

**NH School Social Workers Association
Agenda for December 10, 2014**

NH DOE
Londergan Building, Room 12
State Office Park, 101 Pleasant Street, Concord NH

Board of Directors and General Membership/Collaborative Meeting

- I. NHSSWA Board of Directors meeting: 2:30-3:30**
Bernadette Pelczar, Frances Strayer, Elin Pelland, Cortney Porter, Kristina Lind
Absent: Jocelyn Jerry-Wolcott, Cynthia Collea, Jayne Ludwig

II. Business

A. Approval of minutes from September meeting.

B. NHSSWA short-term and long-term planning.

Over many meetings we have discussed the mission of NHSSW. Do we just want to be a support/collaborative group or do we want to be a leader in school social work in NH and be a more activist group. Because NH has no history of school social workers and our membership is employed in many different capacities in a school setting it has been hard to identify what our needs are and where we want to go. Kristina Lind, a Social Work Professor at PSU joined us to brainstorm with us about some possible directions for us to go. It is clear that there is a need to define school social work and to educate people at all levels as to what school social workers do.

There was discussion about looking at thorough needs assessment around mental health needs of NH school children. What are the practical day-to-day issues of students that social workers address? Need reliable data to advocate for having social work in schools.

More discussion followed of the need to become more visible in the communities and in the state by offering education and information. Write articles for peer review journals.

We talked of a needs assessment of our membership. This could tell us what school social workers are doing in this diverse state. What do they feel their areas of expertise are, what do they offer their districts. Look at the core skills that come out of this survey and then develop a guide of how to use social workers that would be unified for the whole state. Conduct focus groups around the state with a clear set of questions. (Such as- what is your area of expertise? ethics in the school, working with parents, a particular curriculum and what do you see that you want to be involved with?) What are you actually doing and what do you think you should be doing that you are not doing

Kristina is willing to create a focus group format for March meeting that we will further develop for the May meeting. We will need to look at our membership about who wants to be trained to take on which geographical area in May. She will

come at 3:00 on March 12. If people want to come at 3:00 to be a part of this discussion they are invited.

As we think about how to do these focus groups it is difficult to find out who is a social worker. We will need to reach out individual to individual- maybe with calls to find out who else is working in the district or area.

Social workers have a particular skill set that they don't always speak up about.

C. Announcements/discussion relating to Board

III. **NHSSWA Collaborative Hours: 3:30-5:00**

Bernadette Pelczar, Elin Pelland, Frances Strayer, Courtney Porter, Kristina Lind, Pauline Laliberte, Anne Marie Allwine, Jen Sumner, Laurie Ekberg, Maria Easton

A. Welcome and Introductions

B. Announcements/Resources

Discussion about certification for school social workers. On the DOE website there is a sample assessment for school social workers. Currently you need a Masters and then you need to be compliant with the DOE format for 3 year goals and recertification plan.

C. Case Review/Peer Collaboration

D. Any other business

Franklin is looking for 2 social workers for the coming year as part of the SAMSHA grant. Contact jsumner@sau18.org

Pauline Laliberte is retiring from Bow in June and they will be hiring.

Courtney Porter has a peer in the MSW program who is looking for internship with a School Social Worker for her 2nd field placement Aug. 2015-May 2016 in the Nashua/Litchfield area.

IV. **Meeting Dates for 2014-2015**

Board meetings are 2:30-3:30. General Meetings are 3:30-5:00

September 25, 2014	Thursday	2:30-5:00	
December 10, 2014	Wednesday	2:30-5:00	
March 12, 2015	Thursday	2:30-5:00	
May 13, 2015	Wednesday	2:30-5:00	Annual Meeting