

SOCIOLOGICAL PRACTICE COMMITTEE

2:45 – 4:15 PM
Hilton, Golda Meir, 5th Floor
Milwaukee, WI

Members attending: Janis Johnston, Chair, Priya Dua Incoming Chair, Raeda Anderson, Jared Hanneman, and Asha Lal Tamang

Members not in attendance: Ehren Stover-Wright, Ahmadu Baba-Singhri, Melissa Barfield

Guest
MSS President Marlynn May

Marlynn met with the committee to talk about the program for next year's MSS meeting. We talked about the process of submitting papers for the meeting and other ideas for the meeting.

As part of talking about the next meeting, the committee discussed the potential of creating a social action certificate, doing some kind of social practice field trip and then having some kind of a debrief after the trip to talk about what was learned.

We also talked about social media and using that as a way to communicate with members. Among the ideas are to work on developing a webinar and to reach out to practitioners via social media with a focus on our membership as audience, but we could provide an avenue for allowing practitioners to participate.

The committee identified some strategic objectives the committee would like to think about, including career development sessions and the potential to develop some type of continuous learning certificate. And developing training/certificate ideas for professionals who work in marriage and family therapy, and sessions for graduate students who want to go into an applied field.

The committee talked about the current program, which is very focused on teaching and discussed ways to be more involved in developing sessions with attention to sociological practice. There was some consideration about reaching out to different associations, and perhaps developing sessions for next year's meeting, e.g., a panel that talks about the transition from grad school to professional, something focused on grant writing, and program assessment/evaluation. The committee will "meet" outside the regular meeting period to see if we can come up with sessions for next year and commit to being on the panel.

Another idea was to see about the potential to have an extended workshop where participants would learn different sociological practice techniques and would earn a certificate of completion.

The chair asked for suggestions for new committee members, and the committee talked about difficulties practitioners have attending conferences, specifically, that they generally have to take vacation days and pay all of the expenses of the meeting, travel, etc. Ideas included seeing if there might be a way to offer incentives, like free or reduced-price registration, scholarship for travel, etc. This would be particularly important for young professionals who would like to stay active in MSS.