

Latino/a Social Workers Network Committee Charge

Authorization and Accountability

The Latino/a Social Workers Network is a Board of Directors approved Network of the Connecticut Chapter of NASW. The Network reports to the Board of Directors at least twice a year on the activities of the Network.

Purpose

To provide a professional network for Latino/a social workers and others interested in issues relevant to Latino/a social workers and the Latino/a community, to meet for sharing of mutual interests and to address issues of concern to the Network members within the framework of the social work profession.

Time Frame

The Network is an ongoing unit of the Connecticut Chapter.

Members, Terms, and Criteria

The Network is open to all NASW members. Latino/a social workers that are non-members of NASW may also participate in the Network. The Network will have a Steering Committee consisting of those members who choose to be active and able to consistently attend steering committee meetings. Those who choose to participate can do so for a period up to six months, after which membership in NASW is expected if already not a member. The chairperson of the Network shall be appointed by the chapter President with the advice of the Network's steering committee, for a term of one year and may be reappointed for additional terms.

Specific Responsibilities

1. Provide support to Network members in their professional career and to other Latino/a social workers and advocate for their common interests
2. Develop mentoring opportunities for Latino/a students in social work programs
3. Promote higher education among Latino/a youth by collaborating with educational institutions and community agencies
4. Recognize Latino/a social workers through the Recognition Dinner, Chapter's newsletters, social media and other avenues as appropriately identified
5. Educate the social work community on relevant issues facing the Latino/a community
6. Conduct Social events throughout the State to provide Latino/a social workers an opportunity to network with colleagues and have an understanding of the Network's role

7. Promote the importance of adequate and culturally competent services in higher education and in social service agencies
8. Increase Latino/a NASW membership
9. Maintain communication with the CT NASW board, support the Chapter's priorities and assist with identifying Latino/a social workers as candidates for the ballot

History

The Latino/Latina Social Workers Network of NASW/CT was formed in 1997 to address the needs of Latino/a social workers. The Network involved itself in advocacy efforts to encourage the Connecticut State University System's four state universities to recruit and retain more Latino/a students, faculty and staff, collaborated on a statewide conference and other efforts to improve foster care services for Latino/a children and offered opportunities for Latino/a social workers to network through social events. The Network was disbanded in 2000 largely due to a transition of staffing in the NASW/CT office. The Network was restarted in 2002 with a kick off reception at the chapter's annual conference.