

# Saskatchewan Association of Social Workers

Advisory Board Meeting - Minutes

February 5, 2010

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Present:

J. Walls	C. Bryant	L. Keach	V. Walton	D. Stewart	R. Pekrul
B. Tingley	J. Schenn	K. Englot	T. Seeley	M. Glettler	M. Flowers Evans
W. Miller	C. Valuck	M. Wotherspoon	C. McKenzie	S. Peterson	P. Wilson
R. Hazel					

Regrets:

H. Berg	J. Stocki	N. Novik	T. Woods	S. Luedtke	R. Schury
N. Ingethron	B. Douglas				

**1.0 Approval of Agenda**

Motion: Walton/Keach

That the agenda be accepted as presented. CARRIED.

**2.0 Adoption of Minutes**

Motion: Walton/Bryant

That the minutes of the October 23, 2009 meeting be adopted as circulated. CARRIED.

**3.0 Business Arising from Minutes**

**3.1 Orientation Options for Advisory Board Members**

- See attachment which was circulated with agenda.

- It was agreed that an orientation session for branch representatives would be held before the start of the September Advisory Board Meeting (9:00 a.m.). As well, it was felt that a branch to branch meeting to share ideas, social work week events, etc, would be held in January.

**3.2 Update on 2010 Provincial Conference**

- See hand-out which was circulated with agenda.

Most of the plans are in place for the 2010 conference to be held in Regina. The conference brochures/registration forms will be inserts into the newsletter package which is scheduled to go out the week of February 8<sup>th</sup>.

The Aboriginal Social Workers Task Team will be meeting with Cindy Blackstock the day before the conference (April 28<sup>th</sup>) for a reception/lunch. Ms. Blackstock will speak about professionalism.

**3.3 Social Work Week Posters**

Social Work Week in Saskatchewan will be celebrated March 21 - March 28, 2010. The theme for this year is "Social Workers Speaking Up: Poverty Costs". Posters have been circulated throughout the province.

There is a supply also available from the SASW Office. It was noted that Nova Scotia will be using the poster developed by SASW and inserting their logo, dates, etc. They were most appreciative of being able to use our poster.

**3.4 New Election Process Reminder**

- See attachment which was circulated with the agenda.

The deadline for submitting nominations is February 27, 2010. All nominations must be submitted on the nomination form which was developed by the Volunteer Development Committee.

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#### 4.0 Reports from Council/Committee Chairs/Branch Reps

##### 4.1 President's Report

- Jim Walls reported that he is pleased that the branches met in January to share ideas, etc. It was felt that the Association gains its strength from the branches which is really important provincially.
- Thanks was extended to the Volunteer Development Committee for their recruitment of members to serve on the various SASW committees which needed re-population.
- Nationally, it was noted that CASW has been in turmoil and that an operational review is currently taking place which will be presented to its board this spring/summer.
- At a meeting in Charlottetown in September 2009, representatives from all the social work organizations that have a regulatory function established the Canadian Council of Social Work Regulators. (CCSWR) While still in its infancy, the Council has embarked on a project to establish a set of social work competencies for entry level social workers in Canada.

##### 4.2 Executive Director's Report

Report was circulated at the meeting by R. Hazel and is attached to the minutes.

##### 4.3 CASW Representative Report

Report was circulated at the meeting by R. Pekrul and is attached to the minutes

##### 4.4 Reports from Treasurer

###### 4.1 Review of Balance Sheet at 2009-12-31

L. Keach reviewed the balance sheet which was circulated with the agenda.

###### 4.2 Review of Income Statement 2009-12-31

L. Keach reviewed the income statement which was circulated with the agenda.

###### 4.3 Review of 2010 budget

L. Keach reviewed the 2010 budget which was approved by Council on February 4, 2010. The 2010 budget was circulated at this meeting.

###### 4.4 Registration Fee Increase

L. Keach reviewed the 2011/2012 fee increase proposal which was circulated at the meeting & is attached to the minutes.

##### 4.5 Report from Registrar

See report which was prepared & presented by B. Tingley at the meeting. Report attached to the minutes.

##### 4.6 Report from Battlefords

No report submitted by Branch Representative, B. Douglas. J. Walls reported that the branch continues its ongoing promotion of the profession. As part of this promotion, the branch will be celebrating social work week and will awarding another Recognition Award to one of its members for their service to the community.

##### 4.7 Report from Regina Branch

C. McKenzie has been co-chairing the Regina Branch with Dani Goddard who is now on maternity leave.

Crystal reported that the branch is:

- hosting the 2010 conference
- attempting to recruit members to the Branch
- continues to hold lunch/learn sessions (six were held in 2009); one of the sessions the branch incorporated an elder from Child & Youth into the lunch/learn which was well received. It was suggested that future sessions should include the first nations perspective.
- branch will be holding its annual luncheon for social work week at the FN University
- branch continues to present to the UoR social work students.

4.8 Report from Student Award Committee

M. Glettler, chair, presented as follows:

- name changed from Scholarship Task Team to Student Award Committee
- contributions to the award are made to the South Sask Community Foundation for the award; donations are tax deductible
- Revisions were made to the policy, terms of reference and the application
- the balance in the fund as of September 2009 is \$8,400
- It is the committee goal to increase awareness of making contributions to the award through the newsletter, making a poster for distribution to branches, and at the AGM/provincial conference

4.9 Report from Education Committee

S. Luedtke unable to attend meeting but prepared a report which was circulated and presented at the meeting.

4.10 Report from Public Relations Committee

Chair unable to attend meeting. See attached report which was prepared by R. Schury and circulated at the meeting.

