



**MSU**<sup>SM</sup>  
DENVER

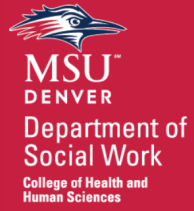
Department of Social Work  
College of Health and Human Sciences

# 7TH ANNUAL POLICY CONFERENCE:

A Call to Action: Ensuring Anti-Racist, Anti-Oppressive  
and Equitable Social Work Licensing Practices



Friday, September 22, 2023  
A Hybrid Conference



# 7th Annual Policy Conference

*A Call to Action: Ensuring Anti-Racist, Anti-Oppressive  
and Equitable Social Work Licensing Practices*

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7th Annual

# POLICY CONFERENCE:

A Call to Action: Ensuring Anti-Racist,  
Anti-Oppressive and Equitable Social  
Work Licensing Practices

*Presented by MSU Denver's Department of Social Work and NASW-CO*

## Welcome!

We are excited to have you join us for an informative presentation, discussion, and action plan regarding imminent and necessary changes to the licensure process for social workers. This timely and urgent reform is prompted by equity access concerns, challenges to the ASWB exam, and shortage of behavioral health clinicians across the country.

Four (4) hours of Continuing Education Units are endorsed by NASW-CO and available for this conference. Units will be provided upon completion of the conference evaluation form.

## Link to Policy Conference Zoom Webinar:

<https://msudenverswk.zoom.us/j/98452182034>

**In-Person Check-in begins at 8:30 AM**

**Online Check-in begins at 8:50 AM**

This project is supported by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) as part of an award totaling \$1.9M with no funds financed with non-governmental sources (HRSA Award 1 MC1HP42090-01-00). The contents are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the official views of, nor an endorsement, by HRSA, HHS or the U.S. Government.



# 7th Annual Policy Conference

*A Call to Action: Ensuring Anti-Racist, Anti-Oppressive and Equitable Social Work Licensing Practices*

## In-Person Event at a Glance

Time	Event	Location
08:30	<b>Doors Open for Check-In</b>	St. Cajetan's
09:00	<b>Welcome Address</b> Lori Darnel, JD, MSW, Social Work Associate Chair Dr. Jess Retrum, MSSW, PhD, Social Work Chair Leanne Rupp, MSW, LCSW, Executive Director at NASW-CO	St. Cajetan's
09:30	<b>Keynote Panel</b> <i>A Call to Action: Ensuring Anti-Racist, Anti-Oppressive and Equitable Social Work Licensing Practices</i> Feliz Fraser, LCSW Jennifer Miles, MSW with Frontline Public Affairs Brad A. Palmertree, MSW with MSUD Bethany Raab, LCSW with CO Society for Clinical Social Work <b>Moderator:</b> Amanda Marsh-Baranski, MSW, DSW with MSUD & NASW-CO President-Elect	St. Cajetan's
11:00	<b>Lunch</b>	St. Cajetan's
11:45	<b>Transition to Breakouts</b>	
12:00	<b>In-Person Breakout Session Begins</b>	King Center Various Rooms
1:50	<b>Post Event Action</b>	King Center Various Rooms
2:00	<b>Event End</b>	King Center Various Rooms



# 7th Annual Policy Conference

*A Call to Action: Ensuring Anti-Racist, Anti-Oppressive and Equitable Social Work Licensing Practices*

## Online Event at a Glance

Time	Event
08:30	<b>Doors Open for Check-In</b>
09:00	<b>Welcome Address</b> Lori Darnel, JD, MSW, Social Work Associate Chair Dr. Jess Retrum, MSSW, PhD, Social Work Chair Leanne Rupp, MSW, LCSW, Executive Director at NASW-CO
09:30	<b>Keynote Panel</b> <i>A Call to Action: Ensuring Anti-Racist, Anti-Oppressive and Equitable Social Work Licensing Practices</i> Feliz Fraser, LCSW Jennifer Miles, MSW with Frontline Public Affairs Brad A. Palmertree, MSW with MSUD Bethany Raab, LCSW with CO Society for Clinical Social Work <b>Moderator:</b> Amanda Marsh-Baranski, DSW, LCSW with MSUD & NASW-CO President-Elect
11:00	<b>Break</b>
11:20	<b>Online Breakout Session Begins</b>
1:10	<b>Post Event Action</b>
1:20	<b>Event End</b>

# DETAILED POLICY CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

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**9:00**

## **Welcome Address**

The Policy Conference will kick off with warm welcomes from MSU Denver's Social Work Leadership team; Associate Chair Lori Darnel, Chair Dr. Jess Retrum, and NASW-CO Executive Director Leanne Rupp.

