



Dear Fellows,

As we move into a new season and a new semester, I am excited to share recent webinars, research information and updates from our board. I encourage you to connect with us on the AASWSW website.

Gratefully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Mary M. McKay'.

Mary McKay, PhD
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Featured Webinars

**A Social Work
Perspective on
Immigration Reform
with Kerri Evans,
Luis H. Zayas, &
Lawrence Palinkas**



The need for immigration reform is compounded by a growing demand for political asylum, legal status for citizens, and better economic opportunities for refugees and immigrants seeking entry or currently living in the United States. In this webinar, AASWSW Fellows Luis H. Zayas and Lawrence Palinkas are joined by Kerri Evans, Assistant Professor at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County.

The trio examines the current debate on immigration reform, and what social work as a field can do to give voice to the disenfranchised and vulnerable as they navigate these systems.

**Confronting the Twin
Pandemics of COVID-
19 and Opioid
Overdose with
Stephanie Campbell
and Ron
Manderscheid**



As part of the Academy's efforts to bring awareness and discuss current issues, this webinar was a dialogue between the presenters - AASWSW Fellow Ron Manderscheid and Stephanie Campbell, director of the NYS Behavioral Health Ombudsman Program - regarding the health risk associated with the COVID-19 pandemic as it affects those afflicted with an opioid use disorder. The webinar focuses on peer support strategies implemented by public health practice. The speakers discussed the current treatment status for individuals affected by opioid use disorder and the value of including peer networks in any mental health support system.

Research Spotlight



From May to December 2021, the Academy participated as a partner organization in the National Research Agenda for Child Welfare project. During this period, our Fellows participated in a series of meetings to help shape the project's direction.

In August, a team created a series of listening sessions to gather feedback from individuals who work in child welfare to inform the national research agenda. The organizations targeted for participation in the listening sessions included AASWSW, CSWE, SSWR and others. The sessions were held via Zoom and were open to anyone who wanted to contribute to shaping the research agenda.

AASWSW was one of three national organizations organizing a set of listening sessions and we held 10 sessions and had over 50 participants across the sessions. After the sessions, the team from the Academy spent some time analyzing all of the data collected and produced a final report to the Casey Family Foundation for incorporation into the definitive research agenda. The steering committee responsible for the plan is working now on next steps as the research agenda moves toward action steps.

Academy News & Updates

New Fellows & Induction Ceremony

In January 2022, we inducted 16 new fellows into the Academy for Social Work and Social Welfare. You can see the official announcement for our new fellows here. As part of our celebration of our inductees, we hosted a virtual induction ceremony.



Board Member Changes

Three of our board members ended their terms last year. Join us in extending thanks to Sarah Gehlert, Larry Palinkas, John Tropman for their commitment and service to AASWSW. We welcomed three new board members: Michael Lindsay, Elizabeth Lightfoot, and Dexter Voisin, as part of this process. James Herbert Williams was re-elected and will continue as a treasurer chair for his next term.

Mentoring

As part of our efforts to help our Fellows grow their careers as social workers and social welfare professionals, we carried out another round of our mentoring program matching. The effort resulted in 38 new mentee-mentor matches. The next round of matching will happen later this year - if you or a colleague are interested in being a mentor or a mentee, keep an eye out for future announcements.



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