

# CalSWEC Mental Health Stipend Program

Curriculum Implementation

2005-2006

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# The Mental Health Competency Curriculum

- Developed in 2003-2005
- Participants
  - CalSWEC MH Initiative Committee
  - California Mental Health Directors Association
  - National Association of Social Workers
  - California Society for Clinical Social Work
  - Consumer and Family Groups



# Mental Health Competencies

- Foundation and Advanced/Specialization
- Curriculum Areas
  1. Cultural and Linguistic Competency
  2. Foundation and Advanced Practice
  3. Human Behavior and the Social Environment and/or Mental Health Environment
  4. Workplace Management
  5. Policy, Planning and Administration



# Curriculum Implementation

- 17 Schools of Social Work in California
- 7 (41%) with MH Specialization
- 10 (59%) with no MH specialization
- All schools have appointed a MH Stipend Coordinator for the program.
- All schools have implemented the mental health curriculum for MH Stipend students during the 2005-2006 academic year.



# Strategies for Implementation

- Work with school Curriculum Committee
- Development of specialized seminar
- Infusion of MH Competencies throughout MSW Curriculum Offerings
- Development of specialized elective
- Involving Consumers/Families in Curriculum Development and Delivery
- Meetings with students, local MH Directors, agency based field instructors and other relevant stakeholders



# Other Curriculum Issues

- Inclusion of Evidence Based/Promising Practice Models
- Development of tools to evaluate the implementation effort
- Development of specialized and innovative field placement units
- Identification of training needs for faculty and agency based field instructors



# Innovative Programs

- Websites for individual schools
- Research Projects
- Regional collaboration with county Mental Health agencies
- Collaboration with agencies in curriculum delivery
- Development of a specialized unit focusing on Evidence Based/Promising practices



# MH Initiative Support Activities

- CalSWEC web page – MH Initiative  
<http://calswec.berkeley.edu>
- 66 Mental Health syllabi posted on website
- LLU Website under development to provide access to curriculum materials
- Technical assistance with regional meetings between county MH and schools
- Training Seminars under development



# 2005-2006 Student Statistics

- 171 full-time MSW stipend students
- Residence in 25 counties
- 89% employed by county mental health agencies or contracted CBO
- Remaining students are completing degree requirements and/or finalizing job search activities



# 2006-2007 Student Statistics

- 188 full-time MH Stipend students
- 54% of student represent ethnic minority populations
- Students expected to graduate and begin employment job search Spring 2007



# Employment Issues

- Procedure to obtain registration with BBS to receive intern numbers
- Hiring freezes in county MH agencies
- Employment process and acknowledgement of MH curriculum and training for MH Stipend students
- Difficulty identifying county contract agencies
- Time delay in receiving actual MSW diploma from school



# Employment Issues

- Recognition of MH Stipend students' knowledge of recovery and MHSA focus
- 120 day timeline for finalizing employment
- Getting on county mental health/behavioral health hiring lists
- Response time to applications
- Complex hiring process for county MH; less complex process for contract CBO's



# Employment Strategies

- Expedite process to obtain intern numbers with BBS
- County agencies to develop list of contract agencies that qualify for employment payback
- Develop a list of county contact persons and/or lead persons for MH Stipend students employment questions



# Employment Strategies

- Develop of a statewide web page with MHSA job openings
- Develop process for early interest in county MH positions
- Agency Recruitment Fairs
- University Job Fairs
- Increase collaboration around employment needs and related activities