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**9:30**

## **Keynote Panel: A Call to Action: Ensuring Anti-Racist, Anti-Oppressive and Equitable Social Work Licensing Practices**

In August 2022, the Association of Social Work Boards (ASWB) – the developers & proctors of social work licensure exams used in every state – released exam pass rate data that revealed stark disparities in pass rates among a wide range of historically marginalized groups. Their report confirmed what many in the profession already knew to be true: standardized tests for social work licensure are riddled with bias and act as racist and ableist gatekeepers to social workers of color, those who are older, those living with a disability, and those for whom English is not their first language. The keynote panel will address the findings from ASWB, the reaction from stakeholders, how Colorado social workers are responding, and what the future of social work licensure can look like in Colorado. The panel will wrap with a call-to-action to social workers to join in solidarity at the State Capitol early in 2024 when NASW-CO and other stakeholders use our collective voices to support two pieces of legislation that will transform social work licensure in our state.

# DETAILED POLICY CONFERENCE SCHEDULE CONTINUED

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10:30

## Q&A

Throughout the keynote panel, we will collect questions and comments from the audience using Slido. Slido ensures that both in-person and online attendees can participate. Join the discussion and share your questions with the panelists via Slido using the link or QR code.



### Join with:

<https://app.sli.do/event/ghktbqEopqLTbA2yxMFnd2>

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11:20 Virtual  
12:00 In-  
Person

## Breakout Sessions: The Call to Action

Following the keynote panel, the breakout session will prepare participants for action. Facilitators will support you in the creation of your personal advocacy action plan through a series of reflection and discussion questions. Participants will be given a worksheet to complete, and they will leave with a commitment to advocacy and identified next steps.

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End

## Post Event Action

Before you leave today, please complete a short form letting us know how you can continue to facilitate change in Social Work Policy. You can find the form in your email, or use the QR code below.



# Meet the Keynote Moderator and Panelists

**Amanda Baranski**, LCSW, is a Lecturer at MSU Denver. Dr. A is a Denver-based Licensed Clinical Social Worker, her diverse clinical background encompasses hospital social work, mental health, recovery services, and mediation, reflecting her ability to serve a varied clientele within a recovery-centric care model. Her commitment to education is evident, having taught across BSW, MSW, and DSW programs. Beyond teaching, Dr. Baranski advocates for Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (JEDI) as the co-chair with the National Association of Social Workers, Colorado Chapter and is excited for her terms as its president-elect and president. Her specialized areas of concern underscore ambiguous grief and loss, queer issues, mental illness, and disorders of consciousness. With a flair for fostering collaborations and relationships, Dr. Baranski's contributions are invaluable in bridging the academic-practitioner divide.



**Moderator**  
**AMANDA MARSH-  
BARANSKI**  
*MSW, LCSW, DSW with MSUD &  
NASW-CO President-Elect*

**Panelist**  
**FELIZ FRASER**  
**LCSW**



**Felicidad (Feliz) Fraser** is a proud Native New Yorker who has loved and lived in Colorado for the past 24 years, and an LCSW. She is MSU Denver Alumna, Bachelor in Social Work Class of 2009 and GSSW MSW Alumna of the University of Denver, Class of 2010. She is the co-founder of Grace in Balance, PLLC, a group practice primarily supporting school-aged child primarily, but all are welcome.

She is the past Board President of the NASW-CO, and currently sits on the NASW-CO Legislative and Education Committees. She is past President of the ABSW (Association of Black Social Workers) CO Chapter and Give An Hour, an organization that donates pro-bono mental health services to active and inactive members of the armed forces and their families.

If she (her/hers) had to label herself in one word, it would be **ADVOCATE**, though she prefers few, if any, labels at all.





**Panelist**

**JENNIFER MILES**  
*MSW with Frontline  
Public Affairs*

**Jennifer Miles** established the lobbying and government relations firm of Miles Consulting, Inc. in 2003. The firm began using the trade name of Frontline Public Affairs in 2016. Under her leadership, Frontline Public Affairs has grown in size and reputation. Jennifer is an accomplished lobbyist with 25 years of experience, with a focus on health and human services policy issues. She is widely recognized as a budget expert in these policy areas. Jennifer is also known for her ability to explain complex issues and the legislative process, making her a popular speaker. Prior to establishing the firm, she served for 9 years as Director of Public Policy for the Colorado Community Health Network, the state association for Community Health Centers. She also served as a Policy Analyst for the National Conference of State Legislatures. She holds a Master's Degree in Social Work (MSW) from the University of Denver as well as a Bachelor's Degree in Sociology and Political Science from Tulane University.



