

NASW/CT NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SOCIAL WORKERS

July-September 2013



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PRESIDENT'S COLUMN



Raymie Wayne, PhD, JD, MSW

Thank You and Ahoy!

The NASW/CT 2013 Annual Awards Dinner took place earlier this month. As always, the event was inspirational and affirmed my pride in our profession. Also affirming my pride in being a social worker is the work of NASW/CT. Steve, in his column, summarized some of the Chapter's notable successes of this past year. What is even more remarkable is that each of the accomplishments that he named was achieved in spite of a reduction in paid staff hours. Chapter staff and volunteers have contributed countless late evening hours, have nibbled through abbreviated or working lunches, missed family dinners, and awoke hours early to advocate for our profession and the people we serve. Please join me in thanking the Chapter's paid and volunteer leadership for an excellent year.

I owe a special thank you to the 2012-2013 Board of Directors, 75% of whom donated dollars in addition to their time and wisdom. Rita Brzozowski, Ellen Pfarr, Patricia Schneider, Steve Skrebutenas, Elaine Gazzola, Yanira Wolfgang-Pinto, Cheryl Toth, Dr. Esther Howe, Dr. Rebecca Thomas, Annette Santiago-Kozmon, Dr. Thomas Broffman, Amy DiMauro, Sarah Jane Dailey and Dr. Dee Unterbach all brought individual dedication and talents that when combined made a really terrific group. I have served on the board numerous times between 1999 and today. Though every NASW/CT board has worked hard and made contributions, I was particularly impressed by this group's dedication and thoughtfulness. The 2012-2013 Board modeled successful problem solving and productively processed differences of opinion. While I am sad that Ellen, Elaine, and Yanira have all completed their terms on the board, I am excited to welcome a new cohort to the group. I am also pleased to report that Amy DiMauro and Sarah Jane Dailey were re-elected as president elect and regional representative, respectively. If you see any of these NASW/CT leaders in your travels, be sure to offer them your thanks.

Transparency has become a key concept in social work administration. It is the notion that decisions and their rationales are articulated, so that all stakeholders have a better sense of what is happening and why. Transparency limits surprises and allows

everyone in the organization to prepare for changing times. In his column, and through other vehicles, Steve shared the fact that the NASW, both on a national and local level, has lost membership. Though we believe that this is due to decisions made by National NASW, it is still a difficult topic to discuss, and more difficult to discuss openly. My innermost fear is that social workers will learn of the decline in membership, and may chose not to join a sinking ship. NASW, however, is not a sinking ship. A lifeboat in a storm is a much better metaphor. Let me explain.

We all know that the poor economy has created storm like conditions for many professions and their associations. We know that participation in civic life is also at a low. We know that the insurance changes by National came at a bad time. These are all aspects of the storm. The lifeboat is the protection that NASW provides to us. NASW has been a steadfast advocate for the profession, securing our seat at policy making tables. NASW has made sure that employers understand the value of our social work degrees. NASW has endured the high waves of the storm, and is sailing towards calmer waters.

Many factors will combine to make NASW/CT stronger than it ever has been. The first is that for the first time in fifty years, not one, but two additional MSW programs will be operating in our state. Social workers who formerly had to leave the state to get their degree will now go to school in Connecticut and maintain their ties to our state and to our state chapter. The second factor is that, though slow, economists agree that we are in a recovery period. Housing prices have begun to rise and unemployment rates have fallen. Thus, like the rest of Connecticut social workers too will once again have more resources to devote to membership. A third factor is a direct result of our advocacy. The state decision to hire social workers for social work positions will create more employed and appreciative social workers in our state. Lastly, also a result of social work advocacy, the Affordable Care Act will create new opportunities for social workers and the people we serve. There are a lot of reasons to be optimistic about the future of our profession and our association. The members who ride out the storm, and remain on the lifeboat, will have the opportunity to make sure that we are well positioned to enjoy the calmer seas ahead. Ships ahoy!

