

Homelessness Social Work Council Meeting

September 28, 2018

NOTES

Present: Katie Allston (Marian House), Sarah Butts (UMSSW), John Clew (VAMC on behalf of Chris Buser), Janice Davis (Howard University SSW), Donna Earling (UMSSW), Samuel Little (UMSSW), Yvonne Perret (SOAR), Mary Slicher (Project PLASE), Diane Marie St. George (UMSOM/MPH)

Welcome & Introductions

Dr. Samuel Little welcomed the Council members and everyone introduced themselves.

Accomplishments

Sarah Butts gave a summary of the Council's progress over the past three years. The Council was formed as a result of being appointed as one of six Regional Hubs by University of Texas at Austin SSW, as part of the National Center for Excellence in Homelessness Services program. The Council spent the first two years focusing on organization and developing partnerships in the region.

In the third year, the Council focused on implementation, which resulted in the following accomplishments:

- The Institute for Innovation and Implementation (UMSSW) received awards for youth outreach (Thrive@25 and Youth Reach Maryland) and substance abuse (B'More SUCCEEDS)
- UMSSW Created a Homelessness Course: SOWK699 - Housing, Homelessness, and Social Policy
- The Ending Youth Homelessness Act was passed by the General Assembly
- Participated in Developing a Local Housing Voucher Program in Baltimore City
- Published Articles:
 - *Families in Society: Journal of Contemporary Social Services*
 - CSWE Curricular Guide
 - Expungement Report by Social Work Intern
- CSWE Presentations in 2017 and 2018
- Potential Partnership with Greater Washington Community Foundation

- 15% Increase in Field Placements Serving Homeless Persons
- International Field Placements through London, England cohort
- Homelessness Case Management Certificate Program

Year 4 - Vision and Planning

Most of the accomplishments thus far have been the result of individual efforts on the part of Council members and their affiliated organizations. How can the Council expand outreach, increase awareness, and move the initiative to end homelessness forward? What task or project can the Council take on that will have a meaningful impact?

Sarah suggested that we host two events, one for the community and one for our school. The Council agreed that we need to get the UMB schools (such as Medicine, Nursing, Dentistry, Law, and Pharmacy) on board. Homelessness is a public health issue that impacts adults and children, and low poverty levels put many people at risk.

Dr. St. George pointed out that this is a SSW endeavor and it will take some time and effort to get the other schools on par with our level of commitment. The MPH program curriculum does not cover homelessness issues. She shared that they had a student who was interested in working with Healthcare for the Homeless, but had to give up because there was no Public Health preceptor.

We have a long way to go, but we have to start somewhere. Sarah suggested that we develop a panel to go before the leadership of the schools. The panel would have someone from each school. Dean Barth could help in getting the panel on Deans' meeting agenda.

Dr. St. George suggested that we participate in IPE Day this coming spring, which brings about 200-300 students from across the campus. We could get the message to them. Perhaps it could fulfill part of the inter-professional competency for each school.

At Howard University, the deans and provosts are committed to sending students and faculty. It was difficult, but it can be done. Dr. Davis wrote up a case for an emergency room. Social Work had to be the lead. The case involved everyone and she made it relevant for them. A moderator asked the questions (e.g., "What is the first thing you would do in this situation?"). It gave the students a different perspective of each other's role and how they need to work together. She suggested including public safety and to make sure the case has a policy piece to show that homelessness is a social determinant of health.

We can also look at hosting a community event. There is no conference on homelessness in this area. Yvonne Perret's dream is to have one place where the homeless and those at risk can go to get all their needs serviced. The university is a great resource that is underutilized, we should think of how to intervene to prevent long-term homelessness on our campus.

Sarah asked if any members would be interested in being on a planning subcommittee. Dr. Davis agreed to be the lead for the subcommittee. For convenience, the meetings would be held via Zoom.

Goals for the Year:

1. Get the UMB campus schools on board:
 - a) The planning subcommittee will have a conference call to establish a plan and do the groundwork.
 - b) Form a panel (identify members) that will work with each school.
 - c) The panel will meet with the leadership of each school to get their buy in.
2. Get information on UMB IPE Day
3. Hold an event on homelessness
3. Develop a plan to address the homeless persons who are on our campus

The Next Homelessness Social Work Council will be held November 30, 2018.