

UNI Social Work Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

Date: Wednesday, March 11, 2026

Time: 12-1 pm via zoom

Community Members Present:

Addictions Prevention and Treatment - Jordan Dunn/Pathways

Criminal Justice - Brian Sedgwick/Juvenile Court Services

NEW MEMBER! Children, Adolescent and Family Services & Housing - Brooke

Holahan/House of Hope, LISW

Medical/Health Care – Lilly Sauer/MercyOne NE Iowa

Mental Health - Tom Eachus/UnityPoint BHGMH, April Kiefer/ UnityPoint BHGMH

NEW MEMBER! Veterans - Dan Bonzer/Veteran Affairs Commission of Bremer County

Not present: Juli Hermanstorfer/Friendship Village, Jessica Klahsen/District School Social Worker

Social Work Department Faculty and Staff Present:

Rebecca Dickinson/MSW Program Director

Libby Fry/BSW Program Director

Jaimie O’Gara

Angelica Velazquillo Franco

Itunu Ilesanmi

Jenny Becker/Director of Field Instruction

Not present: Carissa Froyum/Interim Department Head, Matt Vasquez

Welcome to our newest community members!!
Brooke Holahan/House of Hope
Dan Bonzer/Veteran Affairs Commission of Bremer County

I. Social Work Department Program Updates

- A. New Department Head starting July 1, 2026: Dr. Vaughn DeCoster
- B. Plans for Search for Assistant Clinical Professor (4/4 teaching load, service)

II. BSW Program Updates

- A. Enrollment Numbers
 - a. Major - 226
 - b. Social Welfare Minor – 20
 - c. Addiction Treatment Certificate – 61
 - d. Discontinuing Child Welfare Certificate
- B. BSW application process
 - a. Moved online and simplified
 - b. Allows for quicker turnaround for Pre-SW majors to declare SW major

III. MSW Program Updates

- A. Next MSW Cohort numbers
 - a. On Campus – full at 25 with a waiting list
 - b. Online – 20 with a 2nd wave of applicants yet to review
- B. Fulltime/2 year MSW Foundation program (hybrid) to start Fall 2027
- C. Feedback from board regarding asynchronous courses and programming
 - a. Lose benefit of getting together with other students and the instructors to determine their knowledge, skills and abilities in interacting with others.
 - b. Having worked with students from online program, do not believe they are as prepared to do social work practice vs those who were in face to face courses/programs
 - c. Would not consider an MSW for hire that did their internship remotely as well.
 - d. Unless they are an exceptional student, would not willingly consider them over students to who have done their coursework and internship in person.
 - e. Concerned with being trained properly, lose interactions, can't understand nonverbals

IV. Field Program Updates

- A. Jim McCullaugh funding secured for out of state and international placements
- B. Number of field partners/agencies
 - a. Cedar Valley - 83
 - b. Iowa - 300
 - c. Out of State - 91

V. Other

- A. Trauma Informed Care Conference – May 8, 2026, online, 6 SW CEUs, register to open soon
- B. Clinical Supervision Refresher Training, Tuesday, September 22, 2026 from 9:00 am-12:15 pm on UNI's Campus, Cedar Falls, IA. Registration will open in July 2026.

Next Advisory Council Meeting – Fall 2026 (Wednesday from 12-1)