**Brad A. Palmertree**, MSW, is on a mission to facilitate change and growth through conversation. He has fulfilled this mission as a community organizer, lobbyist, collective impact practitioner, nonprofit leader, & nonprofit consultant. He has co-created & participated in movements for social justice at the grassroots and grasstops, particularly at the intersections of health care policy, juvenile justice, queer rights, and racial justice. He joined the faculty in the Department of Social Work at MSU Denver in 2021 where he teaches at the intersection of policy, practice, and social justice. When he isn't in the classroom, you can usually find him listening to NPR, quoting *The Golden Girls*, or exploring new hiking trails. His two cats, Rocky and Isabella, graciously allow Brad and his partner to cohabitate with them at their home in Denver, Colorado.

**Panelist**

**BRAD A. PALMERTREE**  
*MSW with MSUD*



**Bethany** is a 2006 graduate of the University of Denver. She has been a practicing therapist for 17 years and in private practice for 11 years. Her clinical focus is adolescents who struggle with relationships and problematic sexual behavior.

Bethany and her team at Colorado LCSW Supervision provide group and individual supervision for early-career social workers. Consultation services include practice-building and supervision of supervision for those pursuing their Approved Clinical Supervisor credential. Bethany is a Co-Founder of the Colorado Social Work Collaborative, PLLC, a group practice focusing on training and supervising new social workers and serving Medicaid-covered clients across the state.

Bethany is the current President of the Colorado Society for Clinical Social Work. Previously, she served as an Education Committee Co-Chair for CSCSW, Board Treasurer for NASW-Colorado, and Co-Chair of the NASW Private Practice Group.

Bethany lives and works in Denver, Colorado.



**Panelist**

**BETHANY RAAB**

*LCSW with CO Society for Clinical Social Work*



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# POST- EVENT ACTION STEPS

## Post- Event Actions

This is your go-to resource for post-conference actions. Note the curated list of surveys, websites, and valuable resources to help you apply what you've learned in your next steps.

## 2023 Colorado Social Work Licensure Survey

Want to share your reaction to the ASWB Exam Pass Rate Analysis info and associated exam disparities, and would like to help inform our advocacy efforts moving forward in the state of Colorado as it relates to potential changes to future social work licensing requirements, please follow:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/C9CYWLC>



## Anonymous Post-Event Survey

We value your feedback! To help us refine the event, we'd like to ask you a few questions about your experience.

[https://msudenver.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_0DOvLi3TRuvwuNg](https://msudenver.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_0DOvLi3TRuvwuNg)



## Visit the Policy Conference Website



Come explore our website to find details about the conference.

## NASW-CO Website for 2024 Legislative Efforts

Want to stay updated on the issues affecting our profession in Colorado through a variety of efforts? Follow:

<https://naswco.socialworkers.org/Advocacy/2024-Legislative-Advocacy-Efforts>

or use the QR code.





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## Department of Social Work

College of Health and  
Human Sciences

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**METROPOLITAN  
STATE UNIVERSITY**<sup>SM</sup>  
OF DENVER

Department of Social Work



Health Resources & Services Administration



National Association of Social Workers  
COLORADO CHAPTER

# A SPECIAL THANKS TO THE TEAM

*This was possible because of your contribution.*

MSU Denver's Social Work Department gratefully recognizes and appreciates the 2023 Policy Conference Committee members. Your guidance, commitment, and hard work have been indispensable every step of the way. We couldn't have done this without you!

## ➤ PLANNING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Amanda Marsh-Baranski, MSW, DSW  
Dr. Dawn Matera Bassett, LCSW, Ph.D.  
Dr. Julie Clockston, DSW, LCSW  
Dr. Becky Cottrell, Ph.D.  
Lori Darnel, JD, MSW  
Teiriana Ibarra, Event Planning Specialist  
Samantha Montague, MSE, OSWSS Director  
Brad A. Palmertree, MSW  
Leanne Rupp, MSW, LCSW

## ➤ FACILITATORS

### In- Person Breakout Facilitators:

Amanda Marsh-Baranski, MSW, DSW  
Karina Benabe, MSW  
Barbara Decker, MSW, Program Director  
Feliz Fraser, LCSW  
Alex Leach, Adjunct MSUD Faculty  
Jennifer Miles, MSW  
Brad A. Palmertree, MSW  
Bethany Raab, LCSW

### Online Breakout Facilitators:

Ozy Aloziem, MSW  
Dr. Dawn Matera Bassett, LCSW, Ph.D.  
Bianca Brandon, MSW, LCSW  
Dr. Julie Clockston, DSW, LCSW  
Carissa Fralin, Adjunct MSUD Faculty  
Dr. Jess Retrum, MSSW, PhD, Social Work Chair  
Dr. Eileen Starr, MSW, LCSW, Ph.D.

