

Staying on Track with the Continuing Competence Program (CCP)



If you haven't started to work on your 2011 CCP, now is the time to begin! Hard copies of the CCP documents were sent to all members in February, and are also available on the website at www.ocswssw.org. The CCP is one way that the College fulfills its mandate of public protection. The program promotes quality assurance with respect to the practice of social work and social service work, and encourages members to strive for excellence and enhance their practice in an ongoing way.

As most of you are aware, the CCP is based on an adult education model. It therefore allows you to use your professional judgment to determine your learning goals and identify learning activities. Learning activities are defined very broadly, and could include reading, online learning, observation of others' practice, supervision, co-therapy and participation in a committee – to name a few. Please refer to page 17 of the *CCP Instruction Guide* (available on the website) for more information.

Participation in the CCP is mandatory for all members, including those who are retired from practice, on maternity/parental leave or currently unemployed. The program is designed to be sufficiently flexible to allow members to conduct a self-assessment and tailor their goals and learning activities to their specific circumstances. Some goals may require longer time frames to complete, and you may wish

to carry some goals forward from one year to the next. It is advisable in this case to identify benchmarks or milestones that you expect to reach as part of these larger goals.

All members are required to make a declaration of participation in the CCP as part of the annual renewal process. To stay on top of the CCP, it's a good idea to start completing your *Self-Assessment Tool and Professional Development Plan 2011* documents early and to track your activities throughout the year. If you find it more convenient, you may complete and save your CCP documents electronically. You are required to retain the *Self-Assessment Tool and Professional Development Plan Documents* for at least 7 years.

Did you know? *The Ohio Board for Counsellors, Social Workers and Marriage and Family Therapists* has sought permission to use the College's Continuing Competence Program with appropriate modifications.

Together, we are setting standards for professional development and growth!

If you have any questions regarding the CCP, please refer to the CCP Instruction Guide on the College website or contact the College's Professional Practice department at ccp@ocswssw.org.