

OFFICE OF THE DEAN

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Dear Colleague,

We invite you to participate in an exciting initiative being co-led by our two schools together with the CSWE Commission on Educational Policy. Faculty members Dr. Virginia Strand from Fordham University and Dr. Robert Abramovitz from Hunter College have been formally invited by CSWE to lead the effort to develop Advanced Year Practice Behaviors in the area of Trauma. They are working in collaboration with Alan Dettlaff, Ph.D. the Commission chair to begin the process of recruiting a work group. Acceptance of our invitation indicates your willingness to participate in the first meeting of the work group that we anticipate holding in mid-June at the CSWE office.

Drs. Strand and Abramovitz's involvement in this effort is a direct outgrowth of the activities of the National Center for Social Work Trauma Education and Workforce Development, which they co-direct. This SAMHSA funded program is part of the National Child Traumatic Stress Network (NCTSN). Their Center has developed two unique courses and an integrated field placement which prepares MSW students for trauma-informed, evidence based, culturally sensitive practice by moving community-based "on the job training" upstream into social work education. Implementation of their new "Upstream Model" began at Hunter and Fordham in 2009. Since then the following schools of social work have become implementation partners: Western Michigan, Simmons College, Michigan State, University of Maryland, and University of Houston.

The National Center's initiatives have led to the development of resources intended to support the success of this project to which CSWE was quite responsive:

- National survey data that provides information on which schools are currently emphasizing trauma specializations and/or specialized trauma coursework
- An empirical base for beginning the process of defining practice behaviors derived from an NCTSN project that is coding 26 evidence-based trauma treatment models to define common intervention goals and practice elements, as well as those that are unique to each treatment model
- Grant funds to support the work of the group

Past work groups have consisted primarily of deans and senior faculty, so we are reaching out to you along with other deans from schools of social work who have indicated in their survey response that

their school has either a trauma specialization or specialized course work in trauma. We are also seeking participants working on evidence-based practice and adult trauma work.

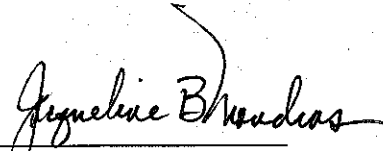
We hope that you will be interested in taking an active role in the development of the trauma practice behaviors.

We look forward to hearing from you and to working with you on this important initiative.

Sincerely,



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