



Meeting: Policy and Advocacy Committee	
Date: October 19, 2023	10 am – 12 pm
	Burlingame
Attendees	Blake Beecher (CSU San Marcos), Vida Castaneda (Judicial Council of California), Gloria Corona (Los Angeles DCFS), Tory Cox (CSU Long Beach), Marjorie Delgadillo (CalSWEC), Kathryn Kietzman (UCLA Center for Health Policy Research), Dave McDowell (CDSS, Chief of Children’s Services Quality Management Grant, Oversight, County System Improvement), Stuart Oppenheim (CFPIC), Michelle Rainier (Cal Poly Humboldt), Stephanie Schneider (CSU San Bernardino), Jennifer Tucker-Tatlow (SDSU Academy for Professional Excellence)
Agenda/Topics	
I. Welcome and Introductions	<p>Chair Jennifer Tucker-Tatlow (Academy for Professional Excellence) chaired the meeting.</p> <p>Members shared one policy/advocacy topic that is on their mind:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MR – AA policy support and ICWA • VC – policies related to Tribal communities, trafficking bills, and changes • BB – state general funds, unintended consequences of policies • SS – university policy experiences, second campus in Palm Desert • TC – AB 954 – requires judges to ask families if they can afford services aimed at reunification (parent groups, parent training, therapy, etc.) • DM – ICWA hotline, SW Empowerment hotline, qualitative review • MD – workforce development with community college/AA; AB 954 • GC – here to learn • KK – Workforce issues across the lifeforce, especially behavioral issues – governors’ plan to transfer MHSA to BHSA – some in opposition, some in support (Housing First vs provision of services – SB 326) • JTT Tribal Star program, brings counties and tribes together to ensure that cultural connection is intact with tribal communities; CA ICWA Act event to support it
II. Review and approval of April 2023 minutes	No edits or additions. Tory moved to approve. Stephanie seconded for adoption of the minutes.
III. Follow-up from last time/update	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Identify Notetaker and person to report to the Advisory Board. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Tory Cox offered to take notes. Marjorie Delgadillo agreed to report out at the Advisory Board meeting that afternoon. 2) Circle back on items discussed at our April meeting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - SB 407 – Ensure LGBTQ protections in foster homes. Brief discussion. - SB 766 – Title protection CalSWEC students who are county employees are reacting to a title potentially being taken away. Some students challenge faculty to not call them social workers without the degree.

CDSS - Counties would be burdened to change classifications, public health, PCW, and many different departments. They are concerned that it could set up different client relationships. The legislation was not well thought-out.

Reviewed the discussion from the last meeting.

Programs to build workforce have been a win-win, like the AA program and the CalSWEC program. The experiences of current employees will be an added value to programs.

Most county offices are offering a stipend or a raise with a social work degree. Some students think they can just get a piece of paper but find that the training and the adoption of social work values makes a big difference in their work.

Macro students can get exposed to issues, more than they have been exposed to in the past.

The rich discussions in the classrooms from different perspectives help build social work knowledge and generalizability.

Experience can take over training or can add to it.

- SB 11 – Mental health services for CSU students

COVID-19 has changed the stigma. Mental health is being talked about in ways that normalize it.

Lay person's definition of mental health has expanded to taking care of yourself, and not just about dysfunction. "Mental health day" is normalized.

People are personally more aware of the impacts mental health has which means mental health systems are overwhelmed. Triaging the mental health crisis leaves many needed services. Three hundred people are waiting to get in. Services are not in-depth. Those who wait are on their own.

AB 954 mentioned wait lists. Children are removed during their wait.

School-based programs stopped taking referrals in March.

Online students in university catchment area are not allowed to access campus-based mental health services through CAPS because they do not pay the university fees (CSU San Bernardino and CSU San Marcos worked out a solution to have online students pay for the services).

Helping students navigate challenges in the system of "hang on, we will call." Telehealth therapy appointments work well with the Council that can be easier than campus-based systems.

Some are using AI, others video, phone call, or text. "My therapist is Chat GPT" but "like bungee-jumping – you may not survive." – the AI therapist.

*We need to investigate and see if this is a topic for larger discussion.

Cost of supporting CAPS.

Telehealth options – students need to be prepared.

How can we ensure that outside counseling programs like Better Help have in-state licenses?

Students are potentially vulnerable because they have few options. How do we make sure that youth are not targeted?

- SB 372 (updated licensee's gender) and 373 (including only city and not address of licensed individuals)

No further updates.

