

Social Issues and Social Justice: The Role of Human Service Professionals in Creating Change

Human service professionals make a unique contribution that differs from others who stand on the sidelines and comment on the need for social change. HS professionals have ‘skin in the game’, meaning they are willing to take personal risks and make an investment of their professional lives to see social change happen. Human service professionals bring a unique combination of skills to their roles as change agents; active listening, active servant leadership and advocacy skills in identifying needs and empowering others by engaging individuals, families, groups, communities and organizations to make changes to enhance the quality of life all over the world. There is no shortage of needs. Personal passions may be the driver, but professional skills, professional ethics, and conduct learned from practice derived from evidence based research, are tools that move tough issues forward. What differentiates Human Services professionals from other helping professionals in impacting social change is the ability to integrate multiple needs, and multiple resources toward goals; seeing the whole social change picture and tinkering with the world one problem at a time. (Dr. Barbara Benoliel, Walden University)

This year, our focus is on social issues and social justice and understanding how the role of human service professionals are vital in helping to create social change. Throughout this year, MWOHS will be hosting quarterly web-conversations with members of MWOHS called “Café Klatch.” These conversations is an opportunity for members to get together via web conferencing to share thoughts, ideas, and issues related to our work and how we, as human services professionals can address the issues of social justice and to impact long standing social change. Please join us for our first Café

THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 21st, 6:00-7:00 PM CST;

<https://socw-csbs.adobeconnect.com/bshs;>

866.391.9390. Code: 42.44.74.12



MEMBERS WANTED

Only together can we make a difference in our communities. We are a strong organization of helping professionals, yet we need to continue to grow. We are looking for members and students who would like to take a more active role in a professional organization through publications, social media, conference support, and community connections. This is a great opportunity to expand your professional portfolio. If you are interested, contact Dr. Kristin Faix Wilkinson at Kristin.faixwilkinson@mail.waldenu.edu

WHATS NEW IN OUR REGION!!

Minnesota: Minnesota Department of Human Services is offering services and training sessions for those who are Deaf, Deafblind, hard of hearing, or a caregiver. More information, www.dhs.state.mn.us

Michigan: MWOHS is looking to host the 2018 Conference in Michigan. Stay tuned for more information!

Missouri: Center for Human Services is hosting a Ladies Auction for the Children's Therapy Center on 7/8/2017 from 2-4pm at Sedalia Country Club. <https://www.chs-mo.org> for more information.

North Dakota:

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits are available for low-income North Dakotans to help meet their nutritional needs. For more information, contact the North Dakota Department of Human services.

South Dakota: Family Support 360 is a program that assists those with developmental disabilities to live independently. This program utilizes natural and formal support systems and flexible funding is available. For more information, contact the South Dakota Department of Human Services.

Wisconsin: Wisconsin County Human Service Association is an organization that connects statewide to provide professional relationships with human service professionals, public officials, and consumers of services to engage in professional exchanges and to help in the development of policy and funding to support the human services system. For more information, contact <https://wchsa.org>

Kansas: Grant writers needed for Arts & AGEing KC-Kansas City. For more information view <https://www.npconnect.org/volunteer>

Nebraska: Volunteers needed with the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services. For more information go to <https://dhhs.ne.gov/Pages/volunteers.aspx>

Illinois: Illinois Partners for Human Service is looking for a Human Service Awareness Campaign Manager-volunteer. Impact of this position is to increase awareness of the role of human service professionals and the role they play with servicing individuals in Illinois. More information; <https://www.chicagocares.org/illinoispartners>

Iowa: In April 2017, Iowa was ranked No. 5 in the national of overall children's well-being; 3rd in economic well-being, and 7th in health of children. 6th in education and 8th in family and community measures. National Kids Count Report. <https://dhs.iowa.gov/>



SPOTLIGHT

For each edition of our newsletter, we hope to spotlight a member who is doing extraordinary things in the field of human services. This month our spotlight is on;

Dr. Emily Fenster, HS-BCP. Dr. Fenster is an Assistant Professor of Sociology at Valley City State University in Valley City, North Dakota. She is the lead professor of the human services program. Emily holds a doctorate in Social Gerontology from Miami University. Her research interests include; retirement and retirement planning; marriage, relationships, and family over the life course; leisure and video games throughout the life course, and technology integration in education. She holds her HS-BCP certification and she is currently serving on the board of MWOHS.

MEET THE NEW BOARD!

During the National Conference in October, MWOHS elected a new board to represent the region. They bring a new energy and each are excited to work with our regional members to make MWOHS a valuable organization to human service professionals.

President-Dr. Kristin Faix Wilkinson, Walden University

Vice President-Dr. Delores Langston, Baker College of Flint

Secretary: Dr. Emily Fenster, Valley City State University

Treasure: Cris Jacobson, MSW, LCSW, Northwest Missouri State University



CHECK OUT OUR NEW WEBSITE!

Our website has been recently updated and we are continuing to add more information and highlights about the region; www.nationalhumanservices.org/mwohs

*******NATIONAL CONFERENCE-DES MOINES*******

Don't forget to register for this years conference in Des Moines, Iowa, Oct. 18-21, 2017. Registration is open and make your reservations for Embassy Suites Hotel, Des Moines, Downtown.