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S COLUMN

Reflections on the Program Year

June 30th is rapidly approaching as I write this column and with that day the chapter closes out the 2012-13 fiscal year and program year. Thus it seems appropriate to reflect on the past twelve months here at NASW/CT. It has been a year of contrasts, with historic successes, a tragedy that riveted our attention and changes at national NASW that affected our operations.

Without question the highlight of this past year has been the successes of our State Social Worker Jobs Campaign. We entered the year with growing support from both social work and non-social work organizations in our quest to have the State give preference in hiring to MSWs and BSWs. Still, it remained a long-shot goal that only a tenacious effort could pull off. Our persistence did indeed pay off when in November DCF announced that going forward they will only consider applicants for the social worker position that hold the social work degree. The day I got this news I picked up a bottle of wine on the way home that had a very attractive label but unfortunately not a particularly attractive taste. My wife and I made it through about half a glass!

DSS was next to follow suit on our hiring campaign when Commissioner Bremby sent me a letter in January stating that DSS was instituting the preference in hiring of MSWs and BSWs for their social worker positions. Between DCF and DSS we now have captured most of the state social worker positions. Our work continues as we lobby the Department of Administrative Services to add MSW & BSW preference to the job description for social worker. If we do not hear back in the next week we will enter the new program year with a change of strategy as I look at a summer campaign focused on Governor Malloy.

The shooting in Newtown challenged us all as how to best respond to the immediate needs of those directly affected and how to prepare for the trauma of the coming months and years. Many of our members were on the ground in the days immediately following the shooting, offering counseling and crisis intervention. The chapter connected members to service delivery systems, posted resources on our website and directed members as to how they could be of help in their own communities throughout the state. Pat Hartman, our Professional Development Coordinator pulled together in short order training on how to respond to the shootings

that quickly filled for two sessions, training over 500 participants. There is no joy in these actions however I felt that the chapter responded effectively.

In the Legislature we had some big successes, especially on social work licensure and HUSKY. We were able to get funding for DPH's implementation of the LMSW, plus DPH, upon our request, reinstated the LMSW grandfathering with a timeframe that captures Spring/Summer MSW graduates. On HUSKY we joined with other advocates in defeating the Governor's plan to remove certain parents from HUSKY A as a budget savings. Even when we did not succeed in getting legislation passed, such as new funding for localities to hire school social workers as a form of school safety, we were able to educate legislators on the important roles of school workers. For a more complete report on this past legislative session see Christine Limone's write up in this newsletter and on our website.

Speaking of school social workers the chapter successfully held off a threat to school social workers of being laid off in regional school district 14. After being told by a member that the Board of Education was considering reducing the school social worker staff NASW/CT effectively advocated against such a move. In the end the district voted to have school social workers in each of its schools.

CT PACE played a key role in the 2012 elections, especially in the elections of Chris Murphy and Elizabeth Esty. CT PACE Trustees organized the chapter's electoral program, staff participated in press events and members turned out to volunteer for PACE endorsed candidates.

NASW/CT received \$8,000 in funding from the Universal Health Care Foundation of CT to advance our work on health care reform. We were the only professional association to receive Foundation funding in recognition of the fine work we have performed.

Our committees too had a busy and prosperous year. The Clinical Network launched a "Clinical Solutions" series of statewide conferences on clinical topics. The Committee on Aging planned workshops throughout the state for nursing home social workers and held a network social during Older Americans Month. The Latino Network completed its third year of a mentoring program, presented the mentoring program at a national conference on Mentoring (we were the only NASW chapter to present) and held a successful recognition event for Latino social workers in the field of addictions.



Steve Karp, Executive Director

Our Ethics Committee developed a proposal for an ethics forum that will launch in the fall and presented a well attended workshop at our annual conference. The fall specialty conference was the first social work specific conference in CT on the emerging practice of Evidence Based Practice. We wrapped the year up with our annual conference in April and Awards Dinner in June.

