



Alliance Wide Call

Our next Alliance Wide Call will be on January 26, 2020 at 4:30pm EST. Our guest speaker will be Kalimah Johnson. Kalimah provides mental health services as a consultant for the NBA and is founder of the SASHA Center. Formal invite to come.

New Members

Thank you to all our new members who joined in the last few months.

Erica Thygesen, Tara Byrne, Rebekah DeRosa, KE'Marvin Pitts, Kessonga Giscombe, Gina Crean, Jessica Cerda, Allyson Yelich, Monica Rosario, Danita Horton, Azaia Wallace, Savannah Dynkowski, Patrick Brown, Javious Ellis, Eric Wolf, Heather Stan, Jhazzman Martin, Danielle Nokes, Jarette Maye, Lori Smith, Haley Williams, Jesus Vasquez, Orlando Milton, Nathan Recknagel, Vanessa Robinson-Dooley, Jill Patent, Karen Ponder, Dawn Brown, Jamal Jackson, Anna Marcolin, and Linda York

www.aswis.org

P.O. Box 592664

San Antonio, TX 78259

Tel: (800)567-1178

Fax: (765)285-1029

socialworkinsports@gmail.com



Search ASWIS



@ASWISports



ASWIS Group



ASWIS_2019

A Letter from the President

Dear ASWIS Membership:

As we come to the end of 2019, it is time to reflect back on another banner year. Some of our highlights included: (1) reaching our highest membership enrollment, (2) seeing over two dozen of our members secure new jobs in the sport social work industry, (3) securing 52 CEUs for our Sport Social Work Certificate Program, (4) holding our first formal election process, (5) facilitating multiple educational opportunities culminated by our annual symposium, (6) maintaining existing and creating new partnerships with other sport-based organizations, (7) publishing and presenting on sport social work topics across various written and oral platforms, (8) staying active in policy development, and (9) ensuring the financial stability of ASWIS. All of these items reflect our ongoing commitment to our STRATEGIC PLAN.

While our accomplishments are extraordinary, we must all strive to build upon the momentum of 2019 and previous years. Your ongoing commitment to ASWIS can serve as the igniter of this momentum. We are also on the search for greater goals to further establish ASWIS as a leader in the athletic community. We must continue to blaze the trail of Sport Social Work. This starts with your thoughts and ideas, and is followed by your dedication to seeing these thoughts and ideas into action. Growing ASWIS is not possible without full involvement of our membership. The primary factor that can influence the magnitude of our impact is the activity level of membership.

As we prepare to celebrate the holiday season and make commitments for 2020, let us be mindful of what we can individually do to shape Sport Social Work. I promise you - the time you invest is rewarded exponentially.

On behalf of our entire Executive Committee, thank you for your efforts in 2019. We wish you a happy holidays and a blessed new year. Much love to you all.



Matt Moore, PhD, MSW

Annual Membership Renewal Period

Starting early January members will receive an invoice from ASWIS Treasurer, Dr. Tarkington Newman. This invoice will be to renew your annual membership with the Alliance. The invoice will allow you to pay directly via card without having to go through the PayPal system. The renewal period will run from January 8th through January 29th. The Executive Committee voted unanimously to increase the rate of membership. This increase will allow us to better implement our strategic plan and provide much needed resources to our members. The new membership rates are below:

Student Membership = \$50

Professional Membership = \$100



Mind Over Matter: College Athletics and Mental Health Awareness (By: Zach Draves)

Over the last several years there have been cases in which college athletes have died by suicide.

In 2014, Madison Holleran, a freshman on the University of Pennsylvania Track team took her own life. In January 2017, Jordan Hankins, a basketball player at Northwestern University killed herself in her dorm room. In January 2018, Washington State University backup quarterback Tyler Helinski killed himself with a self-inflicted shotgun wound. Later that year, two Wabash College football players, Evan Hansen and Kyle McAtee, took their lives on the same day, September 10th, which in a tragic irony is World Suicide Prevention Day.

These are just some examples of the mental health and suicide crisis that is occurring on college campuses and the impact it has had on athletes. According to the Center for Disease Control, Suicide is the 10th leading cause of death in the United States and the 2nd for college aged students. The prevalence of suicide is four times greater in young men than women. That can be attributed to the traditional constraining notions of what manhood and masculinity is that precludes men and boys from seeking out help and admitting any pain or vulnerability.

The exact suicide rate for college athletes is unknown, however a University of Washington study showed that there were 477 athlete suicides between 2003 and 2013. That is about 48 suicides per year according to the study.

There is not a direct cause for suicide, but there are many contributing factors that comprise of already existing health issues and added stressors that converge to create feelings of hopelessness and despair. These factors can be physical and mental health related such as bouts with depression, substance abuse problems, bipolar disorder, physical problems relating to pain, and traumatic brain injury, which the latter is not uncommon in sports such as football or hockey. Other factors can be environmentally related such as (1) access to firearms and other lethal instruments, (2) relentless harassment or bullying at school or the workplace, (3) stressful life events such as divorce, financial problems, unemployment, or rejection and (4) historical factors such as childhood abuse can play a role.