4.11 Report from Social Justice

K. Englot, chair, reported that over the past couple of years, the committee has tried to focus on two key areas - child welfare & poverty. By refining their focus to these two inter-related social policy areas has facilitated for SASW a sharpened and informed influence on these issues. The work over the past year has resulted in a number of significant achievements that have emerged as a result of several years of development and effort. The committee's explorations have led to a level of community engagement and energy that has aided in the development of partnership and collaboration.

The Social Justice Committee's attention to poverty has focused almost exclusively around the exploration and development of an anti-poverty strategy and much advancement in this regard has been achieved over the past year. In May, several members of the Social Justice Committee engaged with a provincial collaboration to initiate a plan to develop an anti-poverty strategy. Between May and December, this group has emerged with a structure, body of research and plan to carry the anti-poverty strategy work forward into the next year. SASW had a meaningful role in supporting the development of this collaborative capacity. A number of engaging conversations were held with both sides of the Legislature, as well as the Assistant Deputy Ministers of Social Services, representatives from the Department of Education, and the provincial coordinators of the Regional Intersectoral Committees from across the province. We have maintained and benefited from our ongoing partnership with SRNA, and they have representation present in many of the meetings and discussions that take place within our poverty work

Engagement with matters relating to services for children and youth has mainly been facilitated through a connection to the Saskatchewan Partnership for Children and Youth, as well as through representation to the CASW Children's Issues Committee. The Saskatchewan Partnership for Children and Youth has established over the past several years to support an improved child welfare response in Saskatchewan. This group has been productive in developing capacity and they are readying themselves to act as an advisory group to the Child Welfare Panel Review planned for 2010. This participation will include a review of the *Child and Family Services Act*. Additionally, several committee members have been working on developing a set of social policy principles to guide child and family service policy development, and to help inform SASW's response to existing and emerging policies. Last year, the committee established a similar set of policy principles titled *Social Work Principles to Guide Income Security Reform* and planning has begun to publish both these principles in a journal article form in 2010.

Finding ways to support the SASW to inform and influence social policy, with an effective social work voice, continues to be a topic of interest and challenge for our committee as the work is complex and developmental in nature. It is hoped that by focusing the committee's efforts, we can have a meaningful

role in shaping the social policy agenda in an effective way. It is our intention to continue to work on behalf of social workers, and the people and communities that social workers serve, to make a difference.

## 5.0 New Business

### 5.1 SASW Distinguished Service Award

Just a reminder that the deadline for submitting nominations for the award is March 15, 2010.

### 5.2 Selection Committee to Review SASW Distinguished Service Awards

Joanne Schenn, Tom Seeley, Carole Bryant and Richard Hazel agreed to review nominations. D. Fisher will forward nominations once the deadline has passed & will set-up the meeting date/time to review nominations.

### 5.3 Quality of Work Life Survey Report - Executive Summary

See report which was circulated with agenda.

The full report has been posted on the SASW website - under the "Council, Committee, Branch" tab. As well, the report has been highlighted in the February 2010 issue of the Saskatchewan Social Worker. R. Hazel indicated a willingness to respond to any requests from Branch to come and present the report. Branches were encouraged to review the report

### 5.4 MSW Practicum Report

See report which was prepared & circulated with agenda by K. Englot. Branches were encouraged to review this report at one of their local meetings.

### 5.5 Proposed Bylaw Changes for AGM

#### 5.5.1 Mandatory Continuing Education

See bylaw attached to the minutes which was circulated at the meeting.

Changes to this by-law will enable the Registrar to exercise more discretion for those members who cannot meet the requirement.

#### 5.5.2 Temporary Removal of Officers or Regulatory Committee Members

See bylaw which is attached to the minutes and which was circulated at the meeting.

This is a new bylaw which will ensure SASW has the ability to deal with conflicts and would underline SASW's obligation to be accountable and ethical.

#### 5.5.3 Proration of Fees/Application Fee

a) Fee proration - See bylaw change which is attached to the minutes and which was circulated at the meeting. The rationale for proposing the proration from three times per year to two times per year was to simplify the fee schedule.

b) Application Fee - It is proposed that this fee would be applied to new members making application. It was noted that there is increased work involved in processing a new membership application. Most other social work jurisdictions charge an application fee ranging in the area of \$50 to \$120. Discussion arose regarding this type of fee. It was concluded that members should be presented at the AGM with two options which include:

- what the fee increase would be if there was an application fee
- what the fee increase would be if there was not application fee

The proposed fee increase hand-out will be revised and will be presented this way at the AGM.

### 5.6 2011 Provincial Conference

Swift Current has been approached to host the 2011 conference. P. Wilson reported that their branch would be meeting on February 22<sup>nd</sup> and would have a decision after that date. If Swift Current is unable to take this task on then other branches will be approached.

5.7 SASW Office Winter Vacation Plans

D. Fisher will be away and the SASW Office will be closed from February 15 - March 2<sup>nd</sup> (inclusive). As ell, R. Hazel will be away from February 15<sup>th</sup> - March 11 (inclusive). During this vacation period, Bill Tingley will cover the office.

6.0 **Next Meeting**

The next meeting of Advisory Board will be held on Friday, June 14, 2010.

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Debb Fisher  
Office Administrator