

Building CSJ Chapters

Some CSJ members have asked about how to start a CSJ chapter, be it on a college campus or a local group of professionals. This is an important question because we know from history, that any successful movement has to be organized. Thus the questions; how do to pull like minds together to form an organization?

We would like to invite the ACA community to help us in creating a list of suggestions for activist organizational development as a living document. Here are a few suggestions that we have to get started:

I. Hosting a lunch or an evening viewing and discussion of a video on social justice and counseling, followed by an introduction to starting a chapter? Here are a few videos that are on YouTube:

1. "The devolution and evolution of the social justice counseling and advocacy movement"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0nyB2IINgI0>

2. "Using the ACA Advocacy, Multicultural, Social Justice and LGBTQIA Competencies"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3yH-M7Ev73E>

II. Hosting a panel discussion of counselors and social justice advocates in neighborhood groups to talk about the relationship between social injustice and counseling (e.g. Black Lives Matter), followed by an introduction to starting a chapter?

III. Partner with a local advocacy group to put on a forum related to social justice and mental health.

The CSJ website has some resources that can be printed and used as literature on different subjects related to abuses in our society for which a CSJ chapter may want to organize around. They can be found here <https://counseling-csj.org/resources/>

I'm eager to hear what ideas others may have; what's worked, what didn't work, and what new/forming groups should consider when growing and maintaining a thriving advocacy group.

Peace,
CSJ Membership Committee