Thank you very much for your patience and efforts as we work to address the quickly changing landscape when it comes to COVID-19. As you know, the State of Oregon has implemented social distancing guidelines in response to COVID-19. As of yesterday, the PSU School of Social Work has decided to cancel all in-person classes and move to online formats, at least through April 17th. Please note that this timeline may change as we receive more information from government and public health officials, other schools of social work, and community partners.

The Field Education Program has decided that as of Monday, March 16th, and through at least Friday, April 17th, we are temporarily suspending all in-person field placement activities. While students will not be present in their field agencies, we hope alternative field activities can be identified, as discussed in more detail below and in this document: Interruption of Field due to National or Local Events.

We did not arrive at this decision easily and recognize that this may pose a significant disruption to your agency and those you serve. Our decision is based on evaluation of available evidence, guidance from public health experts, increasing public health concerns, and consideration of the welfare and safety of student learners. We know that a number of agencies have already instructed our students to discontinue in-person attendance at their placements. Students will be informed of this decision shortly. We request that you:

- Work with them as they propose a remote learning plan to you and help to provide them learning tasks they can complete from home.
- Please strategize with your student how you will communicate with each other and expectations for communication during this suspension time. Supervision with students should continue as best as possible.
- Participate in any planned site visits which will now be completed virtually.

Students may express to you concern over completing field hours. Please refer them to their faculty liaison should they express concern about their hours.

We understand that what we are requiring may feel like a difficult change. It is important to us that any frustrations or challenges this change poses to your agency be communicated directly to me, so that students do not feel put in the middle or unduly responsible for the decision made. They are in a difficult situation when it comes to enacting the University protocol and meeting their responsibilities to the agency and to you. Please be supportive to them by directing your concerns to me.

The best way to contact me is by email: jkates@pdx.edu.

We appreciate your cooperation as we all work together to support the needs of our students, as well as the needs of our partner organizations. Please know how much we value your partnerships with us. We will be in contact, as this situation continues to develop.

Dear Field Instructors and Task Supervisors (cc: Liaisons),

Friday, March 13, 2020

Thank you very much for your patience and efforts as we work to address the quickly changing landscape when it comes to COVID-19. As you know, the State of Oregon has implemented social distancing guidelines in response to COVID-19. As of yesterday, the PSU School of Social Work has decided to cancel all in-person classes and move to online formats, at least through April 17th. Please note that this timeline may change as we receive more information from government and public health officials, other schools of social work, and community partners.

The Field Education Program has decided that as of Monday, March 16th, and through at least Friday, April 17th, we are temporarily suspending all in-person field placement activities. While students will not be present in their field agencies, we hope alternative field activities can be identified, as discussed in more detail below and in this document: Interruption of Field due to National or Local Events.

We did not arrive at this decision easily and recognize that this may pose a significant disruption to your agency and those you serve. Our decision is based on evaluation of available evidence, guidance from public health experts, increasing public health concerns, and consideration of the welfare and safety of student learners. We know that a number of agencies have already instructed our students to discontinue in-person attendance at their placements. Students will be informed of this decision shortly. We request that you:

- Work with them as they propose a remote learning plan to you and help to provide them learning tasks they can complete from home.
- Please strategize with your student how you will communicate with each other and expectations for communication during this suspension time. Supervision with students should continue as best as possible.
- Participate in any planned site visits which will now be completed virtually.

Students may express to you concern over completing field hours. Please refer them to their faculty liaison should they express concern about their hours.

We understand that what we are requiring may feel like a difficult change. It is important to us that any frustrations or challenges this change poses to your agency be communicated directly to me, so that students do not feel put in the middle or unduly responsible for the decision made. They are in a difficult situation when it comes to enacting the University protocol and meeting their responsibilities to the agency and to you. Please be supportive to them by directing your concerns to me.

The best way to contact me is by email: jkates@pdx.edu.

We appreciate your cooperation as we all work together to support the needs of our students, as well as the needs of our partner organizations. Please know how much we value your partnerships with us. We will be in contact, as this situation continues to develop.