

Statement of Kino D. Hickey, DSW, LCSW-S (Texas)

Candidate for Member-at-Large

Education and Professional Experience:

Clinical Social Worker - Suicide Prevention Coordinator - Department of Veterans Affairs, September 2019 to present

Doctor of Social Work – University of Kentucky – 2026

Master of Social Work – Diana R. Garland School of Social Work- Baylor University – 2019

Bachelor of Social Work – Texas A&M- Central Texas – 2018

United States Navy/Army – 1994-2003

My vision as a Member-at-Large is to help advance Sport Social Work as an essential component of athlete wellness, organizational development, and the future of sport. As a clinical social worker with experience in suicide prevention and substance use, and a Doctor of Social Work graduate with a concentration in Sport Social Work, I believe our profession has an important opportunity to bridge the gap between athletic performance, mental health, and holistic athlete development.

My priorities are to strengthen professional collaboration, expand education and research, and promote the integration of social workers into athletic environments at the youth, collegiate, and professional levels.

I will advocate for stronger partnerships among social workers, athletic trainers, coaches, physicians, administrators, and sports organizations to create environments where athletes feel supported, valued, and safe seeking help. I also envision expanding mentorship opportunities, supporting emerging sport social workers, increasing awareness of substance use and suicide prevention, and translating research into practical strategies that organizations can implement.

As a Member-at-Large, I will work to elevate diverse perspectives, encourage member engagement, and help build connections that move Sport Social Work from an emerging specialty toward a recognized and sustainable part of the sports landscape.

My commitment is simple: to help shape a future where athlete well-being is not secondary to performance, but fundamental to it. Together, we can advance the profession, strengthen our impact, and ensure that the human being behind the athlete remains at the center of our work.