

HAPPY SOCIAL WORK MONTH!



“It’s a privilege to be able to bear witness to someone’s story when they may not have had the chance to tell it before.”
-Lindy Alexander

Happy Social Work Month!

A whole month dedicated to us (Woo Hoo)! We, your School Social Workers within CVCS, would like to share our profession, what we do, and why we love it with you!

Oftentimes, people do not know what a social worker is able to do, what our training is like, and all the areas that we can work in. Social workers work on three different levels: Micro (individuals and groups in therapeutic capacity), Mezzo (neighborhoods, schools, communities), and Macro (health care, law, policy, international). In New York State, in order to call yourself a “social worker” you must:

1. **Obtain a Bachelor’s degree:** Many social workers have degrees in social work for undergraduate, but not all! THEN
2. **Obtain a Masters Degree in Social Work (MSW):** If you have your BSW, you can complete this program in one year. If you have a degree outside of a BSW, it is a 2 year program.
3. **Obtain your State Licensed Master Social Worker (LMSW):** In New York State, to legally state that you are a social worker you need to have one

of two licenses. LMSW is the first license. You need an MSW and to pass a board examination to obtain this. You are able to practice social work services under supervision (this includes clinical skills). This license is renewed every three years via continuing education courses.

4. **Obtain your State Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW):** Once you have your LMSW, receive 3 years of supervised direct clinical experience, and client contact hours, you can take your second board exam to become an LCSW. An LCSW is able to independently practice, diagnose, bill for services, and more. It is currently (as of 1/1/2023) the highest license you can obtain in social work in NY.

SOCIAL WORK

BREAKS BARRIERS

WHERE CAN SOCIAL WORKERS WORK?

Social Workers are all over! They can be found in:

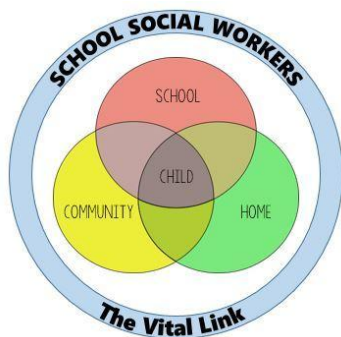
- Schools, Colleges
- Medical/ Mental Health/ Substance Use Clinics, Doctor's Offices, Hospitals
- Government Agencies
- Veterinarian's Offices
- Care Coordination Agencies
- Police Departments
- Jails, Prisons
- Military
- Senior Centers
- Housing Supports
- Shelters
- Libraries
- And more!

diagnose mental, emotional, behavioral, addictive and developmental disorders and disabilities.”

This includes:

- Identifying biological, medical, psychological, cultural, sociological, emotional, legal, economic, and environmental factors that impact student learning
- Implementing appropriate school intervention and prevention programs
- crisis intervention
- conflict resolution
- violence prevention
- substance abuse prevention
- child abuse prevention
- positive self-image
- social skills and character education
- consultation
- individual, group and/or family counseling

WHAT DOES A SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKER DO?



According to the NYSSSWA:

“School social workers are licensed as well as certified pupil personal providers with unique and diverse skills. School social workers who are licensed as a Clinical Social Worker can

MEET THE SES SOCIAL WORKER:

RYAN SMITH, LCSW

- **Education Background-** JCC/SUNY Geneseo for Secondary Math Education; University at Buffalo- MSW Program
- **Certification:** Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW)
- **Areas of interest:** childhood trauma; attachment therapy/play therapy; Domestic violence
- **The thing I love the most about being a SSW at SES** is building relationships with my students and their families. Building strong trusting relationships is always my number one goal

