

# **Health Social Work Practice Committee**

## **Purposes, Goals, Objectives and Structure**

### **Description**

The Committee will consist of BCASW Social Workers with an interest in healthcare Social Work. The Committee will have membership representation from all of the regions of the province.

### **Purpose**

The committee will identify and research important issues related to healthcare Social Work. In undertaking these tasks, the committee will formulate position papers, act as a spokesperson for BCASW in responding to media requests, and engage in advocacy to advance the role of Social Work in health care. The committee will do this in discussion with social workers active in this field, in dialogue with various government ministries, in consultation with the Schools of Social Work and in cooperation with other community partners. The committee will provide an assessment of current policy and practice to the appropriate governmental bodies as well as to the public via regular exchanges of information, meetings and an active involvement in the larger public discourse.

### **Goals**

- The Committee will be a functioning body for BCASW social workers with representation from all regions of the Province. The Committee will actively review social policy and practice affecting the field of health Social Work in British Columbia. The Committee will organize itself in such a way that it will be able to respond to social policy developments in a timely manner.
- The Committee will actively participate in the public dialogue surrounding issues of importance, issuing position papers, press releases and public documents, written or verbal, which will contribute to the discussion of healthcare Social Work practice. The Committee will seek to provide forums and other public education/training activities in which "best practice" in the field of healthcare Social Work is discussed, taught and debated.
- The Committee will participate in all manner of advocacy efforts promoting the role of social workers in healthcare in British Columbia.

## Objectives

- This will be a fully functioning committee of the BCASW with duly elected members serving for a term as agreed to by the Association.
- The Committee will select a clearly defined agenda and will do so on a yearly basis. The concerns on the agenda will be actively pursued by the Committee members.
- The Committee will encourage the development of a network of social workers active in promoting and participating in the efforts of the Committee.
- The Committee will organize, coordinate and recognize a number of spokespersons able to comment on health policy/practice under the auspices of the Committee and the larger association.
- The Committee will promote Social Work practice in the field of health care and will do this through a variety of initiatives including the sponsoring of at least one significant health social work training event each year.