



Workshop Abstracts

NACSW Convention 2020

Reston, Virginia
November 5-8, 2020

Convention 2020 Onsite Workshop Abstracts

The following presents a preliminary listing of workshops that will be presented onsite at NACSW's Convention 2020 in Reston, Virginia. The workshop sessions are sorted alphabetically by presenters' last names.

<Please note that views expressed by workshop presenters are entirely their own and do not necessarily reflect those of NACSW. Being selected to present a workshop at this convention in no way implies NACSW's endorsement or certification of a presenters' qualifications, ability, or proficiency to practice social work or integrate faith and social work.>

Workshop Title: Integral Human Development in Christian Social Work Practice

Workshop Presenters: Jean Beil, MSW, LCSW

Workshop Abstract: Integral Human Development, the development of each person and of the whole person, centers on the idea that the dignity of the person is expressed not only in work, but also in cultural richness, artistic creativity, and spiritual practice. IHD correlates with strengths-based case management, particularly for poverty reduction programming.

Workshop Title: Serving While Black: Reflections of African American NACSW Leaders

Workshop Presenters: Kesslyn Brade Stennis, MSW, MDiv, PhD, Linda Darrell MSW, LCSW-C, PhD, Tanya Smith Brice

Workshop Abstract: The presentation will feature former and current African American NACSW board members who will share their unique perspectives and experiences related to safety and belonging within NACSW. NACSW membership attraction, diversity and inclusion efforts, best practices and recommendations related to African American membership will be discussed.

Workshop Title: Afrocentric Transitional Leadership: Preparing Domestic Violence Advocates

Workshop Presenters: Kesslyn Brade Stennis, MSW, MDiv, PhD, Cheryl Chavers MS
Helen Fischle

Workshop Abstract: Rates of domestic violence (DV) are disproportionately higher in African American communities (CDC, 2019). While currently being addressed, little is known about how DV advocates are preparing emerging DV advocates. This presentation will discuss how Afrocentric transitional leadership strategies prepared emerging DV advocates of color.

Workshop Title: Tamar, My Sister: Biblical Principles for Healing from Sexual Trauma

Workshop Presenters: Pamela Bridgeman, LCSW, MAC

Workshop Abstract: With the biblical account of the rape of King David's daughter Tamar by her half brother Amnon as a backdrop, this session will explore how to reconcile the dissonance between faith and the experience of sexual trauma.

Workshop Title: Living on the Fringes: A Study of LGBTQ+ Students Sense of Belonging

Workshop Presenters: Elizabeth Burton, Student Katti Sneed PhD, LCSW, MSW, LCAC

Workshop Abstract: Living on the Fringes investigated the lived experiences of students who identify as a part of the LGBTQ+ community on a Christian campus. This workshop provides the learner with the opportunity to interact with perspectives beyond themselves by engaging in conversation and gaining knowledge that can be applied in professional or personal setting.

Workshop Title: Social Work Student Perspectives: Integration of Racial & Faith Identities

Workshop Presenters: Rebecca Coleman, DSW, MSW, LCSW

Workshop Abstract: This session reviews the assumptions of Critical Race Theory (CRT) and offers a multidimensional CRT framework for empowering social work students to integrate their racial, ethnic, and faith identities. MSW students of color and faith offer their stories about integrating social identities.

Workshop Title: The Assignment: Teaching Competencies, Scripture, and Service Learning

Workshop Presenters: Cynthia Colyer, MSW, CSW

Workshop Abstract: This workshop will demonstrate how to develop faith based assignments that highlight CSWE core competencies using the Bible and service learning. The presenter will share how the intentional use of core competencies, scripture, and service learning within an online assignment can produce a life changing experience.

Workshop Title: All Aboard: Exploring International Travel and HBCU Graduate Students

Workshop Presenters: Nicole Darden, MSW Shana Edwards LICSW

Workshop Abstract: The benefits of international travel positively impact one's development. However, there is limited literature on how these experiences impact personal religiosity and spirituality, perspectives of social work practice and professional identity for HBCU graduate students. This presentation will utilize stories and pictures to consider this issue.

