

PLATFORM STATEMENT: *LaVonya Malveaux, LMSW, CJA, CSSW*
Louisiana License #5080

My social work knowledge and skills span experiences in a variety of direct service and administrative fields of practice where I have delivered services to diverse populations including children, youth, and families, judicial, community-based/non-profit management, and higher education. These practice settings often required case planning, care coordination, resource mapping, crisis intervention, and supervision duties and responsibilities which I have transferred in my work with athletes.

I consider myself a *macro-level social worker* with interests in administration, supervision, policy and community organization. In my current capacity as a *congressional staffer with the US House of Representative 6th Congress District in Louisiana*, I have tracked the progression of the Protect College Sports Act in response to inquiry requests from higher education institutional leaders. However, my early years in child welfare enabled me to exercise micro-level direct service practice, skills, and knowledge within the children, youth, and family populations where I developed a strong array of resources, networks, and partnerships I have found useful while serving student-athletes and sports programs.

I have seven years of experience in the college access field as the former Director of Student Engagement for the Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance, a program of the Louisiana Board Regents. In this capacity, I supervised a team of advisors who served learners of all ages from various special populations, including student-athletes. Using a case management approach, we not only met the academic needs of students but also provided wrap-around support to meet basic needs essential for the successful completion of their postsecondary studies. I should note that I received this job opportunity as a result of mentoring *underserved student-athletes from rural, limited-resource communities*.

My affinity for sports has been a driving influence through the years that I have either competed as a high school basketball and softball player or volunteered time serving student-athletes and prep athletic programs as a booster/supporter, an AAU coach, an assistant coach, or a mentor. In my volunteer capacity, I have written grants to support youth athletics within local communities, sponsored fundraising events to sustain high school sports programs, and assisted coaches with player management and supportive resolution of individual athletes' personal matters that include academic challenges, family-life issues, judicial intervention, recovery from sports injuries, and performance optimization.

Now that I have been introduced to the sport social work practice area, I must confess a newfound discovery that I have been practicing sport social work throughout my career – and never realized it until joining ASWIS in 2024. Completing the ASWIS sports social work certificate program at Tulane University enhanced my existing skills by strengthening my knowledge of NCAA rules, current trends, and best practices for working with athletes, and networking with other professionals in this field. In the "Member-at-large" office, I would continue *supporting the Alliance's efforts to further promote the advancement of sport social work* as a formally recognized field of practice; advocate for greater focus on the *provision of care coordination and wraparound support services for athletes* in the era of NIL, the transfer portal, and ever-changing NCAA regulations; and, identify creative strategies to *increase awareness of ASWIS* among the general populace.