

Collaborative Learning Opportunities to Foster Workforce Development in the Field of Aging

Better Together
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Overview

- Background information about collaborative learning opportunities at the University of St. Thomas, MSW Program
 - Integrated Behavioral Health Care (IBHC)
 - Area of Emphasis in Aging (AEA)
- Student Panel
- Audience Q & A

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Current Challenges in the Health Care System

- In 2010, 5.6–8.0 million adults aged 65+ had one or more mental or substance use conditions (IOM, 2012).
- Siloed systems of care, access barriers, stigma, and a lack of culturally relevant services contribute to unmet behavioral health needs
 - Magnified for people with limited English proficiency and in rural settings
- Nearly half of older adults receive mental health treatment from their primary care providers (AAGP, 1994)
- Specialized workforce training programs are needed that respond to the needs of an aging and increasingly diverse US population

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Opportunities

- Integrating behavioral health into primary care has been shown to improve communication between primary care clinicians and mental health specialists, reduce stigma, improve care coordination, and improve health symptoms (depression, anxiety, alcohol problems) (Gallo et al., 2004)
- Social workers trained in “person in environment” theory and person-centered care, who are committed to social justice on all system levels, play important roles in integrated behavioral healthcare teams working with medically underserved communities



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Integrated Behavioral Health Care (IBHC) Training Program

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Background

- \$1.9 million Behavioral Health Workforce Education and Training (BHWET) grant awarded from the U.S. Health Resources & Services Administration (HRSA)
- Four-year grant period began July 1, 2021
- Provides **\$10,000** stipends for at least **29 MSW** students in **clinical** field placements each year - about \$1.2 million in stipends
- Integrated behavioral health care (IBHC) = social work + 1 other health profession

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Behavioral Health Workforce Education and Training (BHWET) Program

The **purpose** of the BHWET program is to:

- Increase access to quality integrated behavioral health services in high need and high demand areas
- Expand training opportunities in integrated, interdisciplinary behavioral and primary care settings that utilize team-based models of care
- Recruit a workforce that reflects historically excluded groups and reduce financial barriers to higher education (\$10,000 stipend)
- **Integrated behavioral health care** = social work + 1 other health discipline

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IBHC Training Program Components

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Experiential	Coursework	Other Supports
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clinical field placement in an IBHC-approved site serving medically underserved communities IBHC Speaker Series (5 Friday evenings) Simulation learning opportunity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> IBHC-focused Clinical Field Seminar courses (GRSW 607 & 608) Clinical Practice in Integrated Behavioral Healthcare Settings (GRSW 629) elective Online Training in Ethics of Telemental Health (*3 hours) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Licensure prep Post-graduation employment Connect to HRSA loan repayment programs Access to other trainings and resources

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Area of Emphasis in Aging (AEA)

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The AEA Scholars program was piloted through a generous grant from the Council on Social Work Education Gero-Ed Center Specialized Gerontology Program and is sustained through support from the School of Social Work.

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❖ Develop their skills and deepen their understanding of the context and unique needs of older adults and their families

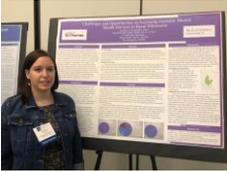
Building Knowledge

- Clinical Practice with Older Adults
- Grief Counseling and Therapy
- Clinical Social Work Practice in Integrative Health Care

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- Focus a variety of their course assignments on topics related to older adults and their families
- Build professional portfolios by taking part in research opportunities within the university and at conferences

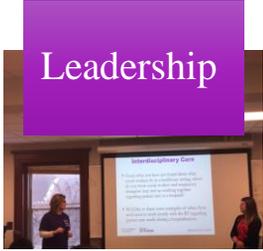



Research

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- Advisory council
- Guide group service and academic projects
- Represent gero-social work practice on campus and in the community

Leadership

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- Community partners
- Alumni/ae
- Students and faculty




Networking & Collaboration

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Practice

Hands-on experience working with older adults and their families applying social work values, knowledge, and skills during their field practicum(s)

Mentorship

Assessing scholarships, résumé building, career exploration and guidance, and opportunities for continuing education



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How We're "Better Together"

- University & Community partnerships
 - Organization example- Minnesota Gerontological Society
 - Field Education placements
 - IPE simulation training
 - IBHC Speaker Series
 - Field Instructor Training (FITs)
 - Careers in Aging events
- School of Social Work & Nursing
- BHWET Region 5 Consortium
 - Lunch & Learns
 - Annual Symposium
- IBHC & AEA
- Graduates in action: creating an interprofessional network of Latinx providers

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Student Panel

Amy Dircks (IBHC & AEA)

Lynda Felver (IBHC)

Lydia Nelson (IBHC)

Gabrielle Steinhoff (IBHC)

Kim Tran (IBHC & AEA)

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Panel Discussion

- Tell us about an opportunity you've had in your current practicum placement to provide integrated care to older adults and their families. How did this collaboration improve whole person health care?
- What challenges have you faced related to providing integrated behavioral health care to older adults?
- How have these training programs shaped your future practice plans in the field of aging?
- If you had a magic wand that could change the profession to improve wellbeing for older adults from a "better together" perspective - what would this look like?

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Audience Q & A

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Thank you!

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References

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- Institute of Medicine. The mental health and substance use workforce for older adults: in whose hands? Washington (DC): National Academies Press; 2012
- Ogbeide, S., Stermensky II, G., & Rolin, S. (2016). Integrated primary care behavioral health for the rural older adult. Practice Innovations, 1(3), 145.

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