

**INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR SOCIAL WORK WITH GROUPS  
UPDATE ON SPARC PROJECT: INTERNATIONAL CASE BOOK FOR TEACHING SOCIAL WORK WITH  
GROUPS  
PRESENTED BY: DR. ALICE SCHMIDT HANBIDGE, DR. ELLEN SUE MESBUR AND MARTHA KERR  
MAY, 2015**

**ACTIVITIES SINCE SPRING, 2014 REPORT:**

Additional Grant

Applied for \$2100 Renison Research Grant in October 2014 to support casebook development activities. In March 2015, we were awarded \$2000 for a one year term. This grant made it possible for us to hire a Research Assistant for the duration of the project.

Development and Recruitment

- Completed literature review on the Case Study Method;
- Hired Research Assistant, Martha Kerr (MSW student, Renison University College School of Social Work, University of Waterloo);
- Consultation with Office of Research Ethics at the University of Waterloo. We were advised that we did not require a full ethics review as long as consent forms were required.
- Developed outreach plan in coordination with Dr. Carol Cohen, Co-Chair, Commission on Group Work in Social Work Education;
- Worked with Dr. Greg Tully, President, IASWG, and Emily Wilk, IASWG Operations Administrator, to organize announcements for the IASWG Website and a series of e-blasts to IASWG membership about the project;
- Developed Case Study Template for online submission of case studies;
- Developed Case Study Tracking Form for collection of submissions;
- Developed SPARC Group Work Case Study Consent Form for authors;
- Between May and August 2014, several postings on the IASWG website, an e-blast to members, a flyer was circulated and an announcement for call for case studies at the IASWG symposium Calgary 2014, and an update from Greg in his *President's Pen* section of the IASWG newsletter were circulated;
- Final deadline for submission of case studies: September 29, 2014;
- We received numerous inquiries throughout the outreach process and these were responded to by Alice and Martha;
- Personal email invitations were sent to all IASWG Chapter Chairs with a request to share "Call for cases studies" invitation with their membership;
- By the end of the process, six completed case studies were received.

## Review of Case Studies

- Case studies were reviewed in three rounds by Alice, Ellen Sue and Martha; edited for consistency of format, logical flow of information, clarity and spelling/grammar;
- Consent form developed for authors and agencies/organizations with respect to confidentiality of agency/organization name and location and author name; if they agree to public acknowledgment of the agency/organization name, the consent form must be signed by two senior agency administrators;
- Online portal established with assistance from Gwen Potter, Assistant to the School of Social Work, Renison University College; portal to be used by authors and peer reviewers;
- Edited cases sent to authors for their feedback with a June 5, 2015 deadline for response;
- Communication with Dr. Carol Cohen re: peer reviewers from amongst Commission members, for case studies; each case to be reviewed by two reviewers through the online portal;
- Preparation of presentation at the 2015 IASWG Symposium in Chapel Hill, North Carolina.
- Research Assistant, Martha, confirmed attendance, along with Alice and Ellen Sue, at 2015 Symposium in a presenter role.