Workshop Title: Self-Care for Social Workers: Nurturing the Mind, Body, and Spirit

Workshop Presenters: Kim Downing, PhD, LCSW, ACSW Melody Brackett PhD
Deborah Riddick

Workshop Abstract: It is common for social workers and other health professionals to experience burnout, vicarious trauma, and compassion fatigue at an alarming rate. Participants will learn practical strategies and be equipped with tools to address overall well-being and the three dimensions of self-care (e.g. mind, body, and spirit).

Workshop Title: "I think it has helped my faith": Parental Faith Journeys Post-Coming Out

Workshop Presenters: Rene Drumm, PhD, MSW Curtis VanderWaal PhD MSW
David Sedlacek

Workshop Abstract: This workshop explores the faith journeys of Seventh-day Adventist parents of millennial-age LGBTQ+ children who came out within the past 10 years. Using data from a mixed-methods study, this workshop offers vital information to Christian social workers on how to best support Christian parents during this time of crisis.

Workshop Title: Religious Affiliation, Professional Identity, & Collegial Relationships

Workshop Presenters: Sheri Duffy, MSW, LCSW, DSW Student

Workshop Abstract: Historically, religion and faith impacted the social work field, but as secularization of the profession increased, it appears there has been diminished attention toward religion and faith. As such, it is critical the profession understand the importance of social workers' professional and personal identities concerning religious affiliation.

Workshop Title: Building a Culture of Compassion in Professional Social Work Settings

Workshop Presenters: Joshua Englefield, LISW, MSSA

Workshop Abstract: The presentation will include findings from the presenter's grounded theory study which sought to discover "the extent to which a culture of compassion exists within professional social work settings". Could a compassionate agency culture decrease burnout rates? Over 25 social workers were interviewed for this study in the state of Ohio.

Workshop Title: Jesus and Dissociation

Workshop Presenters: Paul Felker, PhD

Workshop Abstract: Dissociation is an innate, God-breathed capacity in all people. Dissociation is a tuning out of external stimuli. Dissociation can be used as a lens to interpret the somewhat challenging verse in Matthew 15:23 when the Canaanite woman asked Jesus to heal her daughter and it says "Jesus did not answer her a word." Dissociation enhances relationships

Workshop Title: Faith, Perseverance, and Violence Avoidance in Urban Racial Minority Youth

Workshop Presenters: Patiya Freely, MSW

Workshop Abstract: Recently, homicide has become the third leading cause of death in America for people aged 10-24. This presentation will consider the role of faith as a variable for youth perseverance, despite direct and/or indirect exposure to violence. It will also discuss some methodological challenges associated with conducting this much-needed research.

Workshop Title: A Guide to Spatial Analysis and Community Data for Social Workers

Workshop Presenters: Wesley Furlong, MSW, PhD Student

Workshop Abstract: How can social workers access, map, and apply important community-level data in their work? And how can these data connect with internal administrative data? In this session, we will introduce easily accessible methods for conducting applied spatial analysis in community-level social work.

Workshop Title: Social Work Practice: Religious Diversity As It relates to Death and Grief

Workshop Presenters: Angela Gaddis, PhD, LCSW

Workshop Abstract: Social workers often confront helping individuals cope with death and grief; yet often do not have a respectful knowledge of the individual's religious practices surrounding this event. The complexity of our diverse society makes this even more challenging. This presentation will offer concepts and rituals held by major religions in our society.

Workshop Title: Adventist Politics, Social issues and Lessons from a Voter Campaign

Workshop Presenters: John Gavin, MSW

Workshop Abstract: This workshop presents the findings from several major demographic studies and survey research about Adventist political participation and positions on social issues, with lessons learned from “Adventists Vote” - a 2020 voter engagement campaign and implications and application for Christian Social Workers and denominational practice.

Workshop Title: Autism Spectrum Disorder: Uncovering the Mystery Unlocking the Potential

Workshop Presenters: Lori Goss-Reaves, DSW, LCSW, MSW

Workshop Abstract: The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention report that 1 in 59 children are diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder (ASD). Changes in diagnostic criteria were unveiled in the DSM-5. In this workshop participants will learn about the three levels of ASD and specific activities to support individuals on the spectrum.

