

# Mental Health Stipend Program



**CALIFORNIA SOCIAL WORK  
EDUCATION CENTER  
(CALSWEC)**

**UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY  
SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WELFARE**

**2850 TELEGRAPH AVENUE, SUITE 215  
BERKELEY, CA**

# What is CalSWEC?



- **California Social Work Education Center (CalSWEC) formed in 1990**
- **Administered by the School of Social Welfare, University of California, Berkeley**
- **Consortium of 21 accredited schools of social work, county social services, county mental health, Tribal groups, NASW-CA, CDSS, and nonprofits.**

# What is CalSWEC – cont'd



- **Program goals**
  - Preparing a diverse group of social workers for careers in human services, with special emphasis on child welfare, mental health, and aging
  - Defining and operationalizing a continuum of social work education and training
  - Engaging in evaluation, research, and dissemination of best practices in social work

# History of Mental Health Program



- Started the mental health initiative in 2005
- Obtained funding from the California Department of Mental Health and then OSHPD
- Since 2005, 1,686 students have received stipends
- Last contract from OSHPD:
  - 21 participating schools
  - 196 stipends at \$18,500/stipend
- Program director: Gwen Foster, LCSW (now retired)

# W.E.T. Goals (2008-2013)



- **Develop sufficient qualified individuals for the public mental health workforce**
  - MHP awarded 545 stipends through contracts with DMH prior to adoption of first WET Plan. Since 2008, additional 1,141 students have received stipends
  - Students have had placements and graduates have chosen employment in 50 counties in California
  - Cohorts are ethnically and racially diverse
    - ✦ 53% Minority group members
    - ✦ 39% White/Caucasian
  - Majority (89%) have met one-year payback provisions through employment in a county-operated or contract behavioral health agency. Remainder has met the obligation monetarily.

# W.E.T. Goals (cont'd)



- Increase the quality and success of educating and training the public mental health workforce in the expressed values and practices envisioned by the MHSA
  - Core competencies are rooted in those required for accreditation by the Council on Social Work Education and are designed to address knowledge, skills, and abilities for employment in recovery-oriented systems of care
  - Continuous Quality Improvement study
    - ✦ Majority of faculty reported that graduates were prepared to enter careers in public mental health systems
    - ✦ Syllabus content analysis
      - 45 knowledge areas, skills, and abilities considered important for mental health professionals were validated in the survey of graduates, supervisors and faculty

# Stipend Program



- **FY14-17 cycle of State funding for mental health stipend program at CalSWEC**
  - Three-year contract
  - \$6,800,000 over three years (\$2,667,000 per year)
  - 147 stipends at \$18,500 per year
- **19 participating schools of social work in California (15 CSUs, 2 UCs, 2 private universities)**
- **Requirements**
  - Take requisite courses
  - Placements – minimum of 900 hours; exceeded with 1,118 hours
  - Graduation – within 6 months of target date
  - Employment
    - ✦ Full stipend = one calendar year
    - ✦ Partial stipend = six months of continuous and satisfactory employment

# Program Outcomes



- Too early for FY14-15; no students in this cohort have graduated yet
- Past outcomes (FY13-14 cohort):
  - Stipends awarded to 195 students and 192 graduated on time
  - Two students delayed graduation; two left the program (one stipend was awarded to another student; one student disqualified)
  - Students placed in 27 counties (42% in Southern California)
  - Ethnically diverse (38% white; 33% Hispanic/Latino; 11% Asian/PI; and 8% African American)
  - By end of 4<sup>th</sup> Qtr, 84% were employed (in 32 counties)

# Successes



- **Too early for Year 1 (FY14-15) in terms of student outcomes**
- **Strong support and interest from schools of social work**
- **Few students in past cohorts had to delay graduation and most of those who did graduated within 6 months of their original graduation date**
- **High rate of employment for the 2012-13 cohort is very similar to that of prior cohorts and reflects both the availability of jobs in public mental health systems of care and strong preparation of MHP students that make them competitive applicants.**

# Challenges



- **Budget concerns and cuts among publicly-funded universities**
- **Tight restrictions on the amount of administrative funds available and impact on university staffing and continuity**
- **Late start-up due to university administration concerns – payback and schools' liability**
- **Monitoring compliance after contract expiration without funding**

# Lessons Learned



- **Strong relationships between schools of social work and local public mental health agencies are essential for placements and employment success**
- **Ongoing communications and networking with project coordinators ensure successful programs and adoption of best practices**

# Recommendations for Program Enhancements



- Expand or continue funding of stipends in future years due to workforce demands for more trained social work behavioral health professionals
- Provide more adequate administrative funding to allow university monitoring and handling of student needs and obligations
- Greater clarity regarding the ability of schools to carry over unspent stipend and administrative funds to the following year
  - Amendment needed?
  - OSHPD and/or DGS approval?

# Questions?



# Contact Information



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