



# Regional Newsletter

March 2018

## **MWOHS Fall 2017 Survey Highlights**

Early last fall, MWOHS members were invited to complete a survey. We want to share some of the details and insights gathered from the respondents.

There were 28 participants. Ages ranged broadly from 18-74. Over 78% of the participants were female. Most participants indicated they were white (68.9%), followed by black or African American (20.69%). Current employment status varied, with 47% indicating they were working full-time and 19% part-time; 9 indicated they were currently a student. Most of the respondents indicated they have only been a member of MWOHS/NOHS for 5 years or less (71.4%).

We asked about different topics. When asked about interest in CEU opportunities through MWOHS, a majority indicated they were at least slightly interested (95%). 21 indicated they knew about the HS-BCP credential and 11 noted they had earned it. Out of those who hadn't earned it, most noted they might be interested in pursuing it in the future (57.14%). Questions were raised about how the HS-BCP and other credentials would be useful for people in the field of Human Services.

When it comes to conference attendance and CEU opportunities, participants indicated a range of experiences. 13 (48.15%) indicated they'd attended and/or presented at the national NOHS conference. A majority (64.29%) noted they haven't attended any of the previous regional MWOHS conferences. When asked about how we can increase attendance at the regional conferences, responses focused on improving marketing/promotion, connecting with other like-minded organizations, and making costs affordable for various income levels.

Participants also provided input on what they'd like to see on the MWOHS website. Suggestions centered on posting job opportunities, highlights on current trends and stories in the field, and having a greater online presence through social media. When asked about topics they are interested in and may like to see covered by MWOHS, responses varied greatly. Examples of things listed include: education, suicide awareness, human trafficking, employment opportunities, child welfare, cultural competence, health disparities, and aging.

Lastly, we asked participants what messages they would like our MWOHS representative to relay onto the national (NOHS) board. Responses focused on: wanting more effort to promote the abilities of human services professionals and credentials to employers; to keep making the NOHS conference more organized; and to open up more opportunities to get less-experienced professionals involved in NOHS board positions.

We appreciate the input you provided through this survey and at our last national conference meeting. If you're a new member or just starting to get involved, don't fret – we plan on giving more opportunities for comments and guidance in the future. This valuable information is helping us shape the goals for the region and provide more resources to help you.

## What's Happening in Our Region

**Illinois:** The Illinois Department of Natural Resources and Illinois Conservation Foundation announced that 21 Illinois Schoolyard Habitat Action Grants have been awarded for the Fall 2017 application period. The schoolyard habitat action grant program offers students and educators the opportunity to resurrect or create natural habitats on the school grounds or other public places. The awarded grants have funded the removal of nonnative and invasive plants to be replaced with native plants for wetland, savanna, prairie, and woodland habitats. Popular projects, funded by the awarded monies, focused on the creation of butterfly, pollinator and rain gardens. To learn more call 217-524-4126.

**Indiana:** A new state-funded Health and Human Services building was officially opened with the ribbon cutting December 15, 2017. The building is part of Indiana State University to provide high-tech labs and facilities to support the fast-growing College of Health and Human Services. The intention for building the new facility is to bolster declining numbers of health and human service graduates in Indiana and in the nation.

**Iowa:** The Iowa Department of Human Services has put together a work group to look at the services and supports available for Iowans with complex mental health, disability and substance use disorders. The work group's recommendations include creating access centers, increase Assertive Community Treatment teams, create a full array of mental health crisis response and subacute residential services, and provide intensive residential service homes to expand services for individuals with mental health and substance use disorders. The work group recommends the Department of Human Services and Public Health review the recommendations with Courts to amend Iowa Code 125 and 229.

**Kansas:** On February 9-10, 2018 the Kansas Mission of Mercy provided \$1,396,068 in donated dental treatments to 1,150 patients at the Kansas State Fairgrounds. The decrease in reimbursement has caused many dentists to deny Medicaid recipients. The shortage of dentists in less populated counties has resulted in patients traveling to larger counties to receive care. Providers have related ideas to improve Kansas dental issues include: Increase dental care reimbursement, license dental therapists to provide services in dentist-less areas or build a new dental school in Kansas to promote the growth of the practice.

