**Child Welfare Track Meeting CSWE APM 2010**

**Thursday, October 14, 2010**

**Child Welfare Federal Legislation and Funding**

**Joan Zlotnick—NASW**

* Powerpoint Joan developed will be distributed on the listserv.
* Alberta Ellett is getting a CSWE Award tonight after a distinguished career which is very much deserved.
* Policy Issues related to child welfare workforce currently
  + Children’s Defense Fund has a coalition that works on those issues. Stephanie Sprow (?) will add anyone to the listserve.
  + IVE training and education policy is glitchy and we have not been able to get this fixed legislatively.
  + In 1990s schools began to use IVE funding for child welfare education on a BSW and MSW level. The morning networking meeting at CSWE has become a full data meeting. Others have been involved in the issue—2000, 2005 Children’s Bureau had conferences; Casey through Cornerstone has developed an initiative; more research getting published now on this topic after overcoming some bias in getting this kind of publication accepted.
* Fostering Connections Act—to address racial disparities, build momentum in terms of permanency and post-permanency for children. Expanded IVE for training for relative guardians, private agency staff, GALs and other court personnel. Enhanced match, supports ability of staff to provide assistance to children with relative guardians. Is fosteringconnections.org with resources related to this legislation (Children’s Defense Fund also has resources on their website).
  + Some legislators feel the workforce provisions in Fostering Connections are enough—send Joan information on how this is being used so we can measure how states are using the funds, document challenges and needed improvements.
  + An ongoing gap is funding for child welfare research.
* Bill Senator Lincoln filed last Dec in follow up to what former Sen. Clinton had filed previously. It doesn’t really have cosponsors yet. Asks for national child welfare workforce study to look at staff characteristics, turnover, relationships to other professionals, supervision, training and competencies, connection to outcomes. Need to have the connection to outcomes. Second part of the Lincoln bill is about linking data to child and family outcomes, and connection to AFCARS, SACWIS, NCANs, etc. Third component is about steps to remove barriers to training for IVE and IVB. Would eliminate the connection to 1996 AFDC eligibility to establish rate. Also includes wide range of services including mental health and prevention, not just foster care. It would allow funds from Private non-profit universities to provide part of the share, not just public. Asks for national assessment of child welfare training. A lot of research raises questions about traditional classroom training. It would look at staff in training, impact on staff and children and families. Set of demonstration grant programs that would be connected to the needs assessment prioritizing what needed to be worked on. Competitive grants with planning year and then implementation of plan in three areas, assessing and providing what children and families need; securing more resources to support work such as recruitment or workload reduction, organizational environment; making sure strengthening of connections to communities and families in regards to cultural competence, family engagement.
  + Effort in Senate and House to make the national workforce study happen with or without the passage of the bill so we have more national data.
  + Commission would be in the National Academy of Science.
* A number of resources are available on the NASW socialworkpolicy.org site on workforce issues from a number of sources.
* Dorothy Height and Whitney Young Social Work Reinvestment Act hoping to be reintroduced with next Congress in January. Some similarities with Lincoln Act. Social Work Reinvestment Commission to look at the future of the profession. We have been talking at the HHS Secretary’s office at looking comprehensively at the social work workforce. Members of Congress have approached Sec. Sebilius about this as well.
* Terry Zenner Social Work Safety Act—Introduced March 2009 by Rep Dennis Moore from Kansas. Will need a new main sponsor with new Congress because Rep Moore is not seeking re-election. Establish grant program like GPS technology, self-defense, etc.
  + We Can Do Better Report is available—more children die from CA/N than in most other industrialized countries. There are a whole set of things related to this discussed in the report that should be considered.
* CAPTA needs to be reauthorized was re-introduced in September, and is supposed to be dealt with in the next session.
* Standing conversation regarding child welfare financing. (i.e. funded from back end not front end, etc.) There is a workgroup CDF and NASW and 15 organizations have a financing proposal submitted for last Congress.
  + Trying to influence Congress to “finish the job” started with Fostering Connections, build on Obama Administration’s interest in early intervention, helping kids succeed in schools.
  + Some belief waivers may be coming back to allow states to be involved in creative financing projects.
* Opportunities in Health Care Reform Act related to child welfare and social work: Health care extension to 26 years, elimination of pre-existing conditions, increased focus on community and school based health centers, eligibility for kids aging out of out-of-home care, outreach for Children’s Health Insurance Program.
* NASW is trying to highlight workforce issues on all fronts.
* Bryan Samuels, Commissioner ACF, very interested in evidence-based practice.
* Question: Bert Ellett—concern that push for child welfare to be shifted to nursing and law enforcements. Big push with nurse home visiting programs based on evidence-based projects. Nurse/Family Partnership program has only been tested with a limited population. We need to be a part of this conversation. A lot of press is being devoted to the wrong conversations.