This past twelve months was not however without serious challenges to the chapter's operational capacity. Due to a switch in the professional liability insurance plan sponsored by NASW a fair number of members dropped their NASW membership after choosing to remain with our former endorsed carrier. This placed significant strain on the chapter's operating budget that forced us to reduce staff hours for two employees. I feel the irony of historic successes and loss of membership happening at the same time. In response I have been communicating with members as to the importance of having liability insurance AND "career insurance" too. No insurer is out here working to advance the profession, protecting our gains as a profession and supporting you. Only NASW offers such "career insurance" and we will continue to be successful if our membership remains intact. This concept of "career insurance" has been picked up by many other NASW chapters and the national office as a theme that drives home the message of the importance of membership.

As we finish this program year I thank our Board of Directors, Committee members, volunteers and my staff for their commitment to NASW. It remains an honor and true pleasure to be working with such a dynamic group of individuals.

Enjoy your summer!

POLITICAL DIRECTOR NEWS COLUMN



Christine Limone
Political Director

A SESSION TO REMEMBER

According to our bylaws, representatives from the chapter's legislative committee – ELAN—must present its proposed platform for its legislative priorities for the upcoming legislative session to the Board of Directors at the Board's December meeting. This year that meeting was on December 8, 2012.

Back in early December, everyone on ELAN and I expected the 2013 session to be about the budget. We expected to be playing defense and drafted our proposed legislative agenda accordingly. We said we would prioritize fighting cuts to community based services for adults with serious mental illness, fighting cuts to programs that serve older adults, and fighting cuts to school based health centers, just to name a few. No one on December 8th could fathom how, in just six days, an unimaginable public tragedy unimaginable would change the political landscape in Hartford when the legislature convened in January.

The horrific events of December 14th motivated social workers across the state to respond. NASW/CT members who are licensed clinicians were on the scene in Newtown with in hours to facilitate the healing process. Our politically active social workers responded as well. For the first time in a long time, Mental Health was a predominate issue at the Capitol and NASW/CT was a key voice in the conversation. Perhaps a silver lining, there are concrete examples of good things coming out of this tragedy. Mental health funding for community based youth services that was expected to be on the chopping block was spared. Other sound mental health policies and provisions were ultimately incorporated into Public Act 13-3, "An Act Concerning Gun Violence Preven-

tion and Children's Safety" commonly referred to the "Gun Bill" during the legislative session. Details of some of those provisions are provided below.

So the 2013 legislative session was like no other that I have experienced in the past. But in other respects, NASW/CT members do what we have always done. Many NASW/CT members worked tirelessly during the 2013 legislative session to forward the chapter's legislative priorities. Social workers and social work students testified at public hearings, had meetings with their legislators, phone banked other NASW members, and participated in rallies and press conferences. The results of the 2013 legislative session provide us with cause to celebrate many successes, but there were a few disappointments as well. Below is an overview of the outcomes of the legislative priorities that NASW/CT held this session.

First the successes:

