



OCSWSSW - Annual Meeting

# The Chameleon Effect

Defined by Professionalism

**Social workers and social service workers, by the nature of their professions, are chameleons ideally suited to play a key role in supporting a collaborative approach to healthcare**



**What is professionalism and how do we define it?**



**A professional is:**

- **Accountable**
- **An advocate**
- **Collaborative**
- **Educated**



**Professionalism is often tied to extensive study and in many cases to a degree**

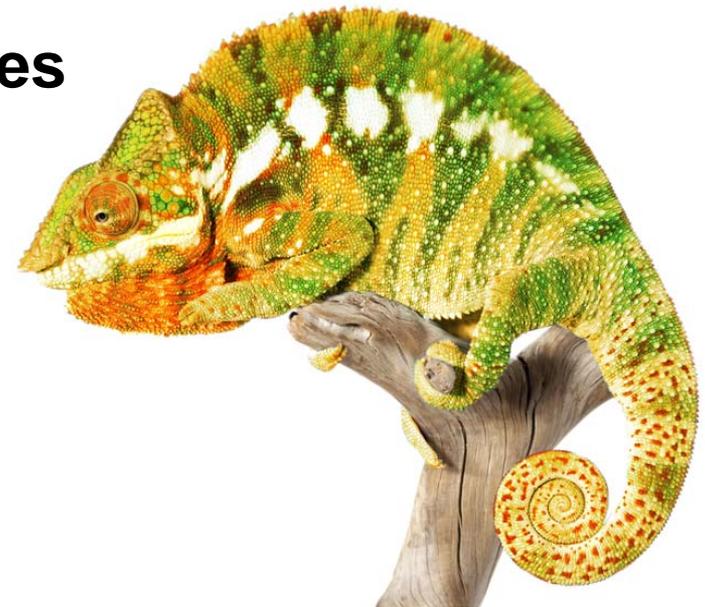


**Social Workers and Social Service Workers have faced and struggled with issues of credibility and professional identity**



**Overlaps in scopes of practice between the professions in the health system and between social workers and social service workers exist**

**We must embrace the similarities and look at how we should be supporting each other**



## **What do I mean by interprofessional education?**

“The process by which two or more health professions learn with, from and about each other across the spectrum of their life-long professional educational journey to improve collaboration, practice and the quality of patient-centred care.”

**Health professionals were being trained in isolation from each other – but were expected to work together seamlessly in the field**



**Social workers and social service workers should be able to thrive in an interprofessional environment and can support collaborative, patient-centred care**



**This cannot be achieved just by teaching the theory behind collaborative practice in the classroom. It must be practiced BEFORE health professional enter the workforce and must be enforced in the workplace**



## **GBC Learning:**

- 1) Change our curriculum to support collaborative learning**



**GBC Learning:**

**2) Make physical changes to our facilities**



## **GBC Learning:**

**3) Establish working partnerships and placements with others in the health industry**



## **GBC Learning:**

**4) Interprofessional education framework would need to be integrated with clinical practice**



## SPC: Simulated Practice Centre



**Characteristics of a professional – where do social workers and social service workers fit in to the definition?**



## Education

**Our education has taught us how to learn from and listen to our clients – that is the essence of interprofessional practice and education**



## Accountability

**By better understanding our roles we will become more accountable to ourselves, patients and teams**



## Advocacy

**Our roles as professionals, as social workers and social service workers, are defined and judged by our successes with clients – by being advocates for our clients**



## Collaboration

**We can use our unique skills to collaborate better with other professions and with clients to deliver better care**



**Client-centred care is the focus of our profession and again it is why I think the members of this college are ideally suited to play a leading role in our evolving health care industry**



## What can you do to be part of the change?

- **University faculties of Social Work need to come forward to partner with educational facilities to realize practical IPE and research opportunities**
- **Graduates will come to expect team-based care when they enter the workforce. Employers must be ready to receive these students**
- **Social workers and social service workers in the room today need to be prepared to lead, and support collaborative patient-centred practice in their work setting**



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