Workshop Title: Using Technology to Train the Next Generation of Macro Change Agents.

Workshop Presenters: Justen Gross, MSW, LCSW David Skiff PhD, LMSW. MDiv.

Workshop Abstract: Technological advances can enhance educator's ability to equip student preparation for macro Social Work practice in secular and faith based organizations. This presentation examines innovative ways an online macro practice course is using technology to train the next generation of change agents in both local and global communities.

Workshop Title: Election Results and What They Mean for Your Work

Workshop Presenters: Bryan Harrison, MPP Sabrina Kiser MSW

Workshop Abstract: With the 2020 Election still fresh, this session will cover what the results mean with respect to your work as a social worker over the next 2-4 years.

Workshop Title: Tackling the Root of Child Trafficking Globally

Workshop Presenters: Ashlee Heiligman, MSW

Workshop Abstract: Child trafficking is a global issue affecting millions worldwide. However, it is not always what it seems. In this workshop, we will look at some of the root causes of child trafficking across the developing world and effective prevention strategies. It is our hope to inspire all social workers to join the fight against child trafficking.

Workshop Title: Understanding Pregnancy Options Counseling

Workshop Presenters: Jennifer Hollenberger, MSW, LCSW

Workshop Abstract: With approximately 45-50% of pregnancies being unplanned in the United States, it is important to understand how women and families are making decisions related to their reproductive health. Pregnancy options counseling is a well-established approach used to empowering women, this session will explore options counseling and dilemmas social workers

Workshop Title: Riding On The Peace Train: The First Step Toward Unity

Workshop Presenters: Kay Julien, MEd, PhD

Workshop Abstract: Ephesians 4:3 tells us that unity is preserved through the bond of peace. Achieving a peace that makes love and justice possible can be the first step to restoring interpersonal unity. This workshop offers practical tools to skillfully promote acceptance and positive social interaction through effective self-management and compassionate responses.

Workshop Title: Exploring a Biblically Informed Theory of Change for Social Work Practice

Workshop Presenters: David King, DSW

Workshop Abstract: Training in faith integration strategies have been noted as lacking for social workers. This workshop will examine the importance of worldview and theory of change in social work practice and outcomes. A Biblically informed whole person theory of change model will be presented including application for clinical practice.

Workshop Title: Ecology of the Family

Workshop Presenters: Kenneth Larimore, Ph.D.; LISW-S

Workshop Abstract: Human persons do not live in isolation from one another but in networks inter-relating with one another. This workshop looks at the church from the viewpoint of a congregational social worker who sees the church as an echo system. Congregational social work involves enabling the people of God to related more functionally to one another.

Workshop Title: A Call for Social Justice: Civility: Cultural Awareness +Social Diversity

Workshop Presenters: Debra Lavender-Bratcher, PHD, LCSW Ruddy Taylor PHD, LCSW

Workshop Abstract: This is an interactive workshop in which the participants will engage in guided discussions and exercises regarding the role of civility in social justice and ways cultural awareness and social diversity impact on civility.

Workshop Title: The Impacts of Climate Change on Low-income and Marginalized Communities

Workshop Presenters: Michelle LeVere, MSW, LICSW

Workshop Abstract: Climate change adversely impacts poor and marginalized communities, making them most likely to suffer the greatest loss and have the least ability to recover, a result of long-standing inequalities. This workshop will examine the intersection of race, class and climate change and identify strategies for addressing this urgent and complex issue.

Workshop Title: Homelessness Among Families and the Permanent Supportive Housing Model

Workshop Presenters: Daniel Montoya, BSW Student Anupama Jacob Ph.D. Psalms Rojas

Workshop Abstract: A student-faculty pair will discuss the effectiveness of the permanent supportive housing (PSH) model and provide recommendations for how government and civil society institutions can collaboratively promote long-term flourishing for families experiencing homelessness. A Baltimore-based social worker will offer a practitioner's perspective on PSH.

Workshop Title: Technology, Ethics, Christian Worldview: Are they Compatible?

Workshop Presenters: Helen Mudd, PhD, MSSW

Workshop Abstract: This workshop provides an interactive experience in using ethical decision-making models to examine dilemmas associated with technology and social work. Participants will examine the compatibility of technology, a Christian Worldview, and ethics. Managing ethical risks associated with technology and social work will be examined.

