

FINAL Meeting Summary
Social Worker/Human Service Professional Series Meeting Series
Thursday, September 29, 2005, 2:00 – 4:30 p.m.
Department of Human Services' Conference Room 1 and 2, 2nd Floor
Liliuokalani Building, 1390 Miller Street

Present: Rachel Guay, Jackie Graessle, Sherri Higa, Wayne Iha, Patricia Johnson, Clayton Kitamori, Beverly Koito, Eric Kuniyoshi, Deborah Dean, Bonnie Lee, Daeleen Liu, Jeanette Mastumoto, Wendell Murakawa, Nora Nomura, Sharon Otagaki, Debbie Shimizu, Kevin Shiraishi, Carleton Taketa, Patti Taketa, Alton Tamashiro, Waylen Toma, Amy Tsark, Lori Yasutake, and Dawn Young

Facilitation Team: Sally Ho and Elizabeth Kent

Welcome and Introductions

Elizabeth Kent welcomed attendees to the meeting, and thanked them for their attendance. The draft agenda was reviewed and accepted. The September 15, 2005 meeting summary was reviewed and finalized with an amendment to clarify that UH has accredited BSW and MSW programs. The MSW program has stipends (both the BSW and MSW programs have internships and practicums). UH also has a PhD program. The finalized version is attached (Attachment A).

Specifications Subcommittee

Dawn Young reviewed and explained changes in the updated specifications (Attachment B). An issue was raised about the definition of the word “professional” and its use in the Specifications. The group agreed that the term could have different definitions depending on the context. Specifications will be finalized by the end of the month, and become effective October 17, 2005.

Transactions Subcommittee

Dawn presented the subcommittee’s recommendations on the SW/HSP Transactions Matrix. (Attachment C). The subcommittee tried to be very flexible in addressing who could retain the social worker title, at the same time making it clear from an administrative perspective when a person could/could not retain the social worker title. The group agreed with Transaction Matrix as proposed by the subcommittee.

Dawn also presented the draft letter to employees regarding their allocation to the social worker or human service professional series as of October 17, 2005. (Attachment D). The suggestion was made that the 4th bullet of the letter be rephrased to indicate that employees will be reallocated to the HSP series effective October 17, 2005, and if they have submitted appropriate verification of a social work degree by October 31, 2005, they will be reallocated to the SW series. Dawn asked that suggestions about the letter be sent to her no later than October 3. The target date for the letter to go out is October 10. Concern was expressed that all departments had not yet sent out the first employee letter.

The group acknowledged the subcommittee’s hard work.

Other Items from List of Important Issues

Access to Education. The question was raised whether the group could get information on how many current social workers/human service professionals would be interested in pursuing a social work degree. The group estimated there were roughly 1000 SW/HSPs statewide, and that perhaps 400-450 have their social work degrees. The group concluded that a survey of those remaining is the appropriate vehicle for determining who is interested and committed to pursuing an MSW. The suggestion was made that the survey should include demographic information so that interest could be determined island by island, recognizing that those on the neighbor islands may have the most difficult time completing a social work degree. Jackie Graessle stated that UH has a distance-learning MSW program slated to start in 2007, although some classes may start as early as 2006. All islands will have on-line classes, although some classes will have to be face-to-face. Jackie volunteered to do an initial draft of the survey, with the goal of disseminating it to the group (via email) before the next meeting so that the survey may be finalized by the next meeting on October 12, 2005.

Avoiding discord between SW and HSP series. The group agreed that the issue of supervision was addressed via the class specifications. The group also agreed to discuss this issue at the October 12th meeting.

Two tier system/supervision of each group. The group agreed to discuss this issue at the October 12th meeting.

Retention/upward mobility opportunities. The group agreed to discuss this issue at the October 12th meeting.

Scope of Report. There was some discussion about the scope of the meeting series in relation to the requirements of the resolution, and whether some of the remaining issues are inside or outside the scope of the resolution. One question to consider is whether the report should be aspirational, to serve as a vehicle to bring issues about the future of social workers to the Legislature's attention, even though the solutions cannot be worked out in the time remaining before submission of the report to the Legislature.

Next Steps

- **All members should** send agenda items to Elizabeth or Jen by Friday, October 7th.
- **All members should** send email comments to Dawn by October 3rd regarding the letter to employees.
- **Jackie Graessle** will draft a survey to elicit information regarding commitment to an education in social work, and will email it to the group before the October 12th meeting.
- **DHRD will** provide a timeline for completion of the report to the Legislature.
- **All members should** come to the October 12th meeting prepared to discuss:
 - SW/HSP survey
 - 2-tier system/supervision of each group
 - Avoiding discord between SWs and HSPs
 - Licensure

- Possibility of postponing other issues of interest to the group that will not be resolved within the timeframe allotted for the report, and that may require the inclusion of other stakeholders.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be 2:00- 4:30 pm, **Wednesday, October 12, 2005, at the Supreme Court Conference Room, Aliiolani Hale, 417 S. King Street.**

Meetings are scheduled 2:00 - 4:30 p.m. on:

October 27, 2005, in the HRD Conference Room on the 14th floor

November 17, 2005, in the Supreme Court Conference Room