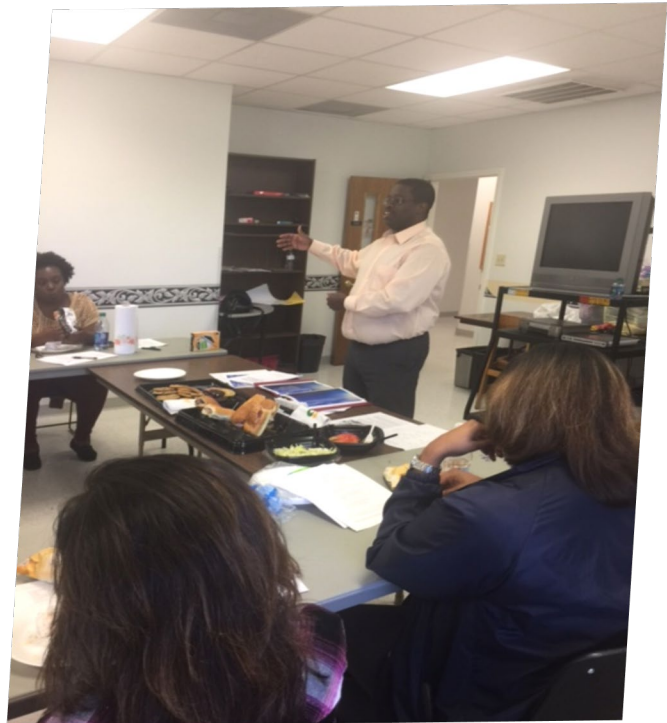


September 2017

## School of Social Work

The School of Social Work welcomed two new faculty members, Dr. Hyacinth McKee and Dr. Holly McKenney. In addition, this fall, the school is preparing approximately 450 undergraduate and graduate students for careers in social work. We do this with the assistance of nearly 200 internships sites in and around the New Orleans region.

**Dr. Torin Sanders** reports that he, Drs. Freeman, and Wise facilitated “Self-Care” training workshops to the State of Louisiana’s Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) child welfare employees (case managers, supervisors, program specialist, etc.). The trainers addressed self-care to help the workers recognize stress, and ways that stress impacts their daily functioning as well as their professional work. Intervention strategies and methods to alleviate the negative effects of stress were presented. Drs. Sanders and Freeman also provided tips on burnout prevention and self-care plans, while teaching about compassion fatigue, which creates burnout in child welfare workers. The workshops were conducted in New Orleans, Hammond, and Lafayette. These training opportunities were funded by a grant awarded by Amerigroup (Healthy Blue)



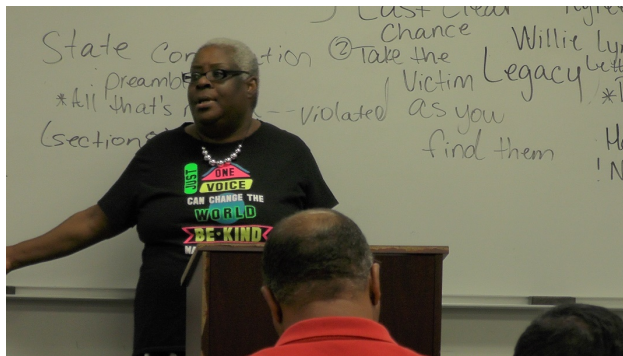
**Dr. Derrick Freeman** conducted a training for the Senior Companion Program (New Orleans Council on Aging) – management staff. Senior Companions are volunteers age 55 and over who provide assistance and friendship to adults who

have difficulty with daily living tasks, such as shopping or paying bills. They help these adults remain independent in their homes instead of having to relocate to more costly institutional care. Senior Companions give families or professional caregivers a much-needed time off from their duties as they run errands, and often provide friendship for their clients. The training session focused on performance management, motivation, team development, interpersonal and communication skills, supervisory skills training and time management skills.

**Dr. Freeman** presented on **The Importance of Clinical Documentation and Compliance** to students in the Addictive Behaviors Counseling Program during Substance Abuse Awareness Week. During his presentation, Dr. Freeman focused—on client/patient care, compliance, quality measures, coding, reimbursements and clinical data/information integrity.