**Child Welfare Information Gateway—Pam Day**

* The official Clearinghouse for the Children’s Bureau but we are much more than a clearinghouse.
* We work hard to strive to create a build a common source of information, tools and strategies for the field of child welfare
* Patricia Brinsfeld doing outreach to schools of social work to give demonstration of resources for faculty and students.
* Working closely with National Child Welfare Workforce Institute to ensure managers who participate in the leadership institute on the resources available on the Gateway.
* 100th Anniversary of the Children’s Bureau in 2012.
* Patricia Brinsfeld—this group has enabled the Gateway to get traction on doing face-to-face orientations at universities to what is available. Online learning center—educators’ toolkit, state managers’ series, new management and supervision section, state statute series has been updated, Child Welfare in the News is a daily email or RSS feed on news stories related to this field. This year added a lot of information on CB-funded discretionary grants. You can link to highlights from the TTA Network for what is happening in the NRCs and other members of the Network from the main page of the Gateway.

**CW Track Business Meeting 2010**

* In 2009 had participants from 42 states and 2 territories, so this is a good collaboration.
* CSWE has given the room and microphone at new charge.
* 64 abstracts submitted to the CW Track this year. Many people served as blind reviewers. The reviewers were acknowledged. Those who were highest scores (assuming 2 reviewers accepted them) were selected--CW Track Sessions: 23 papers, 10 posters, 1 skills workshop, 1 panel, 3 roundtables and 1 E poster.
* They have moved up the date for abstract submissions to 2/28/11. The number of papers we can select are based on the number of abstracts submitted.
* The IVE Partnership Listserv began by Sherill Clark and later shifted to Bert Ellett at UGA has 540 subscribers.
* Journal of Public Child Welfare is represented in the exhibit hall. Volumes 1-4 are done, working on 5(1). At business meeting a couple of years ago it was suggested a double issue be devoted to Advocacy, edited by Eileen Paztor and Barbara Tomlinson –the submissions were so good became a double issue. (Vol 5 (2 and 3) coming out in the spring.) Bert will become editor in chief in 2011 with 5 issues rather than 4.
* Peer Network facilitated by NCWWI. Did 3 webinars last year on topics of interest to this group. Asking for feedback on activities and topics they are interested in for next year, as well as for the activities in the meeting today.
* NYC consortium has developed case studies and teaching guide for use in child welfare education. This is called the “Real Cases Project”. Available on the website: <http://socialwork.adelphi.edu/realcases/>
* Monit Cheung maintains and updated matrix on IVE Stipend programs which is available on the University of Houston website, and she and Patrick Leung have created a resource on journals for submissions.
* Announcement: New CWLA textbook on racial disproportionality and how it has been effectively addressed, measurement, the current research on the topic, and ethics: *Challenging Racial Disproportionality in Child Welfare: Research, Policy, and Practice* edited by Deborah Gree, Kathleen Belanger, Ruth McRoy and Lloyd Bullard.
* Patricia Brinsfield on the CW Information Gateway: Thank you to the group for assistance in development of the Educator’s Toolkit. It has been officially launched about a month ago. Check out the Learning Center on the Gateway. They are able to do face-to-face visits to universities to present to faculty, typically when can combine with a conference or some other event. Also will do webinars with schools or groups of schools.
* The Children’s Bureau is planning for their Centennial Anniversary April 2012. Have created a Blue Ribbon Committee to begin planning for this. In 2012 CSWE APM will be in Washington DC. It may be possible to have a site where states can upload historical documents regarding the development of their own state’s history of child welfare. It is important to include alternate histories such as for Native American Tribes, African American children whose families were slaves, etc. When Title XX was blockgranted, many states had been using this Title XX funding for the child welfare system and when that happened significant damage occurred in many states to their systems, including loss of child welfare education in schools of social work. A great deal was lost, and the same thing could happen if IVE were blockgranted. Visibility of child welfare as a field is a large goal for the Centennial Celebration.
* Discussion regarding the Track Meeting for Next Year: The following suggestions were made:
  + Hold the three sessions in roundtable discussions.
  + Hold one plenary presentation and two roundtables
  + If there is a topic that many people are interested in, have an open sharing of participants in the large group
  + Have a “controlled burn”—sharing of individual concerns from states.
  + Would be good to have a roving microphone. But this needs to be paid for. Katherine Cahn found funding to pay for coffee this year. Perhaps the host program could work on finding funding to support some amenities to make the program better.
  + What about working lunch? Many people were interested in affinity group discussions over lunch with people being able to purchase a lunch. Might be good to have the affinity groups more organized rather than coming up with topics the day of the event.
  + Identification of roundtable topics (good to have a survey monkey process where people can suggest topics like Sharon did this year. NCWWI agreed to do this again. It was suggested that there be a summarization/reporting out at the end of the roundtables. It may be good to have fewer roundtables because some of the groups were small.
* CSWE has requested succession planning—they want a chair and co-chair who will serve for three years for the Child Welfare Track. Selection of symposium Co-Chair for APM 2011-2016, by acclamation, Crystal Collins-Camargo (who was nominated by Anita Barbee) was elected.
* Announcement—looking at how technology is being used in child welfare—Tracy LaLiberty at Minnesota is collecting information on this, so if people are interested, contact Tracy.
* There is an issue regarding people knowing about this meeting (when and where it is held etc.). Since you don’t pay for attendance it is harder to find. It is in the listing of meetings for the day but it is hard to find. CSWE puts out a call for Special Meeting. It may be that none of the other tracks get an all day meeting. CSWE does try to facilitate meetings of special groups, but there is a firm division between paid sessions and non-paid sessions. Can’t have free things competing with paid events. We do use the listserv to advertise the meeting.