- Healthcare Coverage for Low Income Working Parents:** NASW/CT's biggest victory this session was preserving healthcare coverage for Husky A parents whose income is over 133% of the federal poverty level (for a family of three that is \$26,000 a year). Governor Malloy had proposed transitioning these Husky A parents from Medicaid onto the Exchange come January 2014 where they would be subject to premiums and copayments (depending on the health of the individual, cost could have been as high as \$6,000 a year). These individuals would have also lost access to comprehensive behavioral health coverage, dental coverage, and transportation to medical appointments. This proposal would have impacted over 37,000 low income working parents in Connecticut. The Governor's plan was simply unaffordable for Husky A parents, and many might have opted to go without health insurance. That is not the goal for Healthcare Reform. NASW/CT rallied members across the state who work with Husky A parents to assist their clients in writing testimony for public hearings and to attend rallies. NASW/CT activists phone banked members to call members of the Appropriations committee and other legislative leaders. Our efforts combined with our allies paid off. The final version of the budget that was passed and signed into law kept these Husky A parents on Medicaid.
- Family Economic Security:** Connecticut residents who work forty hours a week should be able to earn a living wage. The successful campaign to raise the minimum wage forwards that goal. Thanks in part to NASW/CT members who advocated for this increase, the minimum wage will increase to \$8.70 an hour on January 1, 2014 and to \$9.00 in January 2015. The chapter also successfully advocated for the creation of a task force to study the feasibility of paid Family Medical Leave in Connecticut. This would enable many working individuals who are caregivers to actually access an employee benefit to which they are entitled.
- Mental Health and Substance Abuse Treatment for Children and Adolescents:** Despite the fact that the federal mental health parity law was signed in 2008, many Connecticut parents with private health insurance experience barriers to accessing mental health and substance abuse treatment for their teenage son or daughter. NASW/CT members were instrumental in eliminating this barrier by advocating for the mental health recommendations in the Gun Violence Prevention and Children's Safety Act (Public Act 13-3). Watch dog provisions have been strengthened to ensure that private insurance companies abide by federal law. Substance abuse and mental health treatment claims must now be reviewed by a board certified psychologist or psychiatrist. The review time has also been shortened from 72 to 24 hours. Also incorporated into PA 13-3 is the establishment of DCF operated regional mental health consultation and care coordination programs for primary care providers who service children and adolescents; and the creation of mental health first aid training for public school teachers.
- Community Based Mental Health Services for Adults:** Governor Malloy had proposed deep cuts to community based services for adults with serious mental illness in the effort to balance the state budget. NASW members testified at budget public hearings and called their legislators on the Appropriations committee. While private not-for-profit agencies who hold grants with DMHAS still experienced some cuts to their contracts for community based services, the cuts were not as devastating as they could have been.

POLITICAL DIRECTOR NEWS COLUMN

The chapter also joined other mental health advocates and successfully defeated proposals that called for involuntary outpatient commitment for certain adults with serious mental illness. This legislation would have jeopardized the therapeutic relationship between social worker and clients, and potentially put social workers in positions where they would be at risk of committing ethical violations. Due to the outpouring of opposition by NASW/CT members and allies at the public hearing, this proposal didn't make it into the Mental Health Working Group's recommendations for PA 13-3. On a bright note, also part of PA 13-3, Assertive Community treatment (ACT) Teams will be implemented into three additional cities across the state. ACT is an evidenced based treatment intervention that has been demonstrated to keep people voluntarily engaged in treatment and reduces hospitalization rates.

- **Older Adults:** A numbers of bills were passed this legislative session that empower community dwelling older adults to remain in their homes and avoid otherwise preventable admissions to long term care facilities. Activists on Aging issues within the chapter were among those who successfully advocated for the passage of these bills.
- **Licensure Expansion:** During the 2012 legislative session NASW/CT had successfully secured funding for DPH to implement the LMSW licensure for new MSW graduates. However, since DPH had not hired anyone for the position by the time the Governor imposed a hiring freeze in January 2013, the funding, and subsequent implementation of the licensure, were in jeopardy. NASW/CT activists were able to secure its funding for a second year in a row. In addition, the Chapter also was able to get legislation passed that allows all those with the MSW degree on or BEFORE October 1, 2013 to be eligible for grandfathering until October 1, 2015. We do not yet have a start date, however, chapter staff will be meeting with DPH in August to discuss implementation. We will let you know as soon as we know!

The disappointments:

- **Welfare Reform:** NASW/CT supported a bill that would expand the definition of "acceptable work activities" to include

educational pursuits for parents enrolled in the TANF Jobs First program in Connecticut. Although the bill was voted for favorably out of committee, it was never called to the Senate floor for a vote. Similarly, NASW/CT supported another bill that would have increased the value of assets a community based spouse of a Medicaid patient in long term care could retain. This bill was also voted favorably out of committee but was never called for a vote.

