The School Social Work Association of American (Hereinafter “SSWAA”) is excited to offer SSWAA members an opportunity to participate in peer assistance sessions with experienced school social workers. It has become apparent from speaking with SSWAA members that school social workers, many of whom work in relative isolation, want a way to seek ideas from peers in a manner that protects the confidentiality of both the school social worker(s), their clients, and their school district. It is intended to be a safe space for sharing strategies, providing support, and assisting one another with ideas that may help the school social worker with practice issues.

A peer assistance group (Hereinafter “Group”) is comprised of school social work professionals that meet on a regular basis to discuss ethical dilemmas, difficult case issues, and the impact of their work on their health and well-being. Peer assistance groups provide practical help and counter isolation and burnout. Although members of a peer assistance group receive input and suggestions for dealing with their clients, the individual receiving the support and advice is solely responsible for their actions and interactions with their clients. Being part of a peer assistance group may be helpful but does not replace all forms of professional support. Thus, it is distinguished from supervision, where a professional supervisor is legally and ethically responsible for the actions and interactions with clients. This Group should be a safe space to share ideas and experiences, both successful and unsuccessful, for the betterment of all school social workers.

Disclaimer

Because laws pertaining to Social Workers vary from state to state, this group is not intended to provide legal or ethical guidance in general or specific situations. Nor is the information received from this group to be relied on without further research by the member/participant regarding his/her own state and professional environment. This is a peer assistance group, not a supervision group. We provide support but we are not responsible for the actions of group members.

In accordance with NASW’s Code of Ethics, members will not disclose identifying information about their students/families/staff in peer assistance group sessions. We recognize that members may need resources beyond the suggestions provided by the peer assistance group to meet their professional needs, therefore we encourage members to seek other appropriate expert advice or consultation outside of this group, to address ethical or other professional concerns, when necessary. Participants’
electronic recording of the consultation group is prohibited. Neither SSWAA nor members/participants of the Peer Assistance Group are legally responsible for any action that may arise as a result of Group communication, participation or perceived advice.

Frequently Asked Questions

Can SSWAA peer assistance sessions be used for social work licensure supervision? No. Our volunteer peer assistance group leaders are located in many different states and may or may not have a current social work license. They have been or are currently employed as a school social worker.

How often will the SSW 2 SSW Peer Assistance sessions be held? As we launch peer assistance groups each Fall they are offered twice weekly to meet the needs of all time zones.

How do I participate in a SSW 2 SSW Peer Assistance session? Peer assistance sessions will be held using an electronic platform such as GotoMeeting or Zoom. Once you register for SSW 2 SSW peer assistance sessions you will receive the link in an email once the sessions start being offered.

Do I have to attend all of the sessions? No. You can attend whenever you are available.
Agreement to Participate in SSWAA’s Peer Assistance Groups

I understand that the SSWAA School Social Worker to School Social Worker Peer Assistance Group:

- Does not meet requirements for licensure supervision in my state
- Will not constitute legal advice

As a participant in SSWAA Peer Assistance sessions, I will:

- Present cases in a way that keeps confidential my school district and my students/families/staff
- Keep confidential all discussions that occur during the session

I understand the peer assistance group facilitators and participants provide suggestions only and do not have the ability to investigate the legal aspects of each state and situation and will not hold the SSWAA or peer assistance group members or leaders responsible for actions taken as a result of those suggestions. I also agree that should any legal dispute arise; I agree to binding arbitration through the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service to settle the dispute. All fees for arbitration will be paid for by the member/participant bringing the claim.

____________________________________            __________________________
Name                                                                              Date

____________________________________
Signature

*Please sign and scan this agreement and submit with your registration for SSWAA School Social Worker to School Social Worker sessions.