

DATE: July 17, 2020

TO: USC Suzanne Dworak-Peck School of Social Work on Campus Programs (OCP) Students in First and Second Year Placements & Field Instructors

FROM: Ruth Supranovich, Director of Field Education

RE: Field Placement Information for 2020-2021

The Field Education Faculty of the USC Suzanne Dworak-Peck School of Social Work look forward to working with all new and returning students during 2020-2021 Academic Year. We also want to thank Field Instructors who provide such excellent mentorship and supervision during the year to our students in their agencies.

The impact of COVID-19 on higher education has caused some disruption to the usual field education placement process this year. While most 2<sup>nd</sup> year students have been successfully matched with a field agency, there continue to be some changes as agencies adapt to the impact of the pandemic on their service delivery. We ask students to check their USC email regularly and maintain contact with their field instructor and USC placement coordinator and/or field faculty liaison regarding any changes in circumstances.

The field education placement team is currently reaching out to 1<sup>st</sup> year students and agencies to make matches, taking into account the availability of in-person, virtual, and alternate learning opportunities. We are dedicated to providing the best possible experience for students and our partner field agencies despite the uncertainty of the pandemic.

**To address student safety in field we have developed a COVID Field Practicum Policy for all students and a student consent form for those students going to agencies in person. These documents will be provided to 2<sup>nd</sup> year students and their Field Instructors via email beginning the week of July 20, 2020. 1<sup>st</sup> year students and Field Instructors will receive these documents beginning the week of August 3, 2020. These documents must be reviewed and signed no later than August 24, 2020.**

In order to provide consistency for students, clients, and agencies, field education dates will differ from those announced by USC for the undergraduate programs and for classroom-based instruction. Important dates are as follows:

- Fall classes begin August 24, 2020
- Fall Field Practicum begins August 31, 2020
- Fall Field Practicum ends on December 4, 2020\*
- Practicum resumes after the holidays on January 11, 2020

**\*Students should discuss with their Field Instructors how client care will continue during the Winter Break and make plans accordingly\***

Additional key dates related to field are found in the Fall 2020 Field Calendar attached.

We thank you in advance for your flexibility and understanding as we navigate field education during this global pandemic. This is certainly a time when social workers are needed more than ever. We look forward to working together to prepare the next generation of future professional social workers who will be ready on take on the task.