Advocacy Alert!

The advocacy fight to keep anti-discrimination language in the Social Work Code of Conduct continues and we need YOUR help!

Social work voices across the state and nation helped the Behavioral Health Executive Council (BHEC) retain anti-discrimination language regarding disability, sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression in the Social Work Code of Conduct in October 2020. Now, the fight continues after the Texas Attorney General issued a nonbinding legal opinion on June 14, 2021 that states the Texas State Board of Social Work Examiners (TSBSWE) may not adopt a Code of Conduct more expansive than the non-discrimination clause currently in our statute. This strips protections for disability, sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression and destroys the statutory authority of TSBSWE to set the ethical standards for the profession. READ THE NASW TX TALKING POINTS.

What Can You Do?

We need as many voices as we can get to ask TSBSWE to adhere to the NASW Code of Ethics and maintain anti-discrimination language in the Code of Conduct.

It is vital that we show TSBSWE that social workers will not stand for changes to the Code of Conduct by the Governor of Texas!

We need your advocacy in this fight. Check out the NASW advocacy page for more background info, additional resources, and letters from various legislators and other groups to give you a brief overview of the background on the issue and our advocacy strategy. Read more here.
Hi Everyone,

My name is Sarah Herrera, and this is my first You Matter post. Before I start hyping you up, I’d like to take a second to introduce myself. I am a doctoral student in the School of Social Work, and I am on Dr. P’s research team. I’m also a clinical social worker with experiences in various social work fields. I’m honored to contribute to You Matter because it revolves around what I focus on in research in practice: student wellbeing. My commitment to you all is that I will write this from the heart. I will never tell you what you “should” do. I’ll offer you my viewpoints not in hopes that you will always agree with me, but that you will take the time to consider the topics within the context of your own life. So, with all that laid out, let’s move on to why we’re really here…my cat Fredrick.

Fredrick is my only cat. He’s short-haired, black, and happens to have 3 legs. Out of all of his qualities, the one I love most is his awareness. He knows exactly what’s about to happen when he hears the metal can of cat food open. He can sense Olive (our outdoor cat) on the patio without even looking. And often, he can sense when I’m feeling anxious even before I’m willing to admit it.

I had my first panic attack as an undergrad, but I didn’t know that at first. After a couple of trips to the ER, a very compassionate nurse whispered to me, “Have you thought about seeing a therapist?” That first time thinking about my mental health. Like, ever. Yes, I would feel all the symptoms of anxiety, but I ignored them so often it felt like panic attacks came out of nowhere. I went to therapy and started to grow my self-awareness. I learned to check in with myself daily and really listen to my body and what it needed that day.

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I went to therapy and started to grow my self-awareness. I learned to check in with myself daily and really listen to my body and what it needed that day. Eventually, my panic attacks faded, and I thought, “I’m cured.” I began to slack off on my self-awareness routines and everything was fine again. Fast-forward to my MSW experience. The first semester in, my panic attacks “came out of nowhere” again. I had the realization that this isn’t going away, and I needed to plan past my panic attacks ending.

That same semester, my husband and I adopted Fredrick. I would watch him nap in his favorite spots, demand cuddles when he wanted, and go outside to watch the birds when he felt like it. He lived his life based on what he needed in that moment. I tried living like Fredrick. I went back to asking myself daily, “Where are my energy levels today?” “What are my priorities?” “What can I let go of today?” Those questions led me to things like going to niece’s birthday party on the same day an assignment was due. I also started having weekly date nights with my husband. And even though in the back of my mind, I was sure I was going to flunk out of my MSW program, life started getting better. I had more energy for my work because I was participating in life-giving activities. For the first time in my life, I felt like I was thriving. Don’t get me wrong, life isn’t perfect. I still struggle with anxiety, but it’s finally easier to recognize. I shared my symptoms with my friends and family so they know when it’s time to talk to me, even if I haven’t realized it. This of course, includes Fredrick. He seems to know when my thoughts are racing and my body is more tense. Any time he comes to cuddle with me during the day it’s a gentle reminder to let go of my anxious thoughts. I hope you all can consider two things from my experience. First, have you found a Fredrick in your life that can remind you to check in with yourself? School matters, but you matter more.

-Sarah H.
**ADVISING**

- Don’t need a full advising appointment but have general questions? Join your advisor for their weekly Power Hour!
- If your advisor’s appointment schedule is full, please consider emailing them for email-advising, or attend their weekly Power Hour. Please check advising appointments every Monday when new availability opens up for the coming weeks.

