

Clinical Committee Meeting

December 2021, 5:00pm - 7:00pm

Members in Attendance	
Andrea Shaheen	Alex Hill
Brandy Gryshik	Catrina Brown
Errin Williams	Jacquelyn Allan
James Dubé	Jessica Heidebrecht
Jim Morton	Kelly Breau
Lida Abdulrahaman (Student member)	Patrick Daigle
College Staff in Attendance	
Alec Stratford (Executive Director/ Registrar)	Neha Singh (Admin)

1. Welcome and Call to Order

- Meeting was called to order at 5:05 pm by chair Andrea Shaheen

1.1. Approval of Agenda

Motion: Moved that the Meeting Agenda is accepted as amended

Mover: Jim Morton

Seconder: James Dube

Motion Carried

2. Approval of Minutes:

With a change in NSCSW staff, minutes from the November meeting were not available. Table until the next meeting

3. Clinical Scope draft:

- Good framing of clinical,
- Questions were raised about diagnosing and social work
- Based on a legal opinion the NSCSW would need to seek changes to Social Workers Act and would need to conduct deep consultation with other professions, as well as demonstrate to government where social workers would gain the knowledge and skills to diagnose using the DSM.
- As this is not explicit in the Standards of Accreditation for BSW and MSW programs, this would tie the NSCSW to an entry to practice process where applicants would need to demonstrate education in this area.
- It was expressed that it is unjust for clients who are receiving services and have deep relationships with their social workers to have to get specific legal forms or documents filled out by psychologists or physicians because of the criteria of diagnosing embedded in our models for clients to access benefits.
- Similarly social workers are often asked to give expert testimony for judicial processes and questions are often raised by judiciary and legal council of qualification to "Diagnose"



- The medical model is dominant and there needs to be a way to work within it to serve clients interest
- It was decided that the language of social workers conducting and being critical of “diagnostic impressions” should be added to the scope and consultation on legality of this practice should occur.
- Competency frameworks were discussed in the context of the draft scope. Committee expressed the problems with competency frameworks is it places the emphasis on assessment of competencies rather continue integration of values, critical thought, and continuous learning
- It would also place the NSCSW in the role of assessing competencies, which without widespread standardization... which is problematic
- Social workers and their clients and organization are best positioned to determined required competencies and assessment of required skills
- Language of competency removed
- Discussion followed related to the social determinants of health and mental health and committee opted to refer to both core documents.
- Committee members expressed the importance of ensuring that clinical social work also look after spiritual needs as well.
- An added approach for clinical social work was the need for Clinical Social Workers to adopt reflexivity in practice.
- The different knowledge basis were discussed and were deemed a useful tool at acknowledging the various modalities and social work approached that are attached to clinical social work.

Draft adopted in principle with direction for Dr Catrina Brown to reorganize knowledge section and strength language

4. Adjorned:

