



Research and Development Committee

Doubletree by Hilton, Berkeley Marina
February 5, 2015 | 1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Virginia Rondero Hernandez, Chair

M I N U T E S

Attendance

Board Members:

Dave Chenot (CSU Fullerton), Jeff Edleson-PI (UC Berkeley), Melinda Hohman (San Diego State), Amy Levin (CSU Northridge), Stuart Oppenheim (CFPIC), Siyon Rhee (CSU-LA), Virginia Rondero Hernandez (CSU Fresno), Jack Wall (SJSU), Evaon Wong-Kim (CSU East Bay)

Constituents:

Danna Fabella (CFPIC), David Foster (CSU, Fresno and Central & Bay Area Academies), Zoila Gordon (CSU San Bernardino), Michelle Rainer (SERVE & Humboldt State), Jennifer Tucker-Tatlow (San Diego State & Academy for Professional Excellence)

Staff:

Sevaughn Banks, Tenia Davis, Sandhya Rao Hermon, Susan Jacquet, Mary Twomey

I. Welcome and Introductions (Virginia Rondero Hernandez)

- Virginia Rondero Hernandez is the new chair of the R&D Committee. Amy Levin announced that it was decided by the Executive Committee that there would be no vice-chair.

Additions to the agenda:

- Amy Levin brought up CADD/CalSWEC Student Research. Discussion followed about the process. Because of the strategic planning process, which consumed the September Board meeting, there had been no discussion regarding the student research.

Discussion:

- Methods of disseminating the research:
 - Presentation to the Board
 - Showcase to counties
 - Webinar/Skype
 - Field Institute
 - Student Day

- BASSC
- Webinar
- The award amounts:
 - \$250 for each of the 10 finalists.
 - \$500 for each of the 5 final awards.

Action:

- It was decided that the Student Research RFP would be issued the week after the February Board meeting, and the dates for submission would be set for the end of March. The proposals will be reviewed by the end of April. The 10 finalists will be announced the first week of May, and the final project reports submitted in June. The following committee members agreed to review proposals: Sevaughn Banks, Jeff Edleson, Evaon Wong-Kim, Stuart Oppenheim, Virginia Rondero Hernandez, Amy Levin, David Chenot, Sandhya Hermon, and Susan Jacquet.
- Stuart mentioned that the R&D special projects are based on the Child Welfare Research Agenda which needs to be updated. He will bring the Research Agenda to the next meeting.
- Sandhya Hermon passed around the research funding handout that lists ideas for funding special R&D projects. She noted that the two County/University Partnerships are coming to an end, SJSU/Santa Clara County this year and UCLA/LA County in 2015-16. Moneys will become available for future partnerships. At the May 2014 R&D meeting it had been decided to support the workforce study and components of the workforce development model. It is not necessary to make any decisions at this meeting.

Discussion:

- Stuart asked whether the focus is for child welfare projects. Sandhya said yes, because of the funding.
- Virginia asked about the cycle for the partnerships. There is \$25K for the first six-month planning period, and \$75K for each of the following three years.

II. General Reactions to Morning Plenary

- There was a lengthy discussion regarding the strategic planning session. Jeff Edleson began by expressing disappointment that so much of the morning was spent on discussing hosting/auspice.
- It was thought that there would be more talk about goals, objectives, and mission and that CalSWEC's future hosting would be a separate discussion. It was expected that the Kiely group would present findings, but that did not happen. Neither were the opportunity and threats slides presented. Their methods were presented, but no results reported except for the findings from the CalSWEC staff retreat. The Kiely group noted that they were hearing that CalSWEC should remain as one entity, but no data were presented, which made it difficult to react.
- Reports from the three Initiative Committees blended reactions to the strategic planning session and initiative issues together. Much of the discussion concentrated on the overlap and integration of the three initiatives within the workforce and among the clients.

Child Welfare Committee

- There was discussion about revisiting the committee structure. The committees are compartmentalized and that committee wanted to integrate with other committees. Strategic planning is not just about CalSWEC Central but also about how the Board committees interact. Social workers are generalists and are addressing issues of poverty as a common denominator.

Aging Committee

- The discussion included the crossover between child welfare and aging in families where grandparents are caring for grandchildren in the child welfare system. In child welfare half the children are with relatives and 45% of those are grandparents. Agencies have set up units with workers who specialize in kin-care. Preparation of MSW students should be practice-oriented with a focus on the life-span. Courses could be added to the curriculum for kinship-care with an aging focus. Students should learn about all age groups and the entire lifespan. This is an opportunity to create aging curriculum and placements for students in crossover agencies. The question then arose regarding the possibility of allowing IV-E graduates to complete their work obligation by working with grandparents caring for kids. If agencies agree, graduates would work with families, not just the children. That would be a way for students to start gerontology work. After they complete their work obligation, they could switch to APS. Right now aging services is not a legitimate payback agency for IV-E grads.
- The Aging Committee also spent time on funding issues.

Mental Health Committee

- Mental health is now part of an interdisciplinary team with an integrated health and lifespan curriculum. The discussion of curriculum with the needs of agencies as a driving force is central to CalSWEC. The education of students should serve the whole person. The curriculum mission of CalSWEC may differ from that of the universities but needs to bridge the difference.

Other Discussion:

- Jeff Edleson reported that Berkeley recently implemented a data analysis/literacy requirement. Students need to consume and manipulate large amounts of data for decision making. Berkeley is working with the City & County of San Francisco, Seneca Cal-Child Welfare Leadership Training (Cal-CWLT) initiative, Sylvia Deporto, SF deputy director, and Jill Berrick, Berkeley faculty on a grant. They create data and identify weaknesses based on CSFR. He discussed the role of the R&D Committee to promote consuming and reporting data.
- Sevaughn Banks talked about the good work of “From Data ... to Outcomes” training for trainers. She worked with Terry Luna and Judy Rutan from the Central California Training Academy. The curriculum is intended to inform practice by emphasizing the value of data, specifically the CWS-CMS data.
- Michelle Rainer added that impact of IV-E training on outcomes is positive. Are outcomes for those exposed to Tribal issues (ICWA) better than those with no ICWA training? How are we partnering with Tribes?

III. Adjournment

- The meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m. Next meeting April 30 and May 1, 2015, in Los Angeles.