Curriculum Focus Group (Facilitators: Rhonda Smith, Texas State University-San Marcos, Suzanne Irvin, Texas Department of Family and Protective Services )

Date: May 25, 2011

Place: Galveston, Texas

States represented: Arkansas, Georgia, Louisiana, Texas, and Minnesota

What is new?

Arkansas: 1. In the past were able to have as many stipends as they could recruit; now it is restricted to 1 or 2 stipends.

2. Students were assigned to other areas which affected recruitment.

Louisiana: 1.Just hired 20 but it is increasingly restrictive.

2. Can be placed statewide but the agency works with them to keep them as close as possible.

3. Reorganization of agency structure creates instability in the workplace.

Georgia: 1. Similar issues as other states.

2. Have 45 to place but have hiring freeze.

3. Only takes currently hired employee for MSW.

4. Works across the state.

5. Field placement is outside of current area of employment.

6. Reorganization is creating instability.

Minnesota: 1. Reorganized MSW program to meet CSWE requirements

2. Straddling 2 models for current students to cross over to new design.

3. New design will allow greater diversity in skills.

Texas: University of Houston

1. IVE students must take Child Abuse/Neglect. Have decided to allow Adm/Sup course for those tenured workers who found course too basic. Giving the option is helpful. Designing a hybrid course (in planning stage).

2. Symposium for agencies and students to attract & encourage involvement as well as practical knowledge to application.

3. Self-care became a major focus-agency work shops

4. LMSW prep course- they “give” it which encourages everyone to take the exam. Give it to students to agency workers who are FI.

5. Discussion was opened re: LCSW supervision and debate re: CPS hours counting.

University of Texas Pan Am

1. Difficult clients course vs child abuse as a choice
2. 5 students in addition to BSD they provide additional training.

Suzanne

1.Technology issue for students

2. Time element attending 8-5 is an issue

3. New Curriculum seems to be working. New laptops/tablets cannot be taken home, but use in classroom or office.

What is needed?

1. Access to curriculum so that universities can be better prepared to support and enhances concepts.
2. Suzanne reports an outline might be helpful. Becky wants the whole curriculum. Needs it to infuse the concept into “skills” for CSWE. Suzanne has a hands-on test which she will attempt to obtain for us.

What is next?

1. Sharing of training information.
2. Elective on-line or hybrid courses
3. Increased sharing of courses and interaction of how those courses work
4. All info needs to be sent to Rhonda Smith who will then decimate to everyone
5. Rhonda will set up a group for exchanging information. May use list serve
6. Discuss curriculum infusion with Cecelia Thomas.