**AMERSA Conference 2023**

**Social Work SIG Meeting Notes**

11/3/23

7:00am – 8:15am

Renwick Room

Grand Hyatt Hotel, Washington, D.C.

Current Co-Chairs:

Sheria Francis, MSW, LCSW, CAADC, H-SWHC

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Announcement: Attendee sign in sheet and handouts available

Introductions completed

Welcome (Sheria):

* Shared history of Social Work SIG including recent lapse in organized SW SIG at AMERSA - new meeting is a result of Sheria’s effort as a first-time attendee at AMERSA 2022 conference to restart SW SIG
* Agenda for meeting reviewed:
	+ Initial Focus/Goals
		- The Integration of the SW SIG into AMERSA
		- Conference Cost Adjustments (affordability) for Social Workers
		- Edits to current description of SW SIG
	+ Suggested next steps for continued engagement (goals?)

Discussion:

* Integration of Social Work SIG into AMERSA
	+ Recognize importance of being in the room and inform the conversation; what ways would we like to make our presence known and voice heard
		- Seeing more social work presence in conference sessions
		- Engage in more research and highlighted among our colleagues – present research
		- Understanding the selection process for posters, abstracts and workshops
			* If interested in submitting for next years conference – start planning now and seek out collaboration and support from other AMERSA/SIG members and leadership
		- Social work panel that focuses on the variety and novelty of social work in caring for people who use substances
		- American Public Health Conference has specific tracks or sections for disciplines – could AMERSA consider this?
		- When everyone is together – intentionally include social work
		- Increasing the demand by bringing more social workers to AMERSA
			* Word of mouth – talking to colleagues
			* Funding – growing a diverse workforce award, etc.
			* Abstract committee – more social work voices
	+ Bring more social work research to the conference
		- Recognize that what is rigorous to different communities is different than institutional data; be open to different kinds of data; what types of topics are covered
		- Help AMERSA understand that “One’s disciplines bread and butter is another disciplines discovery”
		- Research support within the social work SIG – use our internal resources to enhance presence at AMERSA – invite folks throughout the year with people who may not currently be involved or know about AMERSA
	+ “Social work has to be bold” – plenary involvement; social work in substance use; Eric Garland could be a great option
* Conference Cost Adjustments:
	+ If AMERSA wants to promote multi-disciplinary involvement, must address cost
	+ Very limited financial support through institutions, organizations for social workers
		- Scholarships for practitioners
		- Tiers – based on country of origin
		- AMERSA helping to advocate for support from organizations
		- Partnerships to support funding
		- Sponsorship within AMERSA
	+ Hotel and Travel:
		- Connect for travel; room sharing, etc.
		- Guide to resources for lower cost options from AMERSA
* Social Work SIG description:
	+ Language is important; be intentional and adopt inclusive and non-violent language
		- Avoid use of “aim”; use “focus” in first sentence and change the end to advance areas of practice
	+ Suggested additions:
		- Connect the different disciplines; facilitate the connections
		- Increase access to care that includes clinical but also all other areas
		- Culturally or linguistically responsible work
		- Engaging in all levels of social work practice
		- Include systems change
	+ Consider sub-group of SIG to work on next draft
* Suggested next steps for continued engagement:
	+ Opportunity to meet virtually in between conferences
		- Within a month from today
		- Will discuss frequency moving forward in that meeting
	+ If you are presenting at conference – reply to SIG email to notify members
	+ Regular meetings throughout the year
	+ Organized Outreach
	+ Create list serve to communicate and connect
	+ Create group that is focused on support around engagement particularly to help with things funding
		- Sponsor another attendee financially – outside of your own discipline
		- Outside corporations – engage AMERSA’s development committee
		- Adjust cost of CME vs CEU – increase cost of CME to offset
	+ Track social work conference attendance – e.g. - count from last year and this year of how many social workers attended
	+ Open invitation for others to consider co-chair position with Sheria
		- May need to outline process for choosing co-chairs, roles and responsibilities, tenure, etc.