



# International Association for Social Work with Groups

## SPARC Program

June 2015 Report and Recommendations from the IASWG SPARC Committee

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**Overview:** The IASWG SPARC Program was developed by the IASWG Board and Commission from 2011-2012, and inaugurated in 2013. According to its framing protocol, the SPARC Committee members were appointed by IASWG President and were charged with reviewing SPARC protocols and launching the Project. The IASWG Board reviews and votes on the Committee's recommendations, within 30-60 days of the closing date for applications in each cycle. There are two review cycles each year, corresponding with bi-annual Board Meetings in June and November. The SPARC Committee has continued to update, expand and circulate Project documents through multiple strategies and venues. SPARC documents, Project reports, and outreach materials are available at <http://www.iaswg.org/sparc>

### History of Endorsement and Funding

June 2013/Cycle One: 4 Projects were endorsed, 3 with funding (\$2500.00 expended).

November 2013/Cycle Two: 5 Projects were endorsed, 2 with funding (\$700 expended).

June 2014/Cycle Three: 2 Projects were endorsed, 1 with funding (\$695.00 expended).

November 2014/Cycle Four: 3 Projects were endorsed, 2 with funding (\$2160.00 expended).

June 2015/Cycle Five: 2 Projects are recommended for endorsement, 1 with funding (\$1250.00 to be expended)

### Approved for Endorsement and Funding by IASWG Board, June 2015

1. **Endorsement:** *The Cameron Think and Do Tank*, Zaneta Smith, Los Angeles, California, US. Zaneta is a former SPARC awardee, for the successful *The in Search of Me Campaign - Community Program for Young Men of Color*, endorsed and funded in Cycle Two, November 2013.

*Overview: The purpose of the Think and Do Tank is to form a collective of dedicated individuals who will work collaboratively to challenge and eradicate the oppressive social structures that threaten the holistic livelihood of young Black Males in South Los Angeles. In order to accomplish this, the participants will assess current research on Black male achievement, form targeted focus groups, create and execute a plan of action over a 10-12 month period, and generate research. The Cameron Think and Do Tank participants meet annually for 5 years, for a 3 day period, in which no more than 20 people will focus on research on Black Male Achievement and action items decided on. During the year, principals and contributors will manage items, participant leaders of each action, deadlines and outcomes. Participants make a 10-12 month minimum commitment.*

2. **Endorsement and funding (\$1250.00):** *Making Positive Changes – A group for and with parents living with HIV*, Sally Mason, Chicago, Illinois, US. Sally and colleagues have extensive experience developing and implementing group-focused programs in collaboration with families affected by HIV – the proposed project, developed by consumer/provider planning group integrates a focus on stigma in the group interventions.

*Overview: Making Positive Changes (MPC) was formed in 2004 through State of Illinois funding to meet the needs of people living with HIV who are raising children, most of whom are not infected but are affected by HIV. Many HIV services are geared to the HIV+ individual. However, people living with HIV are often parents. As parents live longer due to highly active anti-retroviral therapy (HAART), social services have shifted from helping parents plan for their children's care in case of the parent's death to raising children in healthy families. MPC promotes family well-being through mutual support and psychoeducation. Consumer participation is key as parents living with HIV plan, develop, and implement programming. Funding for MPC was discontinued in 2013 as the State entered a financial crisis. Since then, the Positive Families Project (PFP) Planning Group of consumers and service providers has developed other group programs with HIV-affected families. Recently, the Planning Group recommended reinstating MPC with a focus on stigma reduction.*

### **SPARC Workshop at IASWG Symposium**

Beginning in 2014 in Calgary, we inaugurated what we hope will be an annual event, The *IASWG SPARC Forum on Project Application, Acceptance and Implementation*. In 2015, at the Symposium in North Carolina, it took place on Friday, June 5<sup>th</sup>.

As in the past, the SPARC Committee invited leaders of IASWG SPARC Projects to join as co-presenters to share their experiences related to the application and implementation of their Projects. This year's presenters include Carol, Barb & Marcia, and 9 Awardees, representing a range of SPARC Projects in areas of Practice, Research and Education/Training.

SPARC Awardees Presenting:

Zaneta Smith, *In Search of Me Campaign: Community Program for Young Men of Color*

Shirley Simon & Teresa Kilbane, *Social Group Work Dissertations from 1970-2012*

Sari Skolnik, *Factors Contributing to Group Workers' Commitment and Attitudes toward Group Work Practice*

Sue Scher & Meryl Nadel, *The Story of Social Group Work and Residential Summer Camping*

Ellen Sue Mesbur & Alice Schmidt Hanbidge, *International Casebook for Teaching Social Work with Groups*

The PP from the 2015 event is uploaded at: <http://www.iaswg.org/sparc>

The PP from the 2014 event is uploaded at: <http://www.iaswg.org/docs/projects/2014SPARCPresentation.pdf>

### **Progress of SPARC Projects**

All SPARC Project awardees have either completed their project and final report, or have submitted interim reports. Updates and final reports will continue to be posted at: <http://www.iaswg.org/sparc>