- SB 2030 – Workforce and Workload Study Revised for 2023-24

CDSS has an RFP winding through the process, hopefully before January 1, 2024. They want to award a contract and fund next fiscal year. The goal of the new RFP is to do a workforce study, not workload study. Some pre-work shows that some folks are doing 2.5 times a normal workload, but they do not want the study to be about caseload, since there are different ways that cases are managed. 100,000 children and youth (in 2000) were in foster care before, but now it is down to 47,000 (2023) which is a massive change. They are trying to get the realities of work expectations. People are doing a better job stopping children coming in and the long-stay kids' issue has been mitigated. Kinship care has taken children and youth out of foster care. The Los Angeles foster care rate was cut in half. Los Angeles drives the state numbers –training, blind case reviews. SDM refinements. Core revisions. Tribal input, ICWA training. Other prevention initiatives have contributed. Maybe CalSWEC. County culture was to have the highest level of CSWs; some workers have preferences for the tasks and responsibilities of CSW 1's and 2's and not to advance, but to demote to the job they prefer.

- Review SDSU's Step Up Program
Pathways for high school students to become social workers.
Engage, educate, and empower disenfranchised high school juniors to pursue secondary education and solve problems in their neighborhoods. They take a social work course through SDSU.
- ICWA upheld by Supreme Court
This does not mean that everything is safe. There are many attacks on ICWA. Knowing it and following through, none of us want to be the one that triggers it to be threatened. We are helping our students be the best prepared so that we are not contributing to a challenge to ICWA. Personal stories can be strong contributors to support for ICWA and training social workers to move away from their biases. There was a rich discussion of many permutations of family units with Tribal, native, and non-native members. With uninformed educators, what is our avenue, and possible direction to take in this area? With a shift from mandated reporting to community supporting, can training occur? Can we get folks to know our history? Mandated reporting calls from an education world, and over half get evaluated out. There are ways in which it might be misinterpreted (community events). Mandated reporting training for teachers is not good, "janky" – is it really a reason to call? We could do better emphasizing the Importance of ICWA modules in training faculty to build knowledge. Raising awareness, knowledge, and importance of Tribal experiences, history, and current best practices is needed across the board with all levels of education. CSU San Bernardino has a Tribal class offering. Cal Poly Humboldt required a Native American course before entering master's program. Native history in relation to people today includes "Indigenous and rural" competencies which we could add in our work across the state. Disproportionality – have the numbers of foster children changed for Black and Native children and youth? We must fix it at the macro level, racist underpinnings, infrastructures – supervisors have continued the influence of racist historical perspectives in decision-making. The Council has trained counties, including Solano, at CSW and supervisory levels on best practices with native populations. A

	<p>video was made at Humboldt on inquiry and different actions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Vida provided us with the Statewide Directory of Services for Native American Families link https://www.courts.ca.gov/5807.htm. 		
IV. Updates from NASW-CA	<p>NASW-CA representatives were unable to join due to a conflict w/NASW event</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Workforce development updates 2) Other important state-level bills 3) What legislation should NASW-CA be tracking? Input requested. 		
V. Discussion Topics	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Revisit Policy and Advocacy Committee purpose and function Tabled to next meeting. Are there other pressing topics people would like to discuss? 2) AB 366 - Community College Pathway for IV-E Program - two Pathway schools are budgeting for this and exploring re-implementing in FY24-26 (Carolyn Shin/Mikevia Kiles) AB-366 has been moved to the inactive file. It appears that it will be in the current scope of work for what CDSS sees as part of CalSWEC's responsibilities. A reboot is expected to happen in new budget cycles. 3) IDC rate for CalSWEC schools, the distribution of State General Funds to reduce cost match that is attached to this rate, and concerns about inequity of application to CSU subawardees. Summary of IDC issues State General Funds are allocated based on the IDC rate, but changing the IDC rate has not led to State General Funds redistribution. CSU San Marcos must pay \$40,000 to graduate studies if the IDC rate is not changed to meet the minimum expectations for campus IDC. The State General Funds will not change under the current budget. Stipends are proposed to be increasing, and matches will increase as a result. Staying at the current IDC solves some problems while increasing it creates other challenges. 		
VI. Future planning and next steps			
Action Items		Person Responsible	Deadline
Workforce issues across the lifeforce, especially behavioral issues – governors' plan to transfer MHSA to BHSA – some in opposition, some in support (Housing First vs provision of services – SB 326)		Topic for a larger discussion?	
Some are using AI, others video, phone call, or text.		Topic for a larger discussion?	