Keiana  Tuesday 12:00-1:00  [Click here to join the meeting](#)
Mark      Wednesday 12:00-1:00  [Click here to join the meeting](#)
Valerie   Thursday 11:00-12:00  [Click here to join the meeting](#)

**BSW Academic Advisors:**
- Last names A-C: Valerie Adame – adamev@uta.edu
- Last names D-Me: Mark Frazier – mark.frazier@uta.edu
- Last names Mi-Z: Keiana Crain – keiana.green@uta.edu

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**FIELD PLACEMENTS**

**General**

- All students, agencies, and Field Instructors should use this URL for InPlace: [https://inplace.uta.edu/](https://inplace.uta.edu/)
- The InPlace fee is $67 per year or $130 for a lifetime. Each student will need to pay the InPlace fee on the first day of class for that semester they are starting field.
- InPlace Training and Logbook Training can be found here!
- If you are having technical difficulties with InPlace please email ssffield@uta.edu and include a screenshot of the issue.
- Field forms are available here!
- Field FAQ
- Contact Sharon Martin, LMSW, Field Advisor III, with any questions! You can also connect with her during her Field Power Hours every 1st & 3rd Wednesday of the month from 3:00-3:30. [Click here to join the meeting](#)

**Summer**

- The reduction in Field Hours has been extended to May 31, 2022 Spring 2022 semester. Find more information regarding Summer 2021-Spring 2022 Field accommodations [here](#).
  - Block students must complete a minimum of 408 hours for Summer 2021
  - Split students must complete a minimum of 204 hours for Summer 2021
- The Block Field 14-week Summer Session & Split Field 11-week Summer Session dates have been updated on the [Field website calendar](#).
- All students, agencies, and Field Instructors should use this URL for InPlace: [https://inplace.uta.edu/](https://inplace.uta.edu/)
- The InPlace fee is $67 per year or $130 for a lifetime. Each student will need to pay the InPlace fee on the first day of class for that semester they are starting field.
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**Fall**

- The Fall 2021 Field Application closed June 4th. No late applications will be accepted.
- Fall Field placements are currently being assigned based on the order in which field applications were submitted. If you have a question, please contact your field advisor.

**Spring 2022**

- The Spring 2022 Field Application opens Oct. 01 – Nov. 26, 2021. These dates are subject to change. See the full Fall 2021 Field Education Calendar [here](#).
- Read the Summer 2021 – Spring 2022 Field Accommodations [here](#).

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**LICENSING**

- If you’re in your final semester and want to get started on applying to ASWB to take the LBSW licensing exam, click here to request the Dean’s Letter for Licensure, which UTA will send to ASWB. More info can be found on the ASWB site and our SSW licensure page.
- Missed the Social Work Licensing Info Session? Here is a link to the recording!
- Interested in the LCDC? Scroll to the end of this Licensure webpage and click on the Texas LCDC Licensing 2021 PDF for a chart that shows how different education levels can prepare you for the LCDC.

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**MSW ADMISSIONS**

Are you graduating this semester with a 3.0 or higher and hoping to start the MSW program this fall? We accept MSW admissions on a rolling basis. The admissions calendar can be found [here](#). If you have any questions about the process of applying to the MSW, please contact leslie.reyna@uta.edu

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If your advisor’s appointment schedule is full, please consider emailing them for email-advising, or attend their weekly Power Hour. Please check advising appointments every Monday when new availability opens up for the coming weeks.
VIRTUAL EVENTS

NASW’s Congressional Advocacy Day
Please join us on July 22 to advance critically important congressional legislation that will strengthen the social work profession and the clients they serve. This is a key opportunity to meet with your congressional delegation, educate them about the value of social work and social workers, and to gain their support for priority legislation. To register for the event, please click here. Registration is $25. Space is limited, so please register early. Participants will be able to register on a first-come, first-served basis.

Featured Webinar: “When It is Darkest: Why People Die by Suicide”
CAMSCare will sponsor a webinar presentation featuring Dr. Rory O’Connor! Rory will be talking about his new book and innovative IMV model of suicide. Join us live on Wednesday July 14 at 12 PM Eastern time (U.S.). Register here.

SHATTER THE STIGMA
An Interprofessional Simulation with Standardized Patients
July 23, 2021 | 9:00AM—12:30PM (Virtual)
Because healthcare professionals are typically the first points of contact for a person with a substance use disorder (SUD), we should all take the necessary steps to reduce the potential for stigma and negative bias. Take the first step in shattering the stigma of SUDs by learning and practicing the use of desensitizing patient interviewing techniques with standardized patients.