**Michigan:** On January 18, 2018 a House task force of lawmakers released 13 recommendations for changes to Michigan's mental health system. The recommendations include: Early intervention- by offering foster children priority in psychological evaluations, training teachers and counselors in mental health, and increase the number of psychiatric beds for children; Getting services to veterans involved in the court system by connecting them to available benefits; Bringing dogs to court- to provide support to victims when testifying in court; Expanding 'telehealth'- to include pre-screening on inpatient units, psychiatric inpatient screening, assessments by a non-physician and ongoing psychiatric care; More funding for substance abuse by providing more funds to the Community Mental Health systems; Create a hotline for referrals and help; More mental health professionals; Provide wrap-around services; Increase the number of beds for mental health patients; Train law enforcement in crisis intervention; expand problem-solving courts; a drug to treat drugs; and finally require mental health screenings at jails.

**Minnesota:** On the Minnesota Mental Health news and information a program has been introduced by the CommUnity Adult Mental Health initiative. The program called the Imagine Network offers persons utilizing mental health and recovery services the ability to interact and participate with other community members who have experienced mental illness.

**Missouri:** The Missouri Attorney General has released a series of videos focused on how to detect Human Trafficking and how to respond. The training is available online in two formats: a four-part series of short videos or a

single 30-minute video. The videos can be accessed by entering <https://ago.mo.gov/home/human-trafficking/business-council-members/training-videos> into your browser window.

**Nebraska:** The Department of Health and Human Services announced a near record breaking number of Adoptions in 2017. The total count was 532 adoptions, which was close to the 538 adoptions in 2016. A large proponent is the Adoption Day in November when the courts open during a Saturday to finalize adoptions. Adoption Day has become an event and include face-painting, a congregating of previous adopted children, and family members enjoying the comradery.

**North Dakota:** An annual giving event, “Giving Hearts Day,” occurred on February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2018. This year, more than 400 non-profit organizations and programs in North Dakota and northwestern Minnesota participated. More than 28,000 individuals donated approximately \$13 million, which beat last year’s record.

**Ohio:** The Ohio Supreme Court made available a bench card for courts to recognize the intersecting issues with human trafficking, domestic violence, and sexual violence. The bench card is a reference guide created to educate the judicial branch on human trafficking state laws. January is National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention month.

**South Dakota:** The Department of Social Services and the Department of Health have teamed up with the South Dakota Helpline Center to provide toolkits that focus on suicide prevention. Various toolkits have been created to address different topics and client populations, including older adults and veterans. The toolkits are available at the website [sdsuicideprevention.org](http://sdsuicideprevention.org); individuals seeking assistance are also encouraged to call the SD Helpline Center at 1-800-273-8255.

**Wisconsin:** Grants have been awarded to support the efforts of 63 community groups to prevent opioid abuse. The grants totaling \$496,516 aim to support seven strategies to reduce the impact of opioid abuse in Wisconsin. The grant recipients are all members of the Alliance for Wisconsin Youth, an organization of community-based coalitions whose aim is to decrease the abuse of substances among all ages.

## **MWOHS Member Spotlight**

For each edition of our newsletter, we want to spotlight a member who is contributing to the field of human services. This month our spotlight is on Dr. Delores Langston. Delores is currently serving as Vice President of MWOHS.

Dr. Langston completed her doctorate degree in 2015 and also has a Master’s degree in Social Work from Michigan State University. She also has a Graduate Certificate in Teach Adult Education Field from Walden University. In addition, she is the Faculty Advisor for TAU Upsilon Alpha (TUA) and serves as the Director of Social Sciences at Baker College in Flint, MI. Delores has worked in various positions thus far in her career: mental health counselor, substance abuse counselor, individual counseling, case manager, crisis intervention, behavioral management, and child welfare. When asked to provide details on herself and her career, she stated the following: “I want to be instrumental in building a strong region to help expand the field of human services using my vast knowledge and experience. I have had a long career in human services and have enjoyed every minute of it.”

