DSW Programs: A Brief History

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Edwards, Rittner, & Holmes

• Task Force on Advanced Clinical Practice recommended by GADE and convened by CSWE

• The Doctorate in Social Work (DSW) Degree: Emergence of a New Practice Doctorate
1920’s

Flappers
Early Doctorates

• Bryn Mawr & University of Chicago (Ph.D)

• 1940’s DSW’s
  – Catholic U. of America (converted from Ph.D.)
  – U. of Pennsylvania
  – Smith College
20 New Doctoral Programs 1965-1975
By early 1970

- Over half offered DSW degrees
- 2 offered both
- By 1975, programs were evenly split
- No real difference in course work
Late 1990’s

• Most SW doctoral programs were PhD’s.
• DSW all but disappears
• Smith, Barry, and NYU offered clinical Ph.D’s
  – Eventually NYU and Barry became more research focused.
Resurgence of DSW

- Emergence of practice degrees in allied fields (e.g. psychology, nursing, physical therapy)
- Desire for peer recognition
- MSW students getting clinical doctorates in other fields (PsyD)
- Schools looking for revenue streams
Concerns About Resurgence

• DSW programs not anchored to schools with MSW programs
• Schools not requiring an MSW for admission
  – DSW not grounded in principles of the profession.
• Quick growth in number
• Wide variation in program missions and goals
• 15 programs as of January
  – More in pipeline
Hot Topics!
Currently

• Defining Advanced Practice
  – The majority (8/15) have a clinical focus but not all
• Broad variety of foci and missions
• Distinguishing Ph.D. and DSW
• Distinguishing MSW from DSW
• Accreditation
• “Terminal degree” issue
• How can PhD and DSW programs/graduates work together?
Rutgers (founded in 2013)

- The mission of the Doctorate of Social Work program is to transform experienced clinical social workers into leaders who promote individual, family, and community well-being and social justice in an increasingly diverse and global environment by training them to develop and disseminate clinical knowledge through peer-reviewed journal articles, national and international conference presentations, teaching, supervision, and innovative digital projects.
1. Develop an area of expertise in the field of clinical social work.

2. Advance new scholarship in the field of clinical social work through the completion of a case study and qualitative research project.

3. Disseminate scholarship within an area of clinical social work through multiple modalities including the creation of a multi-media project, submission of original manuscripts to peer-reviewed journals, presenting at national and international conferences, supervision and teaching.
Rutgers continued

- 45 full-time students
- 9 Weekend Residencies per Year
- Portfolio
  - Publishable Case Study
  - Publishable Small Qualitative Study
  - Multimedia Project
  - Example
- Graduates (71)
  - Some enter academic positions (9)
    - Tenure Track in Teaching Institutions
    - Non Tenure Track in Research Institutions
  - Most stay in current jobs
  - Most are interested in teaching