

# **Grand Challenges: What Does it Mean for Field Education?**

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**CSWE, APM**

**October 19<sup>th</sup>, 9:00 am -10:30 am**

# AASWSW as Host of GCs

- Honorific Society established in 2009 through combined effort of 6 major social work organizations
  - 6 original members has grown to 111
  - Intended to offer our nation a scientific resource for scholarship on social matters (as a complement to NAS, NAE, and other Academies)



BILL & MELINDA  
GATES *foundation*

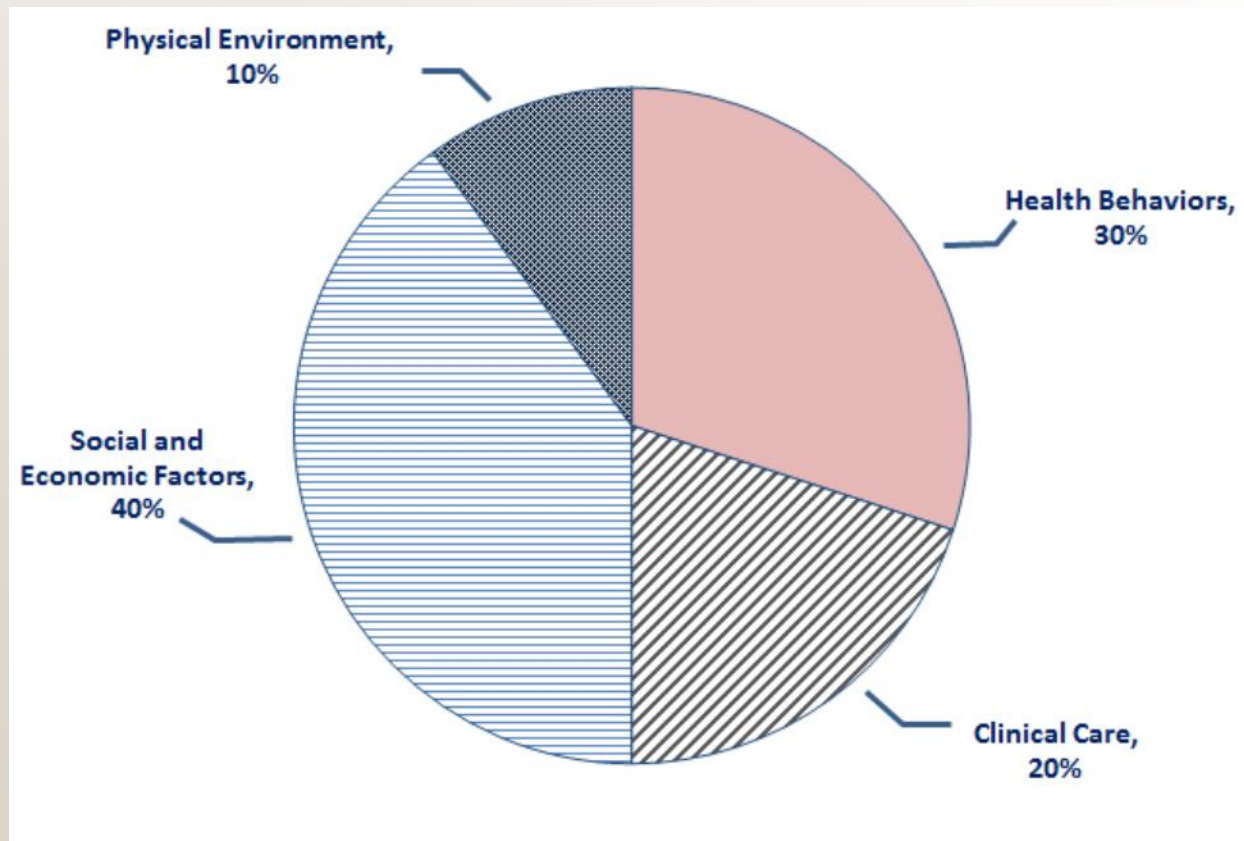


Grand Challenges Canada™  
Grands Défis Canada™

BOLD IDEAS FOR HUMANITY.™

# THE SOCIAL IS FUNDAMENTAL





## Modifiable Factors That Influence Health

# ... And Nearly Everything Else

- Climate Change
- Mental Health
- Educational Outcomes
- Peace
- Longevity
- Family Functioning
- Crime
- Opportunity
- Justice
- Brain Development