**Dr. Patricia Guillory** and **Dr. Jill Murray** conducted a Louisiana Social Work Licensing Board approved workshop entitled *LCSW Supervision: Assess Supervisee Needs for an Effective Supervision Plan* on Friday, September 22, 2017. The workshop is required by the state of Louisiana for all social workers who hold the Board Approved Clinical Supervisor (BACS) certification. The workshop was well received and will be offered through the School of Social Work Community Resource Center (CRC) twice a year.

**Dr. Sam Odom** coordinated presentations by two guest speakers this month. The first speaker, Sandra Wheeler Hester was a guest lecturer in the School of Social Work on September 13, 2017. Mrs. Hester addressed students in four (4) classes, at both graduate and undergraduate



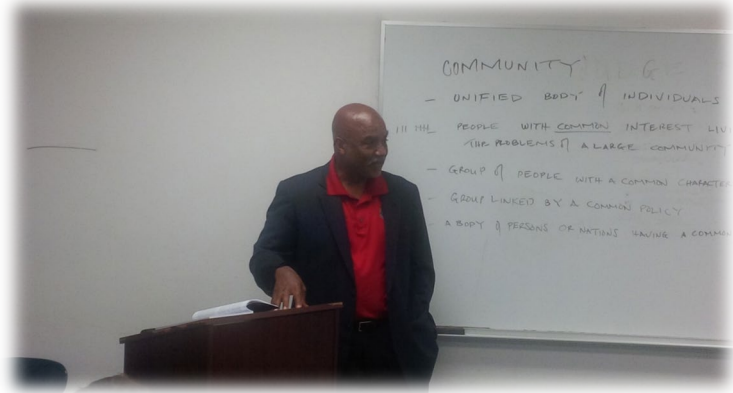
levels. Students from courses taught by Drs. Freeman, Odom, Schroeder, and Professor Ron McClain were inspired to hear about Mrs. Hester's work in and for the community. The four classes included SOWK 603-3 & 4, SOWK 605-1 and SOWK 341-2. They are all macro practice social work courses. During

the lecture, Mrs. Hester discussed her work as a community activist from a micro, mezzo and macro level covering two decades of interfacing, interacting, and engaging with the Orleans Parish School Board and New Orleans City Council under the leadership of several Mayors

including Sidney Barthelemy, Marc H. Morial and C. Ray Nagin. Mrs. Hester is shown above (at the lectern) and below with students and professors.



**Dr. Sam Odom** also organized a second guest lecture featuring New Orleans City Councilman James Gray. Councilman Gray, II, Esq. who discussed the concept of Social Work Practice with Communities from the perspective of a Legal Advocate (Attorney). He spoke about his role as a mentor, coach and community organizer for more than 35 years working with communities on issues related to fair housing, athletics and education. Additionally, Councilman Gray discussed the importance of empowering constituents to take ownership of their communities. Councilman Gray discussed some of the perils of organizing as well in terms of advocating for social change within neighborhood communities.







**Dr. Gail Wise** consulted with the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) on their Documentation Training in St. John Parish and she completed the Board Approved Clinical Supervisor's (BACS) certification with the Louisiana Board of Social Work Examiners. Dr. Wise also worked with the Amerigroup administrative team to help organize child welfare training and consultation throughout the state. The Amerigroup Administrative team (pictured left, Dr. Wise, Almarie Ford, John Krentel

and Dr. Ron Mancoske) Dr. Wise met several times as PI on the Amerigroup Contract.

The **School of Social Work** hosted Dr. Rhea Almeida and social work practitioner, Diana Melendez on September 28. Dr. Almeida is founder of the Institute for Family Services in New Jersey and Ms. Melendez is on the faculty at the Institute. Dr. Almeida and Melendez provided a presentation on decolonizing social work practice using liberation healing processes and methods. Their presentation is a sneak preview for the Liberation Healing Conference that is scheduled for



November 3rd and 4<sup>th</sup> in the University Conference Center. The conference is hosted by the School of Social Work. Dr. Ben Robertson will present at this conference. Pictured are Dr. Almeida, seated and from left, Diana Melendez, Dr. Robertson, Dean Chaisson and Dr. Jill Murray. Dr. Jill Murray assisted with continuing education approval for 18 ceu hours for the conference and Mrs. Camille Alexander who is not pictured, attended and coordinated the event.