



Meeting: Policy and Advocacy Committee	
Date: April 27, 2023	
Attendees	Tory Cox, Mikevia Kiles, Christina Paddock, Emma Schifsky, Stephanie Schneider, Jennifer Tucker-Tatlow
Agenda/Topics	
I. Welcome and Introductions	<p>Chair Alex Brown was unable to attend, so Jennifer Tucker-Tatlow (Academy for Professional Excellence) chaired the meeting. Members shared their name, pronouns, organization and one policy/advocacy topic that’s on their mind this week:</p> <p>AB 366 (Mikevia) would expand social work education and support students interested in public social welfare in community colleges. Highlights include \$5 million for stipends at the community college level for counties with a higher than 20% vacancy rate. It was heard at the Assembly Council and is still under consideration.</p> <p>SB 407 would provide LGBTQ foster care protections to ensure foster homes are supportive. LGBTQ children are overrepresented in foster care, but 30% of youth in supportive homes are 93% less likely to commit suicide.</p> <p>San Bernardino County has a task force concentrating on prevention services with a focus on reducing caseloads using Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA) funds.</p> <p>Title Protection for Social Workers means that only those with a BA, MA, or PhD in Social Work can be called a social worker. Those grandfathered in who already have the title will be able to keep it for five years.</p> <p>The Title IV-E Stipend Program has expanded to Juvenile Probation. Mikevia has more information from the Chief Probation Officers of California contract and can provide more information regarding their curriculum.</p> <p>Jennifer brought up the Governor’s proposed ballot initiative to modernize MHSAs Governor Newsom Proposes Modernization of California’s Behavioral Health System and More Mental Health Housing. It would go on the ballot in 2024 and authorize thousands of new community behavioral health beds in state-of-the-art residential settings to house Californians with mental illness and substance use disorders, provide more housing specifically to homeless veterans, amend MHSAs, and provide new oversight and accountability.</p>
II. Review and approval of February 2023 minutes	No edits or additions. A motion was made by Tory Cox, and seconded by Mikevia Kiles. The minutes were approved.

<p>III. Follow-up from last time</p>	<p>1) CalSWEC Land Acknowledgement is now live on the CalSWEC website. Thank you. Are there comments from committee members?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Thankful that the statement was revised based on committee input, and done so in a timely manner. <p>2) CSEC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Resources: CalSWEC CSEC Toolkit, SDSU Article - Is there additional discussion or are there requests for this committee regarding social work education around CSEC? What action we should take or recommendations should we make?
<p>IV. Updates from NASW-CA</p>	<p>1) Lobby Days 2023 Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There were 800 registrants and about 700 attendees in Sacramento on April 16. This was the first time back in person, not completely, and had tons of representation from schools throughout the state. We were excited to be back in person and expect to be fully back next year. All meetings were virtual with legislators, and students would have preferred to have had the opportunity to do those in person <p>2) SB 766 (Eggman) Title Protection for Social Workers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Restricts the use of social work title to individuals who have a BSW or MSW from a CSWE accredited school of Social Work. It allows a five-year grace period for those with the title that do not meet these requirements. - Last time around this didn't pass Appropriations, so there is more optimism this time. It passed out of the Senate Business, Professions and Economic Development Committee on a 13-0 vote! There are concerns about equitable access to social work degrees and concerns as to whether it will impact workers' pay, potentially leading to pay inequities for folks working in agencies who are not "social workers." It is important to have more opportunities for paid placements as well as stipends for students getting their degree to help mitigate the equity issues raised above. This also connects back to the challenges associated with the public's perception of the profession. <p>3) SB 407 (Wiener) Foster Care: Resource Families</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - SB 407 will reduce placement instability and increase affirming care for LGBTQ youth with greater consideration and evaluation of needs during the resource family approval process. The bill has passed out of the Senate Judiciary and is headed to Senate Appropriations. SB 407 will strengthen the resource family approval (RFA) process for LGBTQ foster youth by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Requiring explicit consideration of LGBTQ youth in home and environmental assessments; o Creating standard documentation by the Department of Social Services for these assessments to include LGBTQ youth needs; o Reviewing county-approved resource families to evaluate if they are meeting the needs of LGBTQ youth and investigating related incidents as needed; o Ensuring that resource families have the necessary skills, knowledge, and abilities to support LGBTQ youth; and o Clarifying existing law that conduct that poses risk to the health and safety of LGBTQ youth is a valid reason for denial of a resource family.

