

Enhancing Research Capacity and Infrastructure

IASWR

National Efforts to Foster Social Work Research

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What is IASWR?

- Created in 1993
- Responding to a declaration of a crisis in social work research (1991 Task Force on Social Work Research)
- 501 c-3 Independent Organization
- Supported by NASW, CSWE, NADD, BPD, GADE & SSWR



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Why IASWR?

- Attention to research fluctuates in the profession
- Separate entity to put a major focus for the profession
- Organization focused on being a facilitator, transmitter, translator, conduit, advocate -- connecting the social work profession with federal agencies funding research, especially the National Institutes of Health.
- Build the research infrastructure for the profession, especially in social work education programs at the BSW, MSW and doctoral levels.
- Represent the profession in the national, interdisciplinary scientific community.

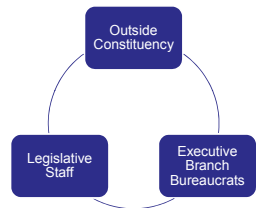


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Policy Context of Research Infrastructure Development

- Building strong and sustainable relationships.
 - With the executive branch
 - With the legislative branch
- Strengthening the iron triangle



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Making Things Happen

- Need capacity and interest of researchers
- Need national catalysts
 - Appropriations report language –
 - Supporting NIDA and NIMH centers
 - Suggesting social work research connecting to DOD, CDC, AHRQ and different institutes at NIH
 - Requesting a National Plan for Social Work Research (2003) (http://obsr.od.nih.gov/pdf/SWR_Report.pdf)
 - Legislation
 - National Center for Social Work Research Act (S.114) – introduced in each Congress since 1999.
 - Dorothy I. Height/Whitney Young Social Work Reinvestment Act
 - Minority Health and Health Disparities Legislation



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Making Things Happen

- Reports
 - *Enhancing Diversity in Science* (2008), www.cossa.org – supports researcher training
 - Nursing home, LGBT, public health (CDC), child welfare research partnerships
 - available at www.iaswresearch.org
- Collaborations
 - With other disciplines (COSSA, CAHT-BSSR, child maltreatment, Friends of NIDA, NIAAAA, NIA, NICHD)



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Making Things Happen

- At the table
 - CDC plan for cancer survivorship
 - OBSSR strategic plan
 - Advisory boards and workgroups
 - Social work researchers inside the agencies

Dilemmas

- No easy way to know who is funded:
 - Identify MSW degree
 - Identify affiliations with schools of social work
 - Non social workers in schools of social work
 - Social workers in other departments, centers, divisions not affiliated with social work.
- Can everyone be funded by NIH?
- Should everyone be funded by NIH?

What can you do?

- Send school's alumni newsletters and magazines to IASWR.
- Complete the form on the IASWR Website when you are funded.
- Keep IASWR informed of your research involvement with federal agencies.
- Highlight research findings
- Convene conferences and symposia
- Develop systematic reviews and state of the science reports related to psychosocial interventions.

Next Steps

- Outreach to new NIH Director and Office of Behavioral and Social Sciences Research Director
- Maintain contact with NIH Social Work Research Working Group
- Encourage implementation of recommendations.
 - Reissue SW Program Announcement
 - Track who is funded
 - SHOWCASE social work research at NIH.
- Encourage providing information to IASWR when funded.
- Promote social work representatives on advisory and review committees.
- Strengthen cross organizational collaborations.

Next Steps

- Say you are a social worker
- Get non-social workers to articulate contributions from social workers
- Continue to educate executive and legislative branches
- Invite members of Congress and Congressional staff to visit university-based research centers
- Identify TOP 10 social work research discoveries --
 - Return on Investment

For More Information

- Visit www.iaswresearch.org
- Subscribe to the IASWR listserv
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 - Leave subject line blank and type in message area:
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