## **Leadership Opportunity: Be a MWOHS State Representative**

Since we are a large region, we would like to have direct connections to all 12 of our states. Consider being a representative for your state. Please contact Kristin Faix Wilkinson at [kristin.faixwilkinson@mail.waldenu.edu](mailto:kristin.faixwilkinson@mail.waldenu.edu) if interested.

## **Leadership Opportunity: Help MWOHS at the Next NOHS Conference**

The NOHS annual conference for 2018 will be October 24-27<sup>th</sup> in Philadelphia. See the conference site for more information: <http://www.nationalhumanservices.org/national-conference-2018-philadelphia>. We hope to see you there!

Are you interested in helping us have a greater “presence” at the conference? We’re in the planning process for MWOHS-specific activities and presentation opportunities. If you haven’t attended or presented before, no problem - we encourage you to get involved. Please contact Delores Langston at [dlangs06@baker.edu](mailto:dlangs06@baker.edu) if interested or if you have questions about the conference.

## **Wanted: Website & Facebook Suggestions**

We’re continuing to make changes to improve our online presence. We now have both a regional website and Facebook page. We encourage you to bookmark and like our website and Facebook page – and be sure to share them with others who may be interested in connecting with us.

Website: [www.nationalhumanservices.org/mwohs](http://www.nationalhumanservices.org/mwohs)

Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/Midwest-Region-of-Human-Services-MWOHS-1927109977316544/>

Do you have any ideas for our website or Facebook page? Is there something you’d like to see on them? Do you know of any other good links and resources we should be sharing on our sites? Please contact Kristin Faix Wilkinson at [kristin.faixwilkinson@mail.waldenu.edu](mailto:kristin.faixwilkinson@mail.waldenu.edu) if you have any ideas or want to contribute.

## **Wanted: Newsletter Contributions**

Are you looking for low-pressure opportunities to “beef up” your resume and/or share news with the region? Please consider contributing to our newsletter.

Do you want to write an article on a Human Services topic?

Do you have something interesting you want to share with others in MWOHS?

Is your organization or program doing something you want to highlight?

Is there something happening in your state that you’d like to share with the entire region?

Do you want to nominate someone for a future MWOHS Member Spotlight?

Please contact Emily Fenster at [emily.fenster@vcu.edu](mailto:emily.fenster@vcu.edu) if you would like to contribute or have questions.

## **MWOHS Human Service Project Podcast Series – Upcoming Sessions**

Podcasts are accessible at MWOHS website unless otherwise noted.

Thursday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>: “Human Service Professionals in the Future”

Thursday, May 17<sup>th</sup>: “Employers: What They Want in a Human Service Professional: Human Service Employer Panel”

Thursday, July 19<sup>th</sup>: “Social Justice and Social Change: The Role of Human Service Professionals in Creating Change”

## **Café Klatch Dates – Join in Live Conversations with MWOHS**

6:00pm CST/7:00pm EST

866-391-9390; code 42.44.74.12.

Adobe Connect Video Conference: <https://socw-csbs.adobeconnect.com/bshs>

Thursday, April 19<sup>th</sup>: “How does MWOHS Change the lives of Others?”

Thursday, June 21<sup>st</sup>: “Let’s Talk: What is Social Justice?”

## **General Information & MWOHS Board Members**

Website: [www.nationalhumanservices.org/mwohs](http://www.nationalhumanservices.org/mwohs)

Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/Midwest-Region-of-Human-Services-MWOHS-1927109977316544/>

### Board Members:

President: Kristin Faix Wilkinson, Walden University  
Vice President: Delores Langston, Baker College of Flint  
Secretary: Emily Fenster, Valley City State University  
Treasurer: Allyson Hamlin, Walden University

### Newsletter Co-Editors:

Emily Fenster  
Allyson Hamlin