

ADVOCACY CIRCLE TERMS OF REFERENCE (ACTOR) FOR BCASW

Purpose

The Advocacy Circle is a group of volunteers within BCASW established to promote and collaborate on advocacy education and action consistent with the goals, values and priorities of the organization within the framework of our Code of Ethics and Standards of Practice. The intent of the Advocacy Circle is to bring people together around advocacy learning and action. We want to provide support, share learning opportunities, share expertise, welcome contributions and know what we are all working on in our different communities and committees.

Composition

The Advocacy Circle is supported by the Board Member who serves as liaison for the BCASW Board. There are four key components in the Advocacy Circle:

1. The Advocacy Core
2. Advocacy Action Groups
3. Advocacy Skill Development
4. Advocacy Best Practice

Roles and Responsibilities

THE ADVOCACY CORE is comprised of branch, committee/community of practice liaisons in BCASW and other invested members. Consistent with BCASW precepts, this group membership will strive to reflect the population we serve.

The Advocacy Core prescribes the set of principles for BCASW Advocacy work based on our Code of Ethics and Standards of Practice, consistent with core values of Social Work. All Advocacy work is sensitive to anti-oppressive practice including racism, LGBTQ, truth and reconciliation and all other rights and freedoms essential for a just and inclusive society. The Core also explores, develops and practices flat, inclusive decision making and the setting of reasonable, doable goals. is responsible for developing the parameters for foundational workshop/webinar (s) to instruct BCASW members on the essential elements of Advocacy to ensure professional requirements are clear and manageable so that all our values are built into each advocacy action.

THE ADVOCACY SKILLS DEVELOPMENT section is responsible for:

1. Developing a skills-based set of instructions and examples for use as templates in advocacy planning and action.
2. Providing regular educational opportunities that teach basic and advanced skills in advocacy.
3. Assisting the Advocacy Core members in the design, delivery of and evaluation of Advocacy Workshops.
4. Contributing to a website database to ensure advocacy tools and resources are available to all members.

ADVOCACY ACTION GROUPS are small working groups established for specific projects of interest. It may be valuable to build ties to like-minded organizations beyond BCASW for collaborating in targeted areas. There is no set number of working groups as this is based on need, interest, time, and energy to do the work. These groups can be formed with others who have similar pursuits. In addition, care will be taken to include individuals who are the intended recipients of our advocacy at the earliest stages of planning.

THE ADVOCACY BEST PRACTICE section will research best practice tools and develop models that can be adapted easily to each area of advocacy action the group pursues. This could be an area where current SW students could become involved and there could be some sources of funding that could be secured.

Additional Elements

EVALUATION REPORT

Reports on Advocacy Action must be shared with the whole Advocacy Circle and the Board on a regular basis, sharing success stories and points of learning. Especially important are the results of the Advocacy Action taken. These can update information for the Advocacy Skills Section and add to the growing body of knowledge for all BCASW members in their Advocacy work.

