,

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