- There are 120 bills in 2023 being introduced to restrict access to LGBTQ services, and 420 pieces of anti-LGBTQ legislation federally. With increased incidents of identity harassment, there is a need to determine how best to support youth who are the most at risk. It is vital to ensure families who are receptive and responsive to the needs of these youth are being identified.
 - There is a question as to whether these same requirements should exist for Short-Term Residential Therapeutic Programs (STRTPs), so Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (SOGI) law was enacted to ensure these providers receive training in these areas.
- 4) [SB 11 \(Menjivar\)](#)
- Establishes a 1:1500 ratio in the CSU system with licensed mental health therapists to students. It also establishes the Mental health Therapists Act to incentivize students to become mental health counselors and with an appropriation, could establish paid internships for students who will pursue licensure.
 - **Status: This bill was heard in Senate Health on April 26 and passed. It is headed to Senate Appropriations.**
 - Additional Notes: SB 11 would require CSU to decrease the ratio of students to mental health counselors to address increased student needs and work to create a pipeline for CSU students to become mental health professionals.
 - Students deserve timely access to high-quality mental health services and highly qualified counselors who understand the students they serve. SB 11 seeks to address both of these critical issues by:
 - o Establishing a minimum of one full-time mental health counselor per 1,500 students.
 - o Incentivizing CSU students to become mental health counselors in the state.
 - o Ensuring that the trustees report data about student mental health, mental health employees, and student wait times.
 Committee members were in support of this. Currently long waitlists for those seeking mental health services, and there is a real demand for LCSWs who can supervise hours needed for licensure.
- 5) Other State Budget Updates and Workforce Development Updates
- We are still looking at ways to avoid the Governor’s budget delays in the second round of HCAI funding for Schools of Social Work to expand BSW and MSW slots in their programs.
 - NASW-CA working to raise rates for Foster Family Agency Social Workers.
 - Notes: NASW-CA is cosponsoring a budget request with the [California Alliance of Child and Family Services](#) to support Family Foster Agency (FFA) social workers, now renamed Family Focused Agencies. Foster Family Agencies recruit and train resource parents into the system and work with foster children with high needs in family-based settings. On April 13, the Senate Budget Committee Hearing heard from California Alliance of Child and Family Services and NASW-CA urging them to support Foster Family Agencies by increasing their budget to \$11.9 million. These funds will prevent reductions and closures of Foster Family Agencies and increase placement stability of foster children who require more intensive care.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - NASW Director of Government Relations and Political Affairs recently served on a panel in the Assembly Budget Subcommittee on Health and Human Services to advocate for increases in Supplemental Security Income/State Supplementary Payment (SSI/SSP) grants. Senate Budget Plan released. This plan mentions SSI/SSP grants on page 27: It approves increases to CalWORKs grants to continue efforts for No Child in Deep Poverty and increases SSP grants. Increases for both programs are in accordance with the Budget Act of 2022 agreement. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o <i>Although this increase to the grants was expected and not part of our new budget requests related to SSI/SSP.</i> - Public Defender and Social Work grants, the Senate plan rejects the Governor's plan to cut these grants on page 37: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o <i>Rejects proposed cuts to the Public Defense Pilot Program.</i> - Changes to Key Governor's Proposals: Rejects delays to critical behavioral health care workforce programs, such as addiction medicine and social work, to improve access to behavioral health. (pg. 29) <p>6) Other relevant State-Level Bills</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - SB 372 (Menjivar) Department of Consumer Affairs: gender and name changes (Deadnaming bill). This bill would require a board to update a licensee's or registrant's records to include the licensee's or registrant's updated legal name or gender if the board receives government-issued documentation indicating that the legal name or gender has been changed. The bill would require the board to remove the licensee's or registrant's former