LEARNING FROM IMPLEMENTATION

Sharing information within the Advocacy Circle and the Board

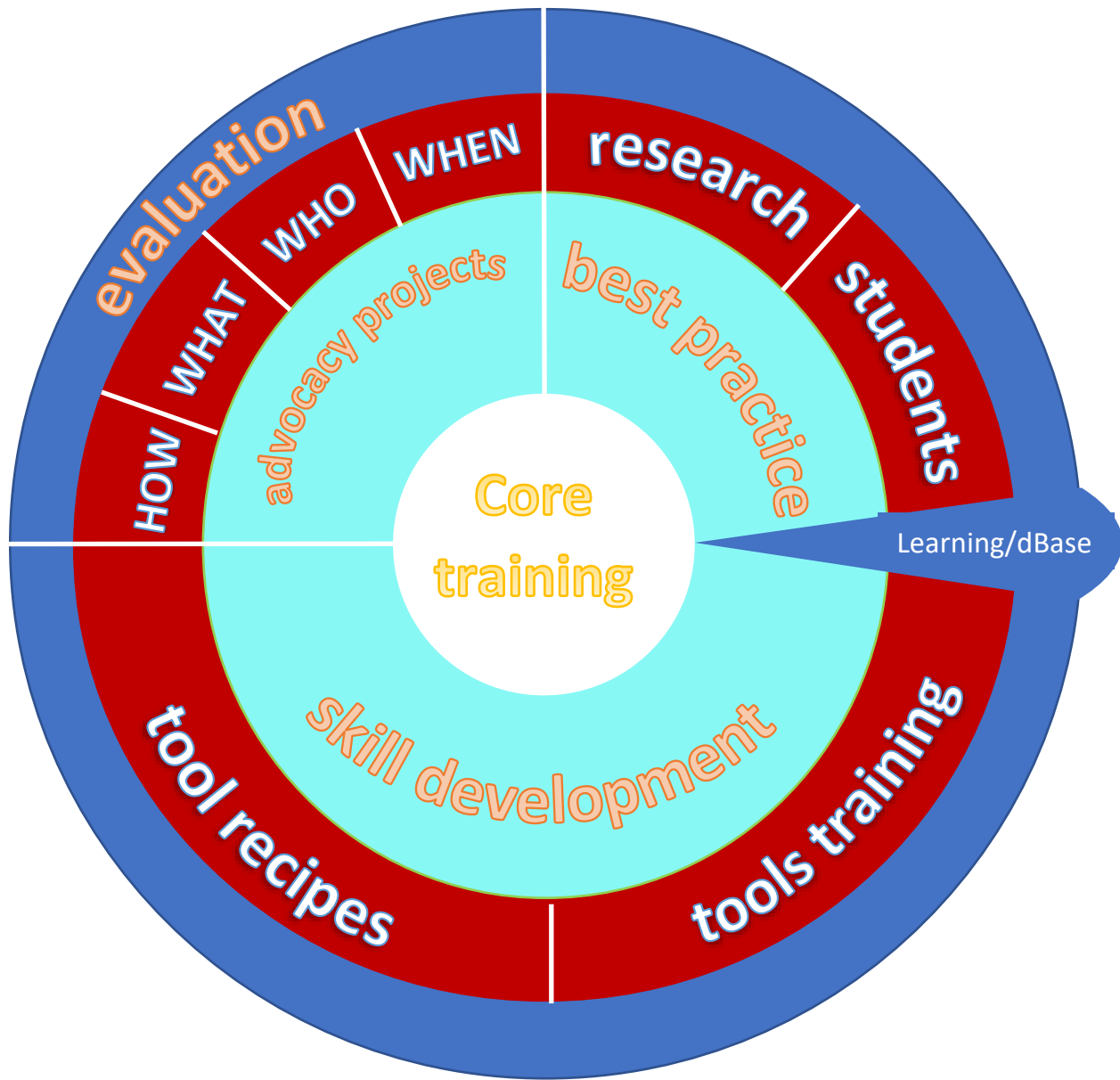
KEY EXPECTATIONS

In all advocacy practice, there will be:

1. Alignment with Advocacy Core Workshop messaging
2. Clear delineation of writer representation, i.e., speaking on behalf of BCASW, a Branch, constituent, citizen, group member, etc.
3. Demonstration of anti-oppressive social work practice.
4. Involvement of BCASW members and the larger community who share values and interests.
5. Inclusion of people who are intended as the recipients of the advocacy initiative.
6. Identification of advocacy for public interest or advocacy for social workers.
7. An effort to ensure diversity at every level, reflecting the community served.
8. Maximum awareness of advocacy initiatives and learnings for all members.

CORE ADVOCACY TRAINING COMPONENTS

1. Continuum of advocacy intervention, from donation to lobbying.
2. Additional regular training with Advocacy Skill Tools (1-2 per session).



ACTOR Flowchart