## Identifying and Tackling Grand Challenges for Social Work

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Edwina S. Uehara, Richard P. Barth, Steve Olson, Richard F. Catalano, J. David Hawkins, Susan P. Kemp, Paula S. Nurius, Deborah K. Padgett, and Michael Sherraden

### OVERVIEW

On August 8-10, 2012, a small group of social work faculty, deans, and leaders of national social work organizations gathered together at the IslandWood Conference Center on Bainbridge Island, Washington, to grapple with social work's role in shaping 21<sup>st</sup> century society. The first day of the IslandWood roundtable focused on the Science of Social Work. The second day, conceptualized and led by deans and faculty from the University of Washington, moved from a general examination of social work science to a proposal: that of producing a set of grand challenges to galvanize the field of social work (Uehara, 2012). "Grand Challenges" are highly ambitious yet achievable goals for society that mobilize a profession, capture the public's imagination, and require innovation and breakthroughs in science, technology and practice to accomplish (Kalil, 2012; Uehara, Flynn, Fong, & Brekke, 2013).

Roundtable presenters reviewed the concept and history of Grand Challenges and discussed possible approaches, benefits, and risks involved in the development of Grand Challenges for Social Work. A recent case exemplar—the National Academy of Engineering's Grand Challenges initiative—was presented and reviewed. Historical examples of social work's "grand accomplishments" were offered, providing evidence of Social Work's capacity to bring science and know-how to bear on tackling seemingly intractable societal challenges. Presenters then described societal problem areas that might lend themselves to the development of grand challenges. The intent was not to build a list of specific grand challenges, but rather to explore the idea's potential to greatly benefit society and propel the field forward.

By the end of the day, participants were in agreement that the creation of a grand challenges for social work initiative might both galvanize the profession and create transdisciplinary communities of innovators who work together on to accomplish shared and compelling societal goals. Grand challenges could capture the interest of the general public while advancing the science and practice of social work. Participants acknowledged that adopting a grand challenges approach has risks: it places demands on individuals and organizations – and success is not guaranteed. Yet the potential benefits may greatly outweigh the risks. The history of social work offers many examples of great achievements, such as the Children's Bureau infant mortality campaign and the Program of Assertive Community Treatment, which can serve as models for addressing contemporary grand challenges. If the practical issues involved in developing grand

GRAND CHALLENGES FOR SOCIAL WORK INITIATIVE  
Working Paper

# How we got here

- Process started in 2011
- Engaged the field to identify GCs
  - ❑ Call for ideas (80+)
  - ❑ Working papers (40+)
  - ❑ Broad input and review
- Focus groups (undergraduates to Pioneers)
- Official launch – SSWR 2016
- 22 Working papers in the series





**Big, compelling and important**



**Amenable to analysis, assessment, improvement**



**Demonstrable progress in a decade**



**Cross-sector interdisciplinary collaboration**



**Significant innovation**

# The 12 Grand Challenges (Handout)

# Adopting a Grand Challenge

- Think about which **one** you are already most involved with and can build new work on
- Think about **one** that you aspire to become more involved with.
- Write those two down and think about how the rest of this keynote might apply to work on them

# Launch at SSWR 2016!



**Grand Challenges**  
for Social Work

# Grand Challenges Progress

- After the Launch at the SSWR 2016 Conference - we are **generating a BUZZ**.
  - Conferences themed around GCs
  - Special issues of journals
  - Social media presence
  - Schools and sister organizations, on board!

# Why do we need GCs?

- An organizing framework that can be used in research, education, practice, and policy, in part, because:
  - Complexity of big social problems
  - Focused interventions, that we can take to scale
  - Need for transdisciplinary approaches and team approach
  - Reframe how SW is perceived
  - Attract new students



# imagine

- Social Work is credited for lifting a Social Agenda and championing policy and program changes
- Social Work is organized nationally to advocate and help resolve critical social problems
- Social Workers are seen as the leading profession responding to these problems
- Social Work Science gains new respect



**Grand Challenges**  
for Social Work

**Where Are We and Where  
May We Be Going?**

imagine

that Corporations...

