



Washington State Society for
Clinical Social Work
Identity • Integrity • Diversity

August 19, 2020 Board Meeting

Present (via Zoom): Nathaniel Amos, Chris Garrido-Philp, Katie Price, Betsy Strewler, Vickie Yang, Julie Hemminger, Ross Artwohl

Absent: Brenda Bible, Salomé Valencia-Bohné, Nidhi Berry, Lara Okoloko, Aimee Roos (ex-officio)

Introductions and Welcome:

- What informs your understanding of social justice work broadly and anti-racist work specifically? Bring a book, an article, a thinker, a movie, etc. that is currently informing your take on social justice/anti-racist work.
 - The board is influenced and anchored in thinking by: Zora Neale Hurston, Toni Morrison, Jane Eliot, Adrienne Maree Brown (Emergent Strategy, Pleasure Activism, new podcast on Octavia Butler's The Parable of the Sower, Prentis Hill's new podcast "Finding our Way", James Baldwin, Michelle Alexander's "The New Jim Crow", Leticia Nieto (!), Combahee River Collective Statement, The Social Worker's podcast episode on Black Lives Matter movement and social workers' roles in systems, Resmaa Menakem, bell hooks, Sarah Hunt's writing on sex work decriminalization, Vicky Reynolds, Ibram Xendi, Coleman Hughes, John McWhorter

Discussion on Continuing Anti-racist Work within our Organization:

- Set-up:
 - Defining safety in a way that decenters white comfort
 - Accountability note for white folks present
 - Reckoning with WSSCSW identity as a predominantly white organization, white supremacist in origin and in action, within a history of social work that is deeply embedded in white supremacy
- Deliverables:
 1. Public-facing Statements: what sources should we use to shape our understandings and knowledge base? What's our process for developing these statements?
 - a. Consensus: Statements organization makes need to be rooted in the lived experiences of BIPOC and oppressed people and communities,
 - i. Includes experiences of our client populations and social workers: "Nothing about us without us"
 - b. Working to decenter traditional news sources, with long histories of rootedness in white supremacy and corporate interests, from our understandings
 2. Becoming transparent about our commitment to operating from an ethic of antiracism and anti-oppression
 - a. Transparency includes internally with the membership and externally, with other orgs. and public understandings



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-if we wait to build consensus, we may stagnate

-accountability to the membership, so they know what they're part of

-we need process

-homework:

-have everyone look at Inclusivity Chair and send comments/suggestions back to Vickie/Nathaniel

-adding intersectionality, antiracism, white supremacy in vetting role for PD speakers

-how they would manage questions about anti-racism and field those so as not to get away from

-structural support for compensating appropriately

-Leticia Nieto's training has reached 40 sign-ups and become profitable!

-Melissa Wood-Brewster's petition for requiring CEs for Cultural Competency for license renewal

-make an appeal to the licensing board

1. Reviewing what information is necessary in making public facing statements and guiding our legislative agenda.
2. Reviewing projects that the organization is involved in to continue anti-racist work.

Next full board meeting: Wednesday, September 16th, 2020 7-9pm (via Zoom)

Next Executive Meeting (President, Past President / President-Elect, Secretary, Treasurer): virtually, one evening in August, TBA

Respectfully submitted,
Betsy Strewler