BSW Orientation
If you are a new student and have not already attended BSW Orientation, please mark your calendar to attend this mandatory School of Social Work orientation from 12-5pm on Friday July 9th. It will be recorded and made available for students who are unable to attend live. BSW Orientation is different from the university-wide transfer or freshman orientation and is full of information and resources to help you be successful and learn the ropes of the program. It is required to transition to the BSW Major.

Are you an NASW student member graduating in August? Be sure to request your graduation cord before Friday, July 16. Not a member yet? You can join NASW before you graduate for only $60 and receive a discount on your membership dues for the next two years if you retain active membership. Click here for more information.
FUNDING

Social Work Course Guides

Student
Research
Opportunity
Center

Historic Black communities

Fort Worth Star-Telegram reported on a group of UT Arlington students and faculty that is helping historic Black communities facing steep challenges. Read more here.

RESEARCH

Social Work Course Guides

Student Research Opportunity Center

FACE MASK POLICY

UTA no longer mandates the wearing of masks on campus but continues to strongly encourage and recommend that Mavericks wear masks, particularly when inside campus buildings.

STAY SAFE

Expanded COVID-19 vaccine opportunities to include on-campus availability

UTA has established a partnership with OptumServe to provide all interested employees and students access to COVID-19 vaccines at a convenient on-campus location and free of charge. UTA students and employees are strongly encouraged to participate in COVID-19 vaccinations if they are able. Please visit the UTA COVID-19 Vaccination Information and Resources page to access registration links and instructions for both vaccine opportunities.

Dean Ryan’s Statement on COVID-19 Health Disparities

Have you tested positive?

Had close contact with someone with Covid?

1. Complete mandatory reporting form
2. If needed, you can:
   • Ask professors for deadline leniency
   • Contact your USL, Program Director and/or Academic Advisor for additional support and guidance.

MANAGING STRESS AND ANXIETY DURING COVID-19

UTA COUNSELING AND PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES (CAPS)

THERAPIST ASSISTED ONLINE (TAO)

Visit TADconnect.org

Download "Thrive at U" on the App Store or Google Play

MAVS TALK 24HR CRISIS LINE

Call (817)272-8255

For the latest updates on UTA's response and guidelines for COVID-19, please visit the Coronavirus Information Page.

Wells Fargo Veterans Scholarship Program

Provides scholarships to fill unmet financial need of veterans after military benefits and other grants and scholarships have been packaged by their school. Apply here. Deadline is July 8.

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**UTA Academic Calendar**

**Evidence-Based Practice Research Guide**

**Check Canvas for the MavsUnite Page!**
To add please e-mail: Chantinia Chansler

**SAR Center**
(Formerly Office of Students with Disabilities)

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**Webinar Library**

Isabella Hong, an MSW Alum, graciously compiled a list of webinar resources and a video going over the basic functioning of Teams to any who may need assistance. Special thanks to Jose B. Yerena, LCPAA, who has taken over updating the list on a weekly basis! **Please note that it is necessary to ask your supervisor permission for these to count towards any required field hours.**

**UTA Library Accessibility**
**Social Work Workshops**
**Basic Function of Teams**

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**Rental Assistance Program**
The **Tarrant County Rental Assistance Program** assists residents who have been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. For more details, email renthelp@tarrantcounty.com or call 817-850-7940.

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**Emergency Assistance Fund**
UTA students with a temporary financial hardship resulting from a sudden emergency may apply for financial help.

**Get Microsoft 365, The Wall Street Journal and Other Apps FREE with your student email!**

How to gain access to SSW writing resources: **Advising & Student Success Canvas**

**UTA/Tri-C Food Pantry Distributions**
Currently distributing groceries on Thursdays only, from 9-11:45 a.m. and 2-4:45 p.m. To receive these grocery bags you must send an email to utafoodpantry@gmail.com to request a pickup time. Include student name, last four digits of UTA ID, requested grocery pickup time, choice of vegetarian, chicken, or any meat groceries.

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If you have any questions or content suggestion for the newsletter, please contact Safiyah Ricks: rdr0162@mavs.uta.edu

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**UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS ARLINGTON**

**SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK**

"Do not get lost in a sea of despair. Do not become bitter or hostile. Be hopeful, be optimistic. Never, ever be afraid to make some noise and get into good trouble, necessary trouble. We will find a way out of no way." --Former US Rep. John Lewis (2/21/40 - 7/17/20)