



Adding new voices in exam development

Twenty social workers trained to write exam questions

Twenty social workers gathered in Washington, D.C., at the end of June for an intensive weekend of training. They weren't working on their community organizing skills or learning more about the DSM-5. Instead, these social workers, from all over the U.S. and Canada, were learning how to write questions for the social work licensing exams. The writers will join more than 60 other social workers who contribute questions—or *items*—to the ASWB social work licensing exams.

Led by Examination Development Manager Lavina Harless, LCSW, the item writer training also drew on the expertise of all of ASWB's item development consultants, David Aiken, Bynia Reed, Nancy Sidell, Amanda Randall, and Monica Roth-Day. The consultants, who were assigned a group of new writers at the training, were there to coach the social workers through the learning process.

"I loved this training," said one social worker in evaluating the training program. "All the information was clearly explained and well organized. My consultant was supportive and specific about her evaluation style, and I enjoyed the feedback sessions with the large group and the consultant individually. I am truly honored to have this opportunity to give back to the social work profession."

New item writers trained this year are:

Kristina Bonic of Baltimore, Maryland, is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker who serves as a senior counselor with a school mental health initiative.

Amanda Eagle of Land O' Lakes, Florida, holds a clinical social work license and works in assessment/intake and as a clinical coordinator.

Terri Feher of North Ridgeville, Ohio, is licensed as an independent social worker and social work supervisor who teaches in an undergraduate social work program.

Joseph Harper of New Athens, Illinois, is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker serving as a lecturer in a graduate social work program and as unit director in a mental health center.

Reagan Jackson of Lithonia, Georgia, has a clinical license and works in assessment and triage for a behavioral health company.

Leah Little of Canton, Michigan, is a Licensed Master Social Worker who specializes in substance use disorders working with the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Andrea Monto of Lake Oswego, Oregon, holds a masters license and works with an integrated health

and recovery team at an agency that serves people who are homeless.

Julie Novas of Bronx, New York, is a Licensed Master Social Worker and works for a community mental health center.

Steven Parks of Houston, Texas, holds a masters license and works as a therapist in a children's assessment center.

Cecilia Ponce of Roeland Park, Kansas, is a clinical social worker who is an adjunct faculty member teaching graduate-level social work courses.

Andrew Seeley of Edmonton, Alberta, is a Registered Social Worker with expertise in trauma, mental health, and bereavement.

Amy Seese-Bieda of Aberdeen, Washington, holds a clinical license and is a medical social worker for a home health and hospice agency.

Catherine Simmons of Cordova, Tennessee, is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker who is an associate professor teaching graduate social work courses.

Michie Summers-Perez of Smyrna, Georgia, holds a masters license and works for an employee assistance company.

Jason Swain of Sacramento, California, is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker in private practice.

Licia Thomas-Wagoner of Chesterfield, Virginia, is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker in private practice.

Senetra Wallace of Cary, North Carolina, holds a clinical social work license and works in private practice and in a community mental health agency.

Joyce White of Dallas, Texas, is a Licensed Master Social Worker who is executive director of an agency that designs and administers programs for youth, adults, families, and professionals.

Patricia Williams of Prattville, Alabama, holds a clinical license and is employed as a readjustment counselor with the Department of Veterans Affairs.