NASW NYS Northeast Division Steering Committee Meeting

02/19/2021

Attendees:

Natalie Turner (Division Director)

Sam Fletcher (ED NASW NYS)

Barry

Martha

Vanessa

**Minutes**

* ***Rural Panel***
  + Great success! 60 attendees, great questions and participation
  + Special interest group for rural social workers (Martha want to say anything?)
* ***Resilience Screening*** 
  + Idea brought up by Martha
  + Franklin County System of Care, joined with Prevent Child Abuse New York, have worked to offer a few upcoming screenings and discussions on the film,  *Resilience.*We have split up the screenings/discussions to offer one for community members, another for school staff, and lastly one for professionals. This is to help our efforts in promoting trauma-informed practices in our community and rural areas.
  + We are eligible for OASAS-CASAC CEU’s. I was wondering if NASW NYS NE division would partner with us (no cost), and collaborate to offer this to professionals (LMSW, LCSW, LMHC, LMFT) and earn CEU’s for their attendance ? We are finalizing dates, but it will be held virtually. The film is one hour and we would take a small break and then have an hour for discussion.
  + Not a CEU event like Rural Panel as it would be offered through another group
  + NASW NYS NE can support (Natalie willing to help out however she can)
* ***Social*** 
  + ***Book Club***
    - Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City by Matthew Desmond
    - Book divided into 3 parts; 3 book club sessions (recommendation from facilitators), **Friday evenings 5:00p - 6:30p** and the dates are: **March 12, April 9, and May 14** (decided by facilitator voting)
  + ***Networking Event*** 
    - Per the event in December – interest in making it a quarterly event (so next one in March
    - Dates to avoid per Shakira at NASW NYS: 3/2, 3/8, 3/23 & 3/30.
* ***Sam*** 
  + Sam here to discuss some concerns with licensures, professionalization of social work and scope of practice
  + New initiatives from NASW NYS (This is Social Work; New Zealand study)
  + Difficult to tell people, organizations, what we do as social workers; often we do some much and wear so many hats it’s hard to describe – as such, often organizations, individuals, other professions not recognize our skills or know what we do
  + 2 NASW NYS Initiatives (both long-term plans, will take time to fully implement and see results)
  + This is Social Work
    - Interview social workers (so far, about 24 done and still ongoing)
    - Have social workers from different fields and practice areas talk about what they we do
    - On the webpage
    - Long term plan is to take information (analyze it) and put it into a document to leave with organizations and legislatures
      * The document will have information on what we do as social workers and what our skillsets are (leads to the next initiative)
  + New Zealand Pay Equity Study - <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/11/13/opinion/sunday/women-pay-gender-gap.html>
    - Study came out that compared skillsets from female dominated professions to skillsets from male dominated professions to look at pay equity (as female dominated professions tend to be paid less)
    - Found that based on social work skillsets we were most similar to police detectives, air traffic controllers, and engineers
    - Led to a 30% pay increase for social workers (but also social workers in New Zealand are unionized so that may have impacted that as well)
    - Sam Fletcher met with the researcher who led that study and was able to look at their metrics
    - NASW NYS is looking to replicate that study and collect data on social worker skillsets (through focus groups maybe?) and then analyze the data
    - This will allow us to develop a concrete list of social work skillsets that we can use to describe our work, and be used to negotiate pay
    - At the same time, with this data we can go to organizations and discuss how social workers are different from other providers and the specific skills and abilities that we bring to organizations
    - There are other professions out there and people who call themselves “social workers” without actually being social workers
      * We can’t stop them from doing that
      * But we can use this list of skills to differentiate our profession and say “this is what a Master’s level social worker does and brings to your organization”
      * Train organizations in the difference between providers
  + Other concerns about licensure
    - Concerns from students that CSWE decreased the number of field hours needed to graduate, but worry that the office of the professions did not
      * Sam clarified that the school had to apply to the office of the professions to decrease the field hours and get approval for that
    - LCSW – to get supervision in order to get the “C”, you can’t seek out and pay for your own supervisor
      * A supervisor would have to contract with an agency to provide supervision
      * This is an NYSED regulation – a change would have to come through legislative means

**Important Dates to Keep in Mind:**

**Book Club: Friday evenings 5:00p - 6:30p** and the dates are: **March 12, April 9, and May 14**

**Networking Event: Tuesday, March 16? 6:00 – 7:00 (Natalie to double check with Shakira)**

**Next Meeting: Thursday, March 25 5:30**

(I’ll make a conscious effort to change the days of the week of the Steering Committee meetings, but for March I think I have to keep it a Thursday due to my own scheduling conflicts)