Knowing these warning signs and recognizing the symptoms can better prepare people to respond to anyone in need in the athletic community including athletes, coaches, athletic directors, team staff, and athletic departments.

Already college football is required to confront mental health related issues in a variety of ways. They are focusing on the personal aspects of the athletes lives such as the balance between academics and athletics, the expectations that come with being a student athlete, and also their presence on social media. All collegiate athletic programs should be actively involved in promoting mental health and well-being through awareness campaigns and programs.

Below are several ways athletic directors could aid in this mission, athletic departments and teams should hire full time social workers, psychologists, and other professionals to help provide assistance.

Coaches, trainers, and other staff should be trained and certified in Mental Health First Aid.

Teams should participate in regular workshops before, during, and after their seasons on mental health.

Athletes should take a mental health screening along with their physicals during the pre-season.

The Adverse Childhood Experiences exam (ACE) should be implemented during pre-season to assess how any past childhood traumas affect their physical and mental well-being at this time.

In the end, we need to keep reminding anyone who is struggling that they are not alone.

There are resources, organizations, and people to contact.

There is nothing weak or soft about asking for help.

Ask Michael Phelps, Royce White, Kevin Love, DeMar DeRozan, and many others.

Let's play the game the right way and let's save some lives in the process.

If you are feeling suicidal and need to talk to someone please call the National Suicide Prevention Hotline at 1-800-273-8255.

To read all ASWIS blog posts click [HERE](#).

Committee Updates

- *Education Committee* - the Sport Social Work Certificate Program wrapped up another strong semester. Our program remains at over 20 students from across the United States, Canada, and Australia. We are currently accepting applications for the 5th cohort of students. Learn more [HERE](#).
- *Conference Planning Committee* - plans are currently underway for our 2020 Sport Social Work Symposium. We will unveil the location, theme, and save the date for the event in the coming weeks. This will also include the call for proposals. Let's keep the momentum going from Denver.
- The Early Scholars Committee has remained busy since the annual ASWIS Symposium. Several members (Tarkington J. Newman, Erica Magier, Lauren Shute, among others) have finalized data collection of Phase II of their study: The Role of Social Workers in Sport. In addition to preparing two manuscripts from this data, they are in the process to begin Phase III during the new year. The committee also wants to acknowledge those who are in the midst of their dissertations, such as Lorin Tredinnick and Jerry Reynolds. And a huge congratulations to Richard Weaver for beginning his new position as an Associate Researcher at Indiana University Southeast. Please contact Tarkington J. Newman (tarkington.newman@unh.edu) and Rick Weaver (Richard.weaverjr@louisville.edu) if you are interested in meeting at the SSWR Conference this January or want to become engaged in our initiatives.

The Executive Committee discussed during the December meeting how to restructure the Committee process. More information on this will come in the following weeks. Future discussion will include elections for committee chairs and increased responsibilities from committee members to promote the mission, vision, and values of the Alliance. Our committees are vital in our ability to grow and manage increased tasks and demands. Give thought to how your skills might match with our various committees.

ASWIS Represents at the Council on Social Work Education Annual Program Meeting (APM)

2019 marked the first-ever expo booth for ASWIS. Directly following the ASWIS Denver Annual Symposium, under the leadership of Executive Team Member Dr. Stacy Kratz, seven ASWIS members set up and manned an exciting booth at the 65th Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) Annual Program Meeting (APM). Held at the Sheraton Downtown Denver Conference Center, CSWE hosted over 3100 attendees from Oct 24-27, 2019, with 75% working in the university setting, 20% registered as students, and 5% employed in field settings.

The booth space was secured over a year ago by Dr. Kratz, with an excellent front location garnering heavy traffic flow. Included in booth rental pricing was social media engagement that pushed ASWIS information out to conference participants. With a CSWE total social media reach of over 15 million impressions, word got out about our fun sport-themed booth.

The APM theme of “Looking Back, Looking Forward” framed a great way to share the strength of sport social work from both a historical and a future-facing lens. And, oh yeah, ASWIS had awesome swag!

Special shout out to booth workers extraordinaire Lorin Tredinnick, Dr. Ginger Gummelt, Jerry Reynolds, Kim Gilbert, Kim Gibson, Monica White, and Jenn Mathurin. Thank you for your energized volunteering.

We look forward to representing ASWIS at future conferences through booth space rental!



5th Annual Social Work in Sports Symposium Recap (By: Kelli Monedero, MSW, LSW)

The Fifth Annual Social Work in Sports Symposium kicked off this year in Denver at the historic Denver Athletic Club. This year we welcomed speakers and presenters from all over the world, with Noel Nkuranyabahizi traveling all the way from Rwanda to share his connection between social work and karate.

