**Dear UAA MSW Social Work Students, Field Instructors, Agency Supervisors, Staff, & Faculty:**

As a safety precaution for our students and community On March 16, 2020 we suspended in-person student field placement activities. After much thought and commitment to our students, field agency staff and clients, and the public health of Alaska, the UAA School of Social Work is ***suspending in-person student field placement activities for the remainder of the Spring 2020 semester.***

Below we provide revised information about our plan for current field placements, student completion of field hours, and activities related to arranging field placements for next academic year.

**Revised Plan for Current Student Placements:**

* Effective March 26, 2020, BSW / MSW students will not attend practicum in person for the remainder of the semester.

**Revised Plan for Completion of Field Hours and Demonstration of Competencies:**

In order for students to ***complete their field hours*** ***as quickly as possible***, we are taking the following actions:

* Per the 03/24/2020 announcement from the Council on Social Work Education allowing accredited social work programs to allow 85% completion of field hours for the AY19/20 academic year, the required hours to complete BSW and MSW field are now revised as follows:  
  + ***BSW students will complete 150 hours*** ***for spring 2020*** (for a total of 345 hours for AY 2019/2020 rather than the 400 hour minimum required by CSWE and the 440 hours as required by the BSW program).
  + ***MSW students will complete 179 hours for spring 2020*** (for total of 765 hours for AY 2019/2020 rather than 450 hour minimum required by CSWE and the 480 hours as designated by the MSW program for the year).
* SWK A495, SWK A646, and SWK A647 (Field Seminars) have resumed the week of March 23, 2020 via distance delivery and will continue through the end of spring semester.
  + Beginning March 23, 2020 and continuing through the end of the semester, the hours students spend in seminar class sessions ***will count toward students’ required field hours.***
* Students should consult directly with your field practicum instructor to determine any needed adjustments to your field completion plan, alternative field activities, means for documenting field hours, assignment logistics, alternative supervision if needed, and plans for final evaluation and virtual site visits.
* Students who engage in field education activities using client-based telehealth or other virtual technology should use technology provided by the field education agency, not your private accounts.

**Revised Plan for Arranging BSW & MSW Field Placements for AY20/21:**

* Alexa Filanowicz (BSW), Heidi Brocious (MSW Outside of Anchorage/MatSu), and Kathi Trawver (MSW Anchorage/MatSu) are resuming field placement activities next week with students and will contact community agencies when appropriate and in the best interest of student placements. If you have questions, please be in touch with your coordinator.

These are stressful times. Please take care of yourselves and reach out to us with any questions or concerns you may have.

Sincerely,

Heidi, Alexa, and Kathi – 2020 Field Coordinators