INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR SOCIAL WORK WITH GROUPS
UPDATE ON SPARC PROJECT: INTERNATIONAL CASE BOOK FOR TEACHING SOCIAL WORK WITH GROUPS
PRESENTED BY: DR. ALICE SCHMIDT HANBIDGE, DR. ELLEN SUE MESBUR AND MARTHA KERR
MAY, 2015

ACTIVITIES SINCE SPRING, 2014 REPORT:

Additional Grant

Applied for $2100 Renison Research Grant in October 2014 to support casebook development activities. In March 2015, we were awarded $2000 for a one year term. This grant made it possible for us to hire a Research Assistant for the duration of the project.

Development and Recruitment

- Completed literature review on the Case Study Method;
- Hired Research Assistant, Martha Kerr (MSW student, Renison University College School of Social Work, University of Waterloo);
- Consultation with Office of Research Ethics at the University of Waterloo. We were advised that we did not require a full ethics review as long as consent forms were required.
- Developed outreach plan in coordination with Dr. Carol Cohen, Co-Chair, Commission on Group Work in Social Work Education;
- Worked with Dr. Greg Tully, President, IASWG, and Emily Wilk, IASWG Operations Administrator, to organize announcements for the IASWG Website and a series of e-blasts to IASWG membership about the project;
- Developed Case Study Template for online submission of case studies;
- Developed Case Study Tracking Form for collection of submissions;
- Developed SPARC Group Work Case Study Consent Form for authors;
- Between May and August 2014, several postings on the IASWG website, an e-blast to members, a flyer was circulated and an announcement for call for case studies at the IASWG symposium Calgary 2014, and an update from Greg in his President’s Pen section of the IASWG newsletter were circulated;
- Final deadline for submission of case studies: September 29, 2014;
- We received numerous inquiries throughout the outreach process and these were responded to by Alice and Martha;
- Personal email invitations were sent to all IASWG Chapter Chairs with a request to share “Call for cases studies” invitation with their membership;
- By the end of the process, six completed case studies were received.
Review of Case Studies

- Case studies were reviewed in three rounds by Alice, Ellen Sue and Martha; edited for consistency of format, logical flow of information, clarity and spelling/grammar;
- Consent form developed for authors and agencies/organizations with respect to confidentiality of agency/organization name and location and author name; if they agree to public acknowledgment of the agency/organization name, the consent form must be signed by two senior agency administrators;
- Online portal established with assistance from Gwen Potter, Assistant to the School of Social Work, Renison University College; portal to be used by authors and peer reviewers;
- Edited cases sent to authors for their feedback with a June 5, 2015 deadline for response;
- Communication with Dr. Carol Cohen re: peer reviewers from amongst Commission members, for case studies; each case to be reviewed by two reviewers through the online portal;
- Preparation of presentation at the 2015 IASWG Symposium in Chapel Hill, North Carolina.
- Research Assistant, Martha, confirmed attendance, along with Alice and Ellen Sue, at 2015 Symposium in a presenter role.