Grand Challenges for Social Work

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About AASWSW

• Established in 2009 by leading social work organizations to:
  – **Encourage and recognize outstanding research, scholarship, and practice** that contribute to a sustainable, equitable, and just future.
  – **Inform social policy** by serving as a frontline source of information for the social work profession as well as Congress and other government agencies and non-government entities charged with advancing the public good.
  – **Promote the examination of social policy and the application of research** to test alternative policies, programs, and practices for their impact on society.
  – **Celebrate excellence** in social work and social welfare research, education, and practice.
Grand Challenges for Social Work

Background

• Island Wood meeting (hosted by USC, UW, in coordination with Brown School, U Chicago, AASWSW, and SSWR)
  – *Science of Social Work* discussion continued from SSWR presentation by John Brekke and convening in summer of 2011
  – Grand Challenges for SW discussion introduced by the UW as a way to focus development of social work’s impact on society

• Grand Challenges roles:
  – The Grand Challenges Executive Committee to direct the Initiative, subject to AASWSW Board review
Executive Committee

John Brekke (Co-Chair)  Ron Mandersheid
Rowena Fong (Co-Chair)  Yolanda Padilla
Claudia Coulton  Michael Sherraden
King Davis (Retired)  Eddie Uehara
Diana DiNitto  Karina Walters
Marilyn Flynn  James Herbert Williams
J. David Hawkins
James Lubben

Staff: Sarah Butts, AASWSW
and UM SSW
National Advisory Board

- **Darla Coffey**, President, Council on Social Work Education
- **Sarah Dewees**, Senior Director of Research, Policy, and Asset-Building Programs, First Nations Development
- **Jennie Chin Hansen**, CEO, American Geriatrics Society
- **Ron Haskins**, Senior Fellow and Co-Director, Brookings Institution
- **Eddie Lawlor**, Dean, Washington University, Brown School
- **Angelo McClain**, CEO, National Association of Social Workers
- **Risa Lavizzo Mourey**, President and CEO, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation
- **Dedrick Muhammad**, Senior Director of Economic Department and Executive Director of the Financial Freedom Center, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People
- **Chip Paucek**, CEO, 2U, Inc.
- **David Sanders**, Executive Vice President, Casey Family Programs,
- **Yannis Yortsos**, Dean, USC Viterbi School of Engineering
Why a Grand Challenges Initiative?

• Describes the power and potential of SW to innovate and lead--what we can do for society
• Sets out ambitious, but time-limited and achievable goals for the field
• Provides a way to integrate research into concrete social progress, impact
• Can guide, influence the pipeline of current and future workforce in academics and practice
5 Criteria

1. Challenge must be big, important, and compelling.
2. Scientific evidence indicates that the challenge could be solved.
3. Meaningful and measurable progress to address the challenge can be made in a decade.
4. The challenge is likely to generate interdisciplinary or cross-sector collaboration.
5. Solution to the challenge requires significant innovation.
Identifying GC’s for Social Work

An Inclusive Approach

• Call for GC Ideas (80+ ideas submitted)
• Call for Papers (38 papers submitted)
• Paper review process
• Presentations at CSWE, SSWR, NASW, GADE, NADD, SLG and partner schools, and other venues to solicit input
• Preliminary set of GC themes and papers emerge
• Plans for a second extended Call for Papers to fill gaps
Selecting the Grand Challenges and Supporting Working Papers

A peer-reviewed process

• Meets five critical criteria
• Fits with grand accomplishments of social work, grand context of social work, other initiatives in other fields, and new innovations
• Considers the diversity of affected SW domains
• Links similar challenges into more parsimonious and powerful challenges
Output from Working Paper Review

• Top papers identified, prioritized as “promising” Grand Challenges
• A preliminary list of Grand Challenges
• Gaps identified, additional papers solicited
• Further development of selected papers, topics
• Opening for more papers in GCSWI Round Two
Selection Criteria

• Promising GC concepts are identified
• Selected papers are further developed into working papers
• Fills an important gap(s) identified by the GCEC
• Has at least one working paper complete or in progress that demonstrates how the Grand Challenge meets the criteria
• Has a high likelihood of dedicated and experienced leadership for a Grand Challenges campaign
Grand Challenges

1. Maximize every person’s productive potential
2. Prevent behavioral problems in youth
3. Reduce isolation and loneliness
4. Foster safe families
5. End homelessness
6. Improve health for all

^Communications experts are engaged to effectively frame these ideas--titles of GC’s and papers may change.
7. Reduce incarceration
8. Strengthen financial security
9. End racial injustice
10. Protect the human environment
11. Promote social and economic participation for all
12. Harness technology for social good

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Supporting Working Papers Under Development

Tentative Titles and Authors:

4. Foster safe families
   “Relationships Free of Violence” (Edleson, Lindhorst, & Kanuha)

9. End racial injustice
   Authors: (McRoy, Teasley, Joyner, & Wheeler)

11. Promote social and economic participation for all
   “Reversing the March Toward Extreme Inequality.” Authors: (Sherraden & Lein)

12. Harness technology for social good
   Authors: (Coulton & colleagues)
Go to [www.aaswsw.org](http://www.aaswsw.org) to Sign Up!

American Academy of Social Work & Social Welfare

**Grand Challenges Initiative**

The Academy is proud to announce a preliminary set of Grand Challenges for Social Work

They will be announced on January 17 in New Orleans at the annual SSWR Conference

The AASWSW is excited to announce the Grand Challenges for Social Work Initiative. The project seeks to engage the public in identifying ambitious yet achievable goals for society that mobilize the profession, capture the public’s imagination, and require innovation and breakthroughs in science and practice to achieve.