name or gender from its online license verification system and treat this information as confidential. The board would also be required to establish a process to allow a person to request and obtain this information, if needed for a complaint. - SB 373 (Menjivar) BBS and Board of Psychology: registrants and Licensees address. This bill will only require that a registrant or licensees will only have their city, county and zip code listed in the Breeze computer system rather than their full address. Status: Passed Senate Business and Professions, passed Senate Judiciary April 18. - Thank you for previous comments to assist in our advocacy for this bill at the last Policy & Advocacy Committee meeting. <p>7) What legislation should NASW-CA be tracking? Your input is requested.</p>
V. Discussion Topics	<p>1) Workforce Development Payments for Placements (P4P) Student Advocacy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - On agenda for CADD meeting this evening. It's an important topic for schools of social work right now. How are schools approaching these conversations as well as finding more paid internships? - USC had a walkout with students. The practicum office has been working closely with the national P4P Office to create an Advisory Board to discuss opportunities for paid placements. - Agencies, particularly smaller non-profits, may not have the resources do that. The Governor's budget has a mentored internship program funded by state funding through HCAI that could provide funding for this. - USC has also done more work to allow students to use their jobs as internships, with the requirement that what they're doing for their internship is different from an existing job.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The question was posed as to why California schools go beyond CSWEs required 900 internship hours. Programs vary. - CSU San Bernardino requires 16 hours a week for BSW and MSWs. In the second year, students are doing 20 hours per week. San Bernardino is working to connect students with grant opportunities - At CSU Long Beach there are some placements that have stipends. There are stipend programs for Child Welfare and Mental Health. There is a student’s bill of rights that is gaining traction. Some students are asking for the university to be obligated to pay the stipend if the SSW can’t place them in a paid internship. - There have been discussions about whether some of their internship hours can be used towards licensure (vs. post grad). <p>2) Are there other pressing topics people would like to discuss?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - IDC Proposal – Tory shared the agreement made in 2016-17 related to CalSWEC and IDC rates. There are various IDC rates being used by different universities. Sponsored programs are pushing for higher IDC rates saying we should get it because others get more, but the implication is that the match requirements go up. - SB 2030 - Workforce and Workload study. Has there been more work done on early recruitment and establishing a ladder of learning? - Stephanie: Event focused on Behavioral Health & HS students. - Jennifer Tucker-Tatlow will provide more information on SDSU SSW’s Step-Up Program. 	
VI. Future planning	<p>Is anyone interested in co-chairing this committee with Alex? How would members like to spend our time, planning, and conversation in this space? The Policy and Advocacy Committee is responsible for formulating recommendations to the Advisory Board related to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) advocating for the growth and increased capacity of academic and service delivery programs to address the unmet needs of the people of California 2) promoting creative and informative evidence-informed and culturally relevant practices 3) undertaking partnership and research activities that leverage our collective influence to promote and advocate for social justice and equity 4) educating policymakers about the social and fiscal value of investing in social work professional development 5) advocating for high-quality services 6) supporting the education and training of students, practitioners, and supervisors for transformational practice 7) encouraging supervisory and management practices and organizational cultures that promote, value, and ensure high-quality practice, and/or overseeing implementation of the “Master Plan for Social Work Education in California,” and 8) addressing other appropriate social work workforce issues, policies, and legislation as needed. 	
Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline
Find co-chair for committee		Next Advisory Board meeting (10/19/23)
Provide more information on SDSU SSW’s Step Up Program	Jennifer Tucker-Tatlow	Next Advisory Board meeting (10/19/23)