

## Council on Social Work Education

Social work is concerned with enhancing the well-being of people, groups, and communities by strengthening the opportunities and capacities of individuals, and addressing conditions that limit human potential (Council on Social Work Education (CSWE), 2001, 2008). Social workers are engaged in a variety of settings, operating in direct practice with individuals, families, and groups, as well as practice in management, policy, and community organization. Overall, it is estimated that social workers provide almost half of all mental health services (National Association of Social Workers, 2011; Manderscheid & Henderson, 2000). Social workers may be the only mental health professionals available—especially in rural areas.

### Target Audience for Curriculum Development

To effect a paradigm shift, change must be as systemic as possible. It is with this mandate in mind that the CSWE team is focusing on field instructors, practitioners who are working in the field and serve as supervisors to social work students, as the target audience for curriculum development. In social work education, all students are required to participate in field education to graduate. Field education, also called the signature pedagogy of social work, is intended to “socialize” students to “perform the role of practitioner” (CSWE, 2008, p. 8).

### Training Social Workers in the Mental Health Recovery

The CSWE Recovery-to-Practice training will be centered on a three-part webinar series that will be combined with other resources to form a complete training package for social work field instructors. The webinar series begins with a broad topic and then narrows in focus as it proceeds. Since each webinar builds on the one before it, we will ask participants to commit to participating in all three. Participants will be eligible to receive CEUs for completion of the webinar series.

Following the webinar series, participants will be asked to join a Learning Collaborative as a way to stay connected with the other participants, and to have on-going supports as they try to implement a recovery-oriented social work practice. All of the webinars and resources will be placed online, so that individuals who were not able to participate in the live version of the webinar series can also access the material.

Social work education programs will have the training package marketed in a slightly different way, with sessions at the CSWE Annual Program Meeting and materials that address curriculum issues and the CSWE accreditation standards; the recorded webinars will be a part of the training package for schools as well. The additional resources that will be provided during the webinar series include competencies for recovery-oriented practice, model syllabi, a bibliography, classroom exercises, and model language for field contracts.

The team is now in year three of five, focusing on developing the training manual; we will be beginning piloting the webinars and resources later in the summer of 2012.

If you want to learn more about the CSWE’s Recovery-to-Practice initiative, please visit <http://www.cswe.org/CentersInitiatives/DataStatistics/42850.aspx> or contact the Council on Social Work Education’s RTP team at [ebascug@cswe.org](mailto:ebascug@cswe.org).