**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.