We welcome your participation! We are now accepting fully developed Concept Papers. See details and instructions below.

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People say that we cannot eliminate hunger, HIV infection, the stigma of mental illness. We say we can.

“If we worked on the assumption that what is accepted as true really is true, then there would be little hope for advance”

~ Orville Wright

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**Fellow News**

Rhode Island Newborns Get
Grand Challenges Announced – Get Involved

The American Academy of Social Work and Social Welfare is proud to announce the first 12 preliminary Grand Challenges for Social Work!

Please explore these challenges and let us know if you would like to learn more as the process proceeds or even would like to take part of a working group to help finally solve these pressing social work challenges.

Grand Challenge #1 – Maximize Every Person’s Productive Potential
Grand Challenge #2 – Prevent Behavioral Problems in Youth
Grand Challenge #3 – Reduce Isolation and Loneliness
Grand Challenge #4 – Foster Safe Families
Grand Challenge #5 – End Homelessness
Grand Challenge #6 – Improve Health for All
Grand Challenge #7 – Reduce Incarceration
Grand Challenge #8 – Strengthen Financial Security
Grand Challenge #9 – End Racial Injustice
Grand Challenge #10 – Protect the Human Environment
Grand Challenge #11 – Promote Social and Economic Participation
Grand Challenge #12 – Harness Technology for Social Good
Join Us! There are Forms for GCs 1-12

Grand Challenges Initiative
Call for Concept Papers 2014
Suggest a Grand Challenge Idea
Proposed Grand Challenge Ideas
Read More about Other Grand Challenges Projects
Leadership

Grand Challenges #1 – Maximize Every Person’s Productive Potential

Everyone should enjoy creative, productive lives, but a variety of economic, social and cultural factors create wasted human capital. Our education system fails too many young people who need social and job skills and want to start careers and perhaps families. Economic downturns and other dislocations sideline people in their middle years who can’t update their job skills or lack the freedom to pursue new interests that enrich their families and communities. Ageism shunts too many older people from constructive pursuits, so they miss opportunities to contribute and maintain a sense of purpose and dignity. Social work can support a variety of approaches to lifelong productive engagement. We can work to strengthen and restructure educational institutions to help people, young and old, gain knowledge and skills and promote lifelong learning. We can advocate for fairer employment policies and practices, including adequate dependent care options for employees. And we can promote volunteering and community service from an early age and build a more involved citizenry and stronger civic society. Fuller engagement in both paid and unpaid productive activities throughout the lifespan is a critical strategy to generating improved health and well-being, greater financial security, and a more vital and dynamic nation.

GC #1: Maximize Every Person’s Productive Potential

Name
First Last

Affiliation

Email

Are You Interested in Joining a Grand Challenges Working Group for This Initiative?

☐ Yes
Round Two - Call for Papers

- Plans are underway to issue an extended call for GC papers
- We have expanded the definition of inquiry, to address problems for which we are just beginning to imagine solutions, and to widen our vision to include untried possibilities
Further Clarification

• Grand Challenges are vessels that can contain many ideas, papers, and initiatives—all going in the same direction.

• Authors of Grand Challenge Working Papers are a resource for moving each Grand Challenge campaign forward.

• We hope to see many activities arise from the field related to these Challenges during the next years.

• Success will require additional participation and leadership of Grand Challenge activities.
Action Plans for the Grand Challenges

- Conferences (or panels at conferences) on Grand Challenges
- Special issues or sections of journals on GC’s
- Special GCSWI grant announcements (need sponsoring funding partners)
- Policy briefs in support of GC’s
- Social media support
- Partnership with other allied funders or professional entities
- Pipeline mentoring and curriculum development
Projected Milestones for 6 Months

**February:** GC Working Papers are Complete and posted to the website, Second Call for GC Papers - Announced, RFP for Strategic Communications Consultants Issued and Awarded, National Working Groups Established for each GC

**May:** Decisions on Round 2 Papers and Next Set of Emerging GCs, Model for GC Implementation Plan Developed

**June:** Communications Plan established, National Advisory Board fully engaged as well as some funders and community partners for specific GCs, Work with SSWR on roll out for 2016

**July:** Videos are being developed, Book contract for Grand Accomplishments of Social Work is negotiated
Please Record Your Ideas ...

- We know that great movements sometimes start with back of the napkin drawings...

- We don’t have napkins but have forms for your use
... or Speak Now

1. What is your initial reaction to the GCs presented today? What excites you? What concerns you?

2. What kinds of opportunities and challenges face our efforts to launch dynamic campaigns around each GC?

3. Which of the GCs campaigns do you think you would join? How might you be involved? What kinds of assets, relationships, knowledge might you bring to this work?
How You Can Become Involved...

• Get Involved, visit [www.aaswsw.org](http://www.aaswsw.org) website Grand Challenges page to “sign up” under the Grand Challenges #1-12, that most interests you

• We intend to create working groups for each Grand Challenge led by an identified Fellow of the Academy

• We want to hear from you! Contact Sarah Butts, at [sbutts@ssw.umaryland.edu](mailto:sbutts@ssw.umaryland.edu) with additional thoughts or suggestions related to the GCSWI
Please Stay Tuned and Involved
ALL IDEAS MATTER

THANK YOU

Questions, Comments, Recommendations?