

NASWNYS Western Division Steering Committee Meeting August 12,2023

PRESENT: Elaine Rinfrette, Cheryl Mills, SylviaGold, Jesse Grossman, Victoria MSW graduate student from Georgia.

ABSENT: Cheryl Eberle

Elaine was welcomed as Western Division Director after unanimous election!

Agenda: Roles of Team Members

Secretary: Cheryl Mills agreed since she takes such complete minutes.

School Liaison : Jesse G. Agreed to maintain contact with Social Work schools to publicize Western Division and involve students in activities. Victoria related she is an alumna of Fredonia with connections to some faculty.

Newsletter Editor: Sylvia agreed to produce fall and spring newsletters highlighting Western Division activities that would be sent out to membership and Albany for posting on website and blasts to membership.

Historian: We recommended Cheryl E since she already has collected much historical info.

Student Supervisor: Elaine offered since she has an expansive list of suggestions for MSW interns. She reports she has had discussions with SUNYMSW faculty who support internship with Western Division.

Update on our Facebook page:

Elaine and Jesse learned we are not allowed to have our own account separate from Albany. We are unable to take it down since we are not the administrators. It has outdated material. Elaine agreed to contact Erin re this issue she as she was Division Director at the time.

Meet and Greet Evaluation;

Sylvia expressed disappointment at small turnout. We had four Social Workers who attended although there were eleven who responded, Elaine and Jesse were optimistic re response of Sam and staff in recognition of Western Division members and efforts to keep it viable.

GOAL: Plan another informal Meet and Greet in spring - perhaps involve food or dessert trucks where we would pay for desserts.

CE presentation by Mandy Fauble on Suicide Prevention:

Discussion on informal and formal interventions, threats, outcome results. Victoria offered her response as student when confronted with potential suicidal situations and treatment options. Jesse suggested discussion on successful methods on people who don't die; evidence-based practice. Sylvia suggested interventions average person can use In situations when person in environment is suspected as suicidal.

Fund Raising:

Elaine learned from Sam we can do service events with prizes, raffles. We can co-sponsor event with not-for-profits. Sylvia related her affiliation with Amherst Sr. Center. She offered to ask volunteer office what they have planned for possibilities for co-sponsoring. Group was asked to consider other fundraising options and organizations they are connected to. Amazon \$50.00 gift card suggested, along with other options, perhaps local businesses. Discussion on future social events, history of prior events, successful and not so successful. Issue of book review was offered with positive reaction.

UB Student Orientation:

Elaine and Jesse will be there on Aug. 25. There are 75 students registered. Elaine and Jesse will be gathering materials; Jesse has materials from Cheryl M.

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Change Meeting Times:

It was suggested Saturday, from 10-12 is inconvenient for potential members. Times were offered to move Membership meetings to some evenings, continue on zoom with a few face-to-face meetings yearly. Elaine will survey us re selecting new evening times given our other commitments. Jesse suggested around Feb.14, Valentines day, Victoria offered something in March, Social Work Day, Book club event. Potential meeting spaces were discussed, colleges, supermarkets.

Discussion ensued on expanding influence of Western Division to more rural areas that encompass Western Division. Niagara University was identified as most reasonable given distance. This was identified as an intern activity.

NEXT MEETINGS: Clinical Tuesday, Sept.5 6:00-8:00
Membership Meeting Tuesday, September 26, 6:-7:30 pm.

SPECIAL MEETING WITH SAMANTHA FLETCHER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,
NASWNYS, AND WESTERN DIVISION, TUESDAY, OCTOBER 10 AT 6PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sylvia G. Gold. LCSW-R, ACSW

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