

The Practitioner Connection

March
2016

KEY DATES

Practice Monthly Call

- April 15th
- May 13th

Peer Consultation Call

These calls are designed for us to be able to support each other in our community work and gather new ideas! RSVP:
tom@tomwolff.com

- April 8th
- May 6th

The Practitioner Connection was selected as the newsletter name by the membership on the February call. This March issue features Bill Berkowitz and Tabitha Underwood in the member spotlight. Also, the March hot topic, new member spotlight, and updates are included. If you have other ideas, let us know!

Welcome New Members

We are always excited to have new members who bring fresh ideas and perspectives. Let's give a warm welcome to a few of our newest members! Please reach out to them and make them feel welcome!

Julian Hasford, Ph.D.

Postdoctoral Fellow
Waterloo, Ontario, Canada
Practice Interests: Community Mental Health, Anti-Racist Community Organizing, Youth Engagement
Email: jhasford@hotmail.com



February Meeting Recap

- The February call began with a recap of the annual strategic planning call in January.
- To continue the conversation of the January call, a Welcoming/Recruitment Brainstorming team was formed.
 - The team will share updates with us on the March call.
- Membership reported liking the format of this newsletter!
- The SCRA Community Grants Program has received funding for the sixth year!
 - The 2016 Grant Year will begin on **April 1st!**
- The March **Hot Topic** will be: **Accessing Professional Resources**. This is a topic that membership brainstormed on the February call. Members will share the creative ways they are able to access resources particularly when working outside of academic settings.
- **Reminder:** SCRA Early Career Interest Group Call (Wed 3/23; 4PM Eastern Time; Conference Line) contact Ben Graham (co-chair): benjaminagraham@gmail.com or Ashlee Lien (ashlee.lien@gmail.com)
- Find the full February minutes online: <http://scra27.org/what-we-do/practice/documents/>

Hot Topics

Practitioners we would like to use this space to identify hot topics in the news that we should be discussing as a council. Each month the call will designate time (15-20 minutes) to discuss a hot topic that was selected by members. Topics can be about the community psychology field (social justice issues such as gun control, voting rights, etc.) What topic should we discuss in April?

Tell us here: <http://goo.gl/forms/pfCk1xWVpc>

Member Spotlight

This is a new feature to recognize all of our amazing members. We hope to soon have a Member Spotlight coordinator, until then members will be randomly selected for a highlight throughout the year.

Tabitha Underwood

I currently live in Springfield, MO and serve as the Executive Director of Missouri Campus Compact. I have worked in the nonprofit, government, and higher education sectors to foster community engagement and prepare students for leadership within their communities. I hold a Bachelor of Science in Psychology from Indiana University and a Master of Science and Doctorate in Psychology (Community Psychology emphasis) from North Carolina State University.



Description of Work

Missouri Campus Compact (MOCC) is a state affiliate of the national Campus Compact organization. It is a membership association of college and university presidents established to promote the civic mission and public purpose of higher education. In this role, I work with higher education institutions across the state to strengthen their community engagement endeavors and build partnerships with the communities in which they are located. Our office provides best practices and resources in engagement to all of our member campuses within both urban and rural contexts. We typically work within the areas of service-learning, community service, community-based research, and town-gown relations. Much of my work involves individualized training and consultation and locating resources for our member campuses. Building upon MOCC's strong foundation, I have led the association through a period of growth with increased membership, enhanced communication with members, and new opportunities for public scholarship. Having recently completed a visioning process, I am looking forward to continuing along this trajectory in the development of new programming and services to meet the community engagement priorities of our state. I am fortunate to have the opportunity to work with faculty, staff, and administrators across Missouri committed to furthering community-campus partnerships and affecting the civic health of our communities and institutions.

Bill Berkowitz

Bill Berkowitz, a long-time member of the Practice Council, has been enormously pleased to see it grow and mature over the years: "What a record of accomplishment, with much more surely to come!"

Bill has taught at UMass/Lowell going back to the 1970's, and has been Coordinator of its graduate program in Community Social Psychology. Since its beginning, he has also been a core team member of the Community Tool Box, where much of his current work involves editing an online chapter on Spirituality and Community Building. As both professional and citizen, Bill has been involved as well in multiple community practice activities on neighborhood, town, state, and national levels – "with plenty more to do, as long as there's time."



Bill is optimistic about the Practice Council's future. "We'll need ongoing participation from our members, but we are smart enough to make that happen. I hope in particular that we can extend our reach and impact to national policy – for what's more important to our national future than to build strong local communities? If we can begin to make such policy impacts – and we can – what a great step forward that would be for us, and for the country."

Practice Council Leadership Team

Kyrah Brown: Co-Chair- ky.brown36@gmail.com

Olya Glantsman: Co-Chair (EC Representative)-
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Jasmine Douglas: Secretary/Historian-
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