- **School Based Services:** As part of the larger "School Safety" conversation this legislative session, a proposal was raised to increase the number of school social workers in public schools. Many NASW/CT members who are school social workers testified at public hearings and contacted their legislators. Unfortunately the proposal was not incorporated into the final Gun Violence Prevention and Children's Safety Act. We did, however, use the public hearings to educate legislators as to the important work of school social workers.
- NASW/CT also advocated for the state-wide adoption of federal guidelines for School Based Health Centers (SBHC) that would promote quality assurance and require that behavioral health services, in addition to medical services, be universally offered at SBHCs in Connecticut. In the final hours of the session, the bill was reduced to establishing a task force to study the issue.
- **Compassionate Aid in Dying:** In adherence with our Code of Ethics which includes the dignity of person and individual's right to self determination, NASW/CT supported a bill that would allow a terminally ill individual compassionate aid in dying and provided testimony at the public hearing. The committee chairs did not take further action on the bill.
- **Expansion of Gambling:** In the final hours of the session, legislative leaders devised a plan to introduce Keno to the CT Lottery system as a means to generate revenue to address the state deficit. Currently Keno is only available at the two casinos in the state. This plan expands Keno to restaurants and hotels. There was no public hearing on this proposal and it

was not part of the Governor's original budget. Given the late introduction of this plan, the chapter did not have time to respond in force. As of this writing, this proposal requires approval from the two Native American Nations in the state before its implementation. NASW/CT is concerned about the impact of Keno expansion on vulnerable populations.

Questions pertaining to the outcomes of NASW/CT's 2013 Legislative Priorities may be directed to Christine Limone, Director of Political Advocacy at 860-257-8066 or climone@naswct.net

CHANGE COMING TO CONTINUING EDUCATION REQUIREMENT

The Legislature has passed and the Governor has signed legislation that will require most licensed mental health providers to attain at least one hour of continuing education per license year on the topic of cultural competency. Those licensed professionals who come under this new law are LCSW, LMFT, LPC and LADC. Psychiatrists already have this requirement as physicians have to get such training for license renewal but, psychologists are not covered by the statute as they do not have a continuing education requirement for license renewal.

The statute is effective as of October 1, 2013 and the applicable date of the new law is October 1, 2014. What this means is LCSWs who renew their license in October 2014 and thereafter will have to have met the one hour requirement of formal training on a topic related to cultural competence. To further clarify, once a LCSW renews their license (starting with renewals in October 2013) that LCSW will need to acquire the hour of training in order to meet the requirement for their renewal in October 2014. For example, if you renew your license in October 2013 the requirement begins November 2013, if you renew your license in January 2014 the requirement begins February 2014.

NASW/CT regularly offers continuing education workshops that meet this requirement. Starting in November we will identify when a workshop meets the cultural competence requirement and CE certificates will state that they meet the requirement. In addition, many online continuing education opportunities meet the requirement and NASW has ample choices available by going to our home page www.naswct.org and clicking on the "Continuing Education Institute".

NASW members who have questions on this new requirement should contact NASW/CT. As the date for implementation of the new law draws closer we will be sending out reminders to members.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR NON-LCSWs IN PRIVATE PRACTICE

The LMSW statute that passed the Legislature in 2010 has a provision that requires independent practice of clinical social work only be performed by LCSWs. This means that a MSW in private practice without the LCSW can no longer practice independently as of October 1, 2013.

What is allowed under the law is a MSW working toward their LCSW in a private practice under the direct supervision of a licensed mental health provider. NASW/CT interprets this to mean that a MSW can work in an established private practice but not in their own solo practice.

Even though the LMSW may not be in effect by October 1, 2013 this provision of the LMSW law will take effect October 1, 2013. Since the law passed in 2010 social workers have had three years to plan for this change. NASW/CT has previously posted notice in email blasts and this newsletter regarding this upcoming change. We will notify members again as the effective date gets closer.

DSM-5 DISCOUNT FOR NASW MEMBERS

The American Psychiatric Association is offering NASW members a 15% discount on the DSM-5. NASW members can create a free account with the American Psychiatric Publishers online at <http://www.appi.org> and enter the promo code NASWMEM or call 1