



Texas Tech researchers granted funding

Project aims to fill the gap in knowledge about supervision

Two researchers from the Department of Sociology, Anthropology and Social Work at Texas Tech University are the latest to receive funding from the American Foundation for Research and Consumer Education in Social Work Regulation, ASWB's research arm. Their project, which received \$25,000 from the foundation, is titled "Perceptions about Use and Effectiveness of E-Supervision for Clinical Social Work License Candidates." The research will take 24 months to complete. The investigators are Laura Lowe, Ph.D., LCSW and Cara Speer, MSW, LCSW.

The proposal was submitted during the 2016 grant application cycle and recommended for approval to the Foundation Board of Directors by the Foundation Review Committee. The abstract appears below:

Numerous jurisdictions license clinical practice and some allow supervision via videoconferencing. Quality supervision benefits practitioners, licensing boards and regulating bodies as well as the general public, but little empirical research examines this component of training. This project proposes focus on two gap areas: use of electronic supervision and comparisons of perceptions of supervision quality. Best practices will be reviewed to construct measure of supervision quality. These items will be combined with items on demographics, videoconferencing use, and personal perspectives about this modality for a mailed survey. A randomly selected sample of approximately 1500 recently licensed and those who have recently provided clinical supervision from 5-15 states/provinces will be asked to participate. Qualitative interviews with subset will provide context and depth of experiences. Analysis of cross-sectional data will be univariate and bivariate statistics, including comparisons of quality ratings. Qualitative data will be transcribed and analyzed for themes.

The American Foundation for Research and Consumer Education in Social Work Regulation, a 501(c)3 organization, supports efforts to explore the ways in which professional social work regulation affects the profession and the public it serves. Some of the projects sponsored include research on complaints and disciplinary actions taken against social workers, access to clinical supervision in rural areas of Minnesota, and an exploration of the ethical implications of students who shortcut to satisfy educational requirements. The grant program is open to social work faculty, students, and members and staff of regulatory boards or provincial colleges in the United States and Canada. Stay tuned to www.aswb.org for future grant opportunities.