

Introduction & Candidacy

As a licensed clinical social worker with over two decades of dedicated practice, leadership, and advocacy, I bring a proven record of mentorship, organizational leadership, and a warm, approachable personality to my candidacy for President of the Alliance of Social Workers in Sports (ASWIS). My career demonstrates an unyielding commitment to showing up, bridging mental health, sports medicine, and community equity to elevate the role of sport social work on national and global stages. My hope and effort will focus on amplifying membership excellence while clarifying the organization's future strategy, strengthening the visibility and brand identity, fostering genuine connection within and across the ecosystem, and cultivating future leadership by supporting new and existing members.

Background, Experience, & Leadership

My expertise spans direct clinical care, program development, and executive organizational governance. As Co-Founder, Co-Director, and Clinical Lead of Athlete Support for the Women's Integrated Sports, Exercise & Research (WISER) and Sports Cardiology Centers at the Cleveland Clinic, Cleveland, Ohio, I pioneered an athlete-centered care model integrating sport social work with multidisciplinary specialties, sports medicine and sports cardiology. Beyond clinical health systems, I serve as Co-Founder and Ambassador of Play Gap, a non-profit dedicated to enhancing sports access, equity, and lifelong participation for adult women. My specialized training includes the prestigious IOC Diploma in Mental Health in Elite Sport, and my leadership extends to serving on the U.S. Center for SafeSport Athlete Advisory Team, utilizing my current athlete experience as a competitive rower to advocate for athlete safety at the highest level. I have been known across the field for my welcoming spirit, relational focus, relentless work ethic, and dedicated mentorship of emerging professionals and students. I love bringing people together to build lasting community. My deep commitment to the sport social work community is reflected in my active service within ASWIS, where I have presented several symposium sessions, served on the Symposium planning committee, bridged ASWIS connections with community partners, presented at international conferences and elite event-based care. My research interests and public facing speaking engagements focus on addressing the historical deficit in female sports science, integrating mental health literacy into athletic environments, and translating evidence-based research into practical clinical and programmatic interventions.

Vision for the Future of ASWIS

Under our co-active leadership, ASWIS will champion interprofessional collaboration, global reach, systemic advocacy, and inclusive member support. My vision for the Alliance, which includes building on the expiring strategic plan and focusing on four strategic pillars:

- **Expanding Ecosystem & Scope:** Highlighting and embedding the sport social workers across all environments where active people and athletes exist including elite, collegiate, youth, and community sports environments to build credibility across multidisciplinary teams.
- **Strengthening Global Professional Networks & Mentorship:** Leveraging international connections—such as through the IOC mental health network and international conference presentation circuit—to foster peer mentorship, cross-border research collaborations, and accessible support and opportunity pathways for emerging leaders in the field.
- **Translating Research into Practice:** Bridging academic research by uplifting and amplifying ASWIS academic researchers and scholastic sport social work labs with actionable clinical, programmatic, and policy tools, ensuring membership has direct access to innovative resources.
- **Health Equity & Policy Leadership:** Advocating for underrepresented groups, advancing health equity in sports health, and positioning social workers at key decision-making tables for athlete welfare and policy.

I will lead from an enthusiastic and humble space with the highest level of integrity. I will execute the role of ASWIS President from my own learned experiences integrated with the membership's diverse and exceptional engagement and support. I am appreciative of consideration for this important opportunity and grateful for the trust of my many colleagues who nominated me for this role. Thank you! Barb