

AAIDD Interest Network Annual Plan & Yearly Report

Planning and reporting on Interest Network activities designed to fulfil their purpose.
(See the [AAIDD Interest Networks Leadership Manual](#) for the purpose of the Interest Networks.

Interest Network:		Social Work ("SWIN")
Lead Contact Person(s): Rebecca Wells, PhD, MSW, MPH, Chair, Jade Presnell, MS, LSW, Co-Chair, Amy Pei-Lung Yu, PhD, MSW, Communications Chair		
Next Scheduled Election & Leadership Position(s) that will be Open for Nomination: 2027 – Co-Chair		
2025-2026 Report For the year that just ended (July 1-June 30), indicate objectives met, activities completed, and funds used.		
2025-2026 Goals and Objectives	Activities	
Goal 1: Member Engagement- Engage existing and potential members in a variety of ways.		
Objective 1: Once a quarter, hold a member engagement event.	This objective was met. We held three virtual meetings: October 16, 2025; January 21, 2026; and April 23, 2026. We met in-person at the annual business meeting on June 23, 2026. Our quarterly meetings typically host between 10-15 attendees.	
Objective 2: Promote SW-authored presentations at the annual meeting by email to members of our network.	This objective was partially met. In previous years we have relied on a PDF version of the conference schedule to notify our members of these presentations. Because the PDF was not available this year, we verbally shared these presentation details during our annual business meeting and encouraged attendance.	
Objective 3: Host, promote, and participate in networking events at the AAIDD Annual Meeting.	This objective was met. We held a business meeting and an informal voluntary lunch at the 2026 annual meeting. Approximately 12 people joined our business meeting, and 5 people attended the lunch meet up.	
Objective 4: If funds allow, sponsor a scholarship for the 2026 annual meeting, a smaller merit award, or a membership scholarship for a student or early career professional (SECP).	This objective was met. A group of volunteers from our interest network reviewed abstracts, rated them, and selected a winner for a Merit award Dr. Yael Karni-Visel. In addition to the \$100 Merit Award, Yael was provided with a Basic Membership (\$90), and a Scholarship Luncheon (\$50). Total funds awarded by SWIN = \$240.	
Objective 5: Hold SWIN leadership election virtually in March for open leadership positions.	This objective was partially met. While we did not hold a formal election, we did promote the role of Communications Chair informally within the network. A current SWIN member, Amy Pei-Lung Yu, was self-nominated for the position and formally assumed the role of Communications Chair in April 2026. We are very excited to have her expertise and support in this new role.	

Due July 31, 2026

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Objective 6: Engage prospective members at other meetings and conferences, such as the Council on Social Work Education Annual Program Meeting.	This objective was met. In order promote participation in SWIN (and AAIDD more broadly) a small group of members shared a flyer about membership at the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) Annual Meeting in October 2026.
Goal 2: Current Issues- Engage existing and potential members around issues of relevance to social work practitioners, administrators, policy makers, and/or academics.	
Objective 1: Either as an individual interest network or in partnership with another interest network, develop and deliver at least one compelling webinar annually, highlighting the emergent work of a student and/or early career professional.	This objective was not met. Although this objective was not fully achieved, preliminary planning has been conducted to support continued progress toward this goal in the next annual planning year (2027). We hope to sponsor a joint webinar focused on the important role of sibling support for people with IDD and their families.
Objective 2: Invite guests to present on topics for at least two of our quarterly meetings.	This objective was met. We hosted guest speakers at our October 2025, January 2026, and April 2026 quarterly meetings. For the October meeting, Mary Sowers from the National Association of State Directors of Developmental Disabilities Services shared about Home and Community Based Services and impacts at the federal level. There were 12 people that attended this meeting. For the January 2026 meeting, Dr. Carol Britton Laws presented her work on Standardized Exam Credentialing for Entry-Level Direct Support Professionals - Assessing Competency and Ethics. Twelve people attended this meeting. For the April meeting, Dr. Meghan Burke presented her work on the role of integrated supports. Nine people attended this meeting.
Objective 3: Assess member interest in co-creating articles, presentations, or other creative works that further the mission of the Social Work Interest Network.	This objective was met. A group of approximately 10 SWIN members collaborated on a joint panel proposal submission titled, "Resilience in a time of political threats for people with Intellectual & Developmental Disabilities". This proposal was accepted for the Council on Social Work Education's (CSWE) Annual Conference and will be presented by a few SWIN members in October 2026.

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2026-2027 Plan: Goals, Objectives, Activities, and Strategies

For the **coming year** (July 1-June 30), describe the planned objectives, activities, and proposed expenditure of funds.

2026-2027 Goals and Objectives	Planned Activities
Goal 1: Member Engagement- Engage existing and potential members in a variety of ways.	
Objective 1: Once a quarter, hold a member engagement event.	Hold quarterly virtual meetings.
Objective 2: Promote SW-authored presentations at the annual meeting by email to members of our network.	Review conference program and promote SW-authored presentations via email and by mouth at the AAIDD Annual Meeting. Also promote SW-authored presentations/webinars/trainings via our member listserv.
Objective 3: Host, promote, and participate in networking events at the AAIDD Annual Meeting.	Hold annual in-person business meeting and voluntary networking events at the AAIDD Annual Meeting. SWIN will consider additional networking opportunities outside of the voluntary networking event (e.g., luncheon) that is typically held every year.
Objective 4: If funds allow, sponsor a scholarship for the 2026 annual meeting, a smaller merit award, or a membership scholarship for a student or early career professional (SECP).	Contingent on available funding. May consider partnering with another Interest Network. The Religion and Spirituality Interest Network has expressed some interest in collaboration.
Objective 5: Hold SWIN leadership election virtually in March for open leadership positions.	Facilitate formal SWIN leadership election for co-chair position in March 2027.
Objective 6: Engage prospective members at other meetings and conferences, such as the Council on Social Work Education Annual Program Meeting.	Continue to discuss collaboration opportunities during quarterly business meetings. May consider additional outreach opportunities to bring in new membership during the Council on Social Work Education Annual Meeting slated for October 2026.
Goal 2: Current Issues- Engage existing and potential members around issues of relevance to social work practitioners, administrators, policy makers, researchers, and/or academics.	
Objective 1: Either as an individual interest network or in partnership with another interest network, develop and deliver at least one compelling webinar annually, highlighting the emergent work of	Planning underway to potentially sponsor/support a joint AAIDD webinar on the important role of sibling support featuring work by Dr. Tiffany Banks and Dr. Yael Karni-Visel.

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a student and/or early career professional.	
Objective 2: Invite guests to present on topics for at least two of our quarterly meetings.	Planning underway to invite several new guest speakers to share their work in future quarterly SWIN meetings.
Objective 3: Assess member interest in co-creating articles, presentations, or other creative works that further the mission of the Social Work Interest Network.	Continue sharing collaboration opportunities during quarterly SWIN meetings, as well as via our member listserv.
Objective 4: Share relevant resources with SWIN members on disability and social work topics to promote ongoing learning and stay informed about current trends, research, and best practices in the field.	Develop, disseminate, and regularly update a resource list for SWIN members.