... adopt ***Grand Challenges***



END HOMELESSNESS



imagine

# Strong National Practice Networks Emerge

## BUILDING BLOCKS NOW IN PLACE:

- GC Networks are well-established
- Webinars and meetings for each Network routinely present research and share best practices
- ***Thread Through*** strategy with events at SSWR, CSWE, NASW, GADE, and in regions

# Campuses and Centers Adopt Grand Challenges

USC News

## USC summit launches multi-pronged partnership to end homelessness in LA

From housing and supportive services to business and technology solutions, panelists outline framework for tackling one of society's most intractable problems

By Susan L. Wampler • MAY 3, 2016

Leaders from the public, private and nonprofit sectors gathered at USC on April 27 for a summit to launch a sustained, collaborative effort to end homelessness in Los Angeles and serve as a model for other communities.

"We want our city and our county to lead by example," USC President C. L. Max Nikias said. "Almost all great megacities around the world face problems of homelessness today. The challenges are so deep that they can only be addressed by common, concerted leadership of the great institutions of learning, local governments, private philanthropy

USC President C. L. Max Nikias speaks with Los Angeles County

Related stories

Writing students break away from classroom to help the homeless

How do we make Los Angeles a great city?

Center for Social Development | Our Work | Social Justice | Decarceration

## SMART DECARCERATION INITIATIVE: TRANSFORMING CRIMINAL JUSTICE IN AMERICA

The era of mass incarceration, which made the United States the world's leading jailer, appears to be coming to an end. What is likely to follow is an era of decarceration, aimed at reducing the incarcerated population. For the country to achieve effective and sustainable decarceration—smart decarceration—the following three goals must be accomplished:

- ▶ Substantially reduce the incarcerated population in jails and prisons.
- ▶ Redress the existing social disparities among the incarcerated.
- ▶ Maximize public safety and well-being.

The Smart Decarceration Initiative (SDI) aims to build societal capacity to reduce incarceration rates in ways that are effective, sustainable and socially just. We achieve this through three primary strategies. (Click on the links below for more information.)

- ▶ Advancing innovations in policy and practice
- ▶ Identifying a continuum of viable exit strategies from the criminal justice system
- ▶ Cultivating networks to promote new approaches and perspectives

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# GC Book Series Published by NASW and Oxford University Press

## Grand Challenges for Social Work and Society

Edited by Rowena Fong, James Lubben, and Richard P. Barth



Grand Challenges  
for Social Work

OXFORD

### The 12 Grand Challenges

Ensure healthy  
development for all youth

Eradicate social isolation

Promote smart  
decarceration



# Accelerated Knowledge Building

<http://alliance1.org/ending-homelessness>

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FAMILIES  
IN SOCIETY



**ENDING HOMELESSNESS: A GRAND CHALLENGE  
FOR TRANSFORMING PRACTICE & POLICY**

# Adopting Grand Challenges

- Schools can adopt one or more
- Field departments could, too
- Individuals can become involved

# Looking at Field Placements with a GC lens

- Query field data and numbers of students.
- Asking important questions.
- As example, do we have an adequate number of field placements that focus on each GC?
- If not, where do we need to expand?
  - Implementing task supervisor model and other solutions to moving into new areas of social work practice

# Innovative Field Practicums

- Social Work students placed in libraries (Baltimore-UM SSW, LA-USC, and New York- NYU).
- USC School of Social Work, has an enhanced field Placement on Ending Homelessness.
  - Meeting monthly, they are: implementing best practices in homeless services, reviewing policy and advocacy efforts, and involvement in the 17 LAHSA Homeless Count

# Implications for Field Education

- Focus on transdisciplinary learning opportunities, team approach, and innovation
- Possible creation of new field placements and expansion of partner agencies
- Additional preparation for students related to **prevention**
- Recruitment of new students to become SWers

# Innovative Field Partnerships



UM SSW-led Homelessness Council, Samuel Little, PhD, includes:  
25 members and 6 partner Schools of SW in the region!



People often  
overestimate what  
will happen in the  
next two years and  
underestimate what  
will happen in ten.

Bill Gates

# Significance of SW Having a Unified Message

- CSWE, CRISP, NASW, GADE, NADD, SLG, SSWR, have all embraced GCs!
- This unity is the result of deliberate and calculated engagement
- Indication that the SW profession recognizes that we can be more effective collectively and that the whole is greater than the sum of its parts

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## Grand Challenges for Social Work

Led by the American Academy of Social Work and Social Welfare, the Grand Challenges for Social Work is a groundbreaking initiative to advance **social progress powered by science**. It's a call to action for all of us to work together to tackle our most pressing social problems.



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## Grand Challenges for Social Work

Click on one of the challenges below for additional information