We hosted 125 attendees, which includes 59 first time attendees. With the theme being integrated health, we heard from a collection of providers that ranged from sport social workers, sports psychologists, athletic trainers, and a sport psychiatrist.

We were able to network on Tuesday at The Yard House during our annual social event. Nearly 75 people turned out to laugh, talk, share, and enjoy delicious wings and sliders.

The committees were able to have some time together on Wednesday morning. They were so engaged in conversation and community that we had a hard time getting them to stop talking to transition to the start of our final day of learning.

One might consider this our most successful symposium to date; the connections, the sharing of wisdom and resources, the new relationships and maintaining existing ones all flourished.

Thank you to all who attended and made our symposium a great success. Thank you again to our 2019 sponsors too!



Congratulations Bill Vanderwill!

After 44 years of being a social worker, Bill Vanderwill, a founding member of ASWIS will be retiring at the end of December. Bill will remain a supporter of our Alliance and hopes to continue teaching and working on projects in Detroit. Bill, you mean the world to all of us. We wish you nothing but the best in life's next chapter.

A few shots from the 2019 Sport Social Work Symposium



Membership Announcements

Lorin Mordecai was invited to present her dissertation results on, "Student-Athletes as Active Bystanders: Assessing Gender Role Conflict and Intentions to Access Sexual Assault Resources," to the NCAA Research Committee as part of the NCAA Graduate Student Research Grant Program in September.

Abigail Eiler continues to develop the role of sport social work at the U-M Athletics Department. As a clinical professor in the SSW, she is considering developing new programs for the Continuing Education Department.

Rachel Amity started full-time as the Program Coordinator for Athletes Connected in October.

Danny Bonaventura accepted a new position with the University of Pittsburgh as their Career Consultant for Student-Athletes.

Katie Bartley opened her own private practice in Austin, TX.

Dr. Tarkington Newman had six peer-reviewed articles accepted for publication. These publications focused on a variety of sport social work topics and included collaborations with fellow ASWIS members **Dr. Dawn Anderson-Butcher** and **Erica Magier**. These articles are in (or will appear in) the *Journal of Youth Development*, *Health Psychology Review*, *Journal of Sport Behavior*, *International Journal of Sport Communication*, and *International Journal of School Social Work*.

Dr. Tarkington Newman presented at multiple national and international conferences. Several of these presentations were with fellow ASWIS colleagues **Lorin Mordecai**, **Erica Magier**, **Jerry Reynolds**, **Richard Weaver**, and **Kathryn Cox**.

Dr. Stacy Kratz, continuing her global social work innovation practice with the University of Southern California (USC) Suzanne Dworak-Peck School of Social Work, presented at the annual conference of the Association of the South African Social Work Education Institutions (ASASWEI), in Cape Town, South Africa. The conference theme, Promoting Healthy Human Relationships, explicitly aligned with the fourth theme of the Global Agenda for Social Work: Promoting the Importance of Human Relationships.



Member Spotlight



My name is KE'Marvin Pitts, and currently I am getting my masters in clinical social work at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. I will graduate in May 2020. Throughout my time in my masters program, it's been a blessing learning so much about how to serve vulnerable populations and improve people's overall well-being (spiritually, mentally, socially, physically, financially, etc.) through a holistic lens.

As a psychology major and former football player at Troy University (2013-2017), I have a huge heart and passion for sports and understand many of the adversities of being a person, student, and athlete. While I desire to one day work in the mental health field as a counselor, I've recently committed to working as a full-time staff in Johannesburg, South Africa for a college-based ministry called Campus Outreach, beginning in January 2021. I have been praying about how God could use me by applying my education to serve people in their well-being through work in ministry and sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ in South Africa. One of the main things I've learned in training is the importance of building genuine relationships with people. My vision is to continue cultivating healthy and genuine relationships in ministry, through the Gospel. My framework in working with athletes, working in ministry, or anything, will always be establishing a strong and genuine interpersonal relationship. I desire to be connected to a person's story, get to know them, and be vulnerable and human, in order to serve in the most authentic fashion as possible.

In attending the Alliance of Social Work in Sports annual conference in October 2019, I learned so much valuable things that apply to mental health in sports. I am thankful for all of the board members of the alliance, all keynote speakers, and many others for making the conference such a fruitful and memorable experience. I appreciate all of you and it's my prayer that all is going well your way.

Fun facts about me/Things I love:

- Faith
- Sports
- Spending time outdoors
- Helping special needs populations
- Food (I love to eat)

Alliance of Social Workers in Sports

November/December 2019

For more information please contact us at

P.O. Box 592664

San Antonio, TX 78259

Tel: (800)567-1178

Fax: (765)285-1029 socialworkinsports@gmail.com