Social work supervision is defined in a number of ways by different authorities, agencies, and associations, and typically involves people with social work degrees, licenses, or jobs who are supervised by a licensed social worker (social work federal requirements). Social work supervision has remained a standard of practice and is included in most state licensing requirements toward licensure and independent practice. Social work leaders, clinicians, and advocates praise the profession’s model of supervision and share in the assertion that good supervision is essential to high-quality social work practice.

Supervision is situated at a crossroads whereby direct services will be further enhanced or diminished based on the type and quality of supervision received. This moment in the profession’s evolution coincides with a postpandemic workforce shortage in both agency-based practitioners and supervisors. This special issue will explore the current state of social work supervision including manuscripts that report on research findings, models and methods of supervision, education and training initiatives and outcomes, and contemporary practice and policy issues that directly inform or impact social work supervision. This special issue seeks original articles that help to answer the following questions:

» What are the supervisor’s and supervisee’s responsibilities for supervision, particularly in regard to building capacities to perform the seminal social work roles of assessment, planning, and intervention?

» How do the curricula in schools of social work and the CSWE and NASW standards contribute to the effectiveness of supervision?

» What are the current challenges and opportunities in supervision of licensed and prelicensed social workers and other social service staff as providers of mental health services in private practice, multidisciplinary settings, and social service agencies?

» What is known about the feasibility, acceptability, and outcomes of supervisor training and support programs?

» What can social work supervisors learn from the practice and supervision models that address issues related to poverty, oppression, injustice, and trauma seen in direct practice?

» What can be learned in preparation for future crises from social work supervisors’ roles, experiences, or impacts throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, including what continued to work well and what needed to be adapted?

The deadline for submission is October 30, 2024. The journal encourages submission of full-length manuscripts (no more than 20 double-spaced pages), practice updates, and commentary. To prepare your manuscript in proper format for submission, visit https://academic.oup.com/sw/pages/Instructions_To_Authors. Please submit manuscripts through the online submission portal at http://swj.msubmit.net (initial, one-time registration is required) and indicate that your submission is intended for the Current Issues in Social Work Supervision special issue.

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