Workshop Title: Teaching Students to Care for Themselves as They Serve through Adversity

Workshop Presenters: Kimberly Mudd-Fegett, DSW, MSSW

Workshop Abstract: As Christian professors, we have been called to our service field. It is our responsibility to love and mentor our students just as Christ does us. We have the distinct privilege of loving, teaching, guiding and preparing our students to enter the field of social work practice.

Workshop Title: Creating a Powerful and Healthy Culture within your Organization

Workshop Presenters: Jeffrey Nitz, LCSW

Workshop Abstract: Knowing that "culture eats strategy for breakfast every day", this workshop seeks to describe the process by which one faith-based organization pursued a healthy, God-glorifying culture while simultaneously working to achieve sustainability, re-setting the bar for "game-on" staff, and working to create an outcomes-focused environment for clients.

Workshop Title: Working with Domestic Violence Survivors Concerned with Issues of Faith

Workshop Presenters: Sharon O'Brien, Ph.D. Lauri Przybysz D.Min.

Workshop Abstract: Consider how to help faith-oriented clients (Christian, Jewish and Muslim) who are working to keep themselves and their children safe while experiencing intimate partner violence. Session identifies how to work with clergy as allies and explores issues of marriage vows, forgiveness, submission, and separation and divorce. Info about abusers, also.

Workshop Title: Trust-Based Relational Intervention Model to Help Foster/adoptive Families

Workshop Presenters: Debra Penkin, MSW

Workshop Abstract: Trust Based Relational Intervention (TBRI) provides social workers and other caring adults an evidence-based, trauma-informed, holistic intervention model that offers practical, concrete tools for foster and adoptive families to connect with their children that have experienced complex developmental trauma.

Workshop Title: A Ministry of Presence in an Online Environment

Workshop Presenters: Jean Roberson, DSW, LICSW

Workshop Abstract: The idea of presence can be foundational for the Christian social worker - God's presence in our lives and the calling to be present in the lives of others. Online social work education presents a structural barrier to teaching this in an experiential way. This presentation will explore specific types of technology we can use to create presence.

Workshop Title: The Impact of Authoritarian Community on Adolescent Substance Use

Workshop Presenters: Aynsley Scheffert, MSW, LICSW Wesley Furlong MSW

Workshop Abstract: This presentation addresses the socioenvironmental factors which impact adolescent substance abuse based on a study conducted by the primary investigators utilizing secondary data analysis of nationally representative samples. Implications for social work practice with adolescents, families and communities will be examined.

Workshop Title: "Whatever You Did For the Least of These...You Did For Me"

Workshop Presenters: Deborah Schultheiss, LCSW

Workshop Abstract: This presentation shares the powerful story of how God worked in a community to bring together churches, human service organizations and individuals to support one man through homelessness, illness, and his journey to be with our Lord.

"Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these...you did for me".
Matthew 25: 40 (NIV)

Workshop Title: The History of Mass Incarceration through the Lens of Racial Oppression

Workshop Presenters: Christopher Thyberg, MSW

Workshop Abstract: The crisis of mass incarceration is best understood through the historical legacy of racism that is deeply embedded within institutional systems in the United States, including the church. This presentation explores the use of racism masked as morality in the policing of minority communities in an attempt to further the dialogue on prison reform.

Workshop Title: Exploring the Intersectionality of Tran-Identities and Faith

Workshop Presenters: Veronica Timbers, LCSW, MDIV

Workshop Abstract: This presentation will provide an overview of the research around individuals who identify as transgender and/or gender non-binary and the intersection of personal or family religious belief. This session will also provide a basic overview of terms and additional resources that can be accessed by clinicians and educators for further learning.

Workshop Title: A Survey of Black Churches Responses to Domestic Violence

Workshop Presenters: Oliver Williams, Ph.D., MSW, M.P.H, LICSW

Workshop Abstract: A high level of church involvement among African Americans suggest the potential of the Black church in addressing domestic violence. However, very little research has examined this topic. The current study is an exploratory study of how aware African American churches are of victims in their congregation and how they respond to them.