

**Minutes**  
**Social Work IFCC**  
**April 12, 2018**  
**10 am – 2 pm – TCSG, Atlanta**

Benita Moore called the meeting to order at 10:05 am. Since Rhonda Lastie moved and is no longer with Athens Tech, the group will elect a new chair later in the meeting. The following were present:

Karen Howard, TCSG  
Benita Moore, TCSG  
Jennifer Reynolds, Southern Regional  
Pam Turner, GA Northwestern  
Betty Watts, Athens

It was noted that Alison Rosch is a new SOCW instructor at Athens Tech but wasn't able to make it to today's meeting. Karen Howard was introduced; Karen and Benita are working together on several areas, and SOCW is one of those areas.

Dr. Elizabeth Anderson, VPAA at GA Northwestern was available by telephone and was involved in the one curriculum decision discussed below.

The minutes from the June 1, 2016, meeting were approved as posted and distributed.

Since the courses were reviewed closely at the last meeting, the group decided not to review individual courses. There was one topic for curriculum discussion; the title of the Practicum courses (SOCW 2080, 2081, 2090). It was decided to change the names of the courses as indicated below. A motion was made and the changes as indicated below were approved.

| <b>Course Prefix/No</b> | <b>Current Title</b>           | <b>New Title</b>                           |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------|--|
| SOCW 2080               | Social Work Field Practicum I  | Social Work Field Practicum and Seminar I  |
| SOCW 2081               | Social Work Field Practicum    | Social Work Field Practicum and Seminar    |
| SOCW 2090               | Social Work Field Practicum II | Social Work Field Practicum and Seminar II |

Each of the 3 courses listed above have a Lecture or Lab 2 component AND a Lab 3 component; therefore, adding Seminar to the title is more reflective of how the course is taught. An information ticket will be developed and submitted.

Benita mentioned the upcoming Suicide Prevention Training that GaDOE will be doing in August at 4 of our technical colleges. Benita will send out the dates/locations for these sessions.

Benita stated that there was not a list serve for SOCW because 10 people had to be on the list serve for it to be set up. Instructors were asked to send names and emails of part-time instructors, and Benita will have a list serve set up for SOCW.

Program Discussions

ED11 Eligibility Determination Specialist – though this program is not currently used by DFACS, it was determined that the program stay in the database because if DFACS wants to have the program down the road, it will be better to have it already approved and in the system.

There was discussion on a having a gerontology program. Since there was nothing in KMS about a gerontology program, it was decided to pull together information to begin looking into a Gerontology TCC. Betty Watts will take the lead on this and will provide information to the email list serve.

### Election of Officers

Betty Watts was elected as the new chair. Pam Turner will continue as the recorder.

### Other

Georgia School Addiction Studies – students can apply for scholarships to attend the conference at no charge. This is a weeklong conference in Savannah in August. This is the third year that TCSG colleges have been involved. This conference draws a lot of leaders in the SOCW area, so it is also a good networking opportunity as well as great information. Betty will send information to Benita to send out to the group.

Family Service Workers Training – At the federal level, the law for Head Start Family Service Workers has changed. Pam Turner went through training on the new requirements and will be implementing this for her students in the near future. It requires 90 clock hours of specific Head Start curriculum. You may contact Pam for more questions.

### Best Practices

#### Retention Practices -

- At Athens the retention program is tied in with the Non-Trad students, specifically to recruit and retain more males. Focus groups have been developed to address the number of males in the program to determine why males come into the SOCW program (what draws them into program) and then what keeps them in the program. Southern Regional noted that oftentimes one-on-one communication is helpful with males; they often need guidance and encouragement in how they can tie SOCW into their career field. Also, having male students who have been through the program or who work in the SOCW area speak to students in classes.

#### Internship/Retention Practices-

- Athens uses a form (within a package) that students sign to acknowledge they are required to honor their commitment to their internship AND they are to complete the program. This is in response to students using their internship to get a job in field and then not complete the program. This form gives the instructor a little leverage when she sees a student not finishing the course work. Betty will send Benita the form and Benita will send it to the group.

#### Advising

- There was a discussion on the importance of advising as soon as the student selects SOWC as a major. Often times students don't understand the program and select it as a 2<sup>nd</sup> choice (didn't do well in nursing, for example). Athens SOCW advisers do mapping and meet with every new student. Athens also requires each student to be advised each semester.

#### Student Organization

- Having a strong student organization can help the program be stronger. GA Northwestern has a pinning ceremony associated with their student organization. Those almost at the point of graduation "pass the torch" to the new students. The pinning event is completely student led with guidance from the instructor. Athens give "coins" for student recognition. . .example, a coin for "creative spirit," or "community service," or "leadership."

#### Partnership

- GA Northwestern requires 4 services a semester to assist with partnership agencies. One example would to go to the food bank and help clean or organize the party. This is a graded project. This helps agencies who hire SOCW students and also gives a variety of exposure to students.

The meeting adjourned at 1 pm.

Benita H. Moore