



**GERIATRIC SOCIAL WORK INITIATIVE**

**Practicum Partnership Program (PPP)  
Adoption Initiative  
Multi-Site Evaluation Report  
April 2005- September 2006**

**SECTION IV:  
PRELIMINARY CAREER INTEREST AND  
PLANNING FOR CAREER TRACKING**

**Report to the New York Academy of Medicine  
Social Work Leadership Institute  
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### **Goal Three: Describe careers of PPP students post-graduation**

The *PPP Career Tracking Survey* is planned for 2008. PPP students who have received their graduate degree and been in the labor market for various periods of time will be surveyed at that time. Thus, graduates will be at various points in their career from newly employed to having been employed for several years and, perhaps, having had more than one professional position. In 2007 the IRB approval process will be initiated with NYAM.

Currently 41 students have completed a PPP program in Cycle 1. Because of the numerous ways the PPP model is implemented in each site, not all of these students have graduated from an MSW program. An imperative step in preparing for the *PPP Career Tracking Survey* is to collect contact information on PPP graduates. Two methods have been tried and neither appears to be sufficient to the task. First, SWLI has solicited the names, addresses, and emails of graduates in order to recognize their accomplishment with a certificate. Secondly, as part of the evaluation, students completing the post-test have been asked to voluntarily go to another website (thus preventing linking their identifying information with the post-test) and record their contact information. The yield of student contact information from both these approaches was inadequate; information was received from 19 out of 41 possible graduates.

This challenge has been the topic of conversation in SWLI evaluation conference calls and several strategies will be pursued, including: enlisting the sites in tracking methodology strategies and periodic SWLI contact as part of the proposed Student Leadership Project. This issue is the most challenging confronted in the evaluation to date and requires ongoing attention, as tracking students in any research is problematic. It is well worth the effort to gain information on where PPP students enter into and continue to serve older adults and their families. (An article tracing PPP students who graduated with an MSW from the demonstration sites is currently in its last draft for submission for publication.)

### **CAREER INTEREST**

Information on the career interest of PPP students is being collected at both pre and post- test. The following descriptors are for the Cycle 1, year one students (n=41). In future reports this data will be presented cumulatively with student information for each year and cycle being added. The following is a summary of the highlights of student's stated career interest from their pre and post-test.

### Highlights Student Career Interest

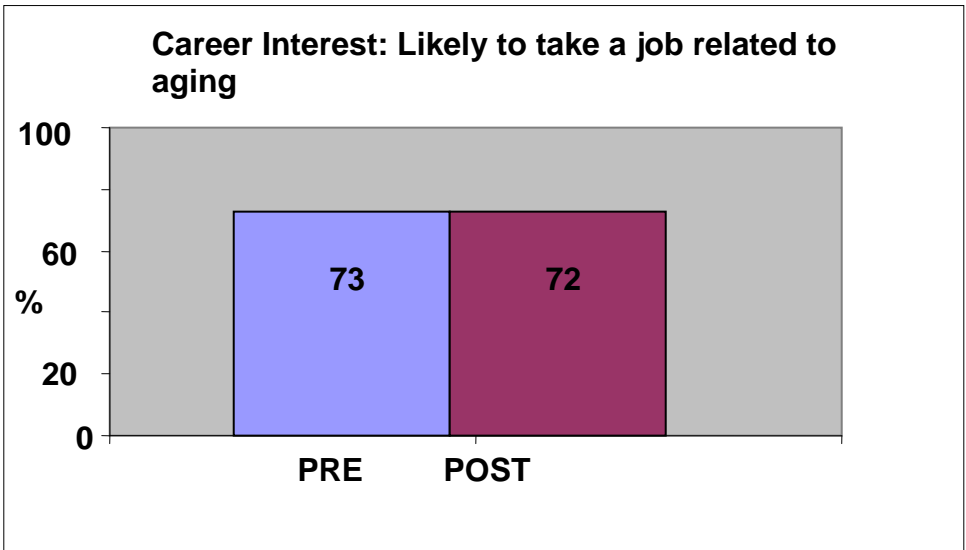
- 3/4 of the students are interested in careers in aging
- 1/3 are returning to current positions
- Variety of work settings interest and multiple shifts in interest after PPP

### Career Interests of PPP Cycle 1 Students PRE and POST

| PRE   | %  |
|---|----|
| <b>1. Which field of practice do you plan on working in after graduation?</b>                       |    |
| Aging   | 73 |
| Children  | 2  |
| Families  | 10 |
| Other   | 15 |
| POST  | %  |
| <b>1. Are you looking for a job or going to look for job immediately after graduation?</b>          |    |
| Yes   | 60 |
| No  | 0  |
| Not applicable  | 40 |
| <b>2. If you are looking for a job, are you looking for or going to look for aging-related job?</b> |    |
| Yes   | 72 |
| No <sup>1</sup>   | 28 |
| <b>3. If you already obtained a job, are you</b>  |    |
| (a) returning to the same position that you held prior to the MSW program.                          | 31 |
| (b) starting a new position at an agency where you worked prior to entering the MSW program.        | 0  |
| (c) going to work in an agency where you were placed for your PPP internship.                       | 15 |
| (d) starting a new position at a new agency.  | 54 |

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<sup>1</sup>“No” includes answers, such as “not sure” and “undecided”.



**Top Five Career Interest Settings**

| PRE  | POST  |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. AAA (51%)</li> <li>2. Hospital (46%)</li> <li>3. Hospice (44%)</li> <li>4. Senior center (37%)</li> <li>5. Long term care (34%)</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Long term care (46%)</li> <li>2. Gov't/public social services (43%)</li> <li>3. Social services (41%)</li> <li>4. Senior center (34%)</li> <li>5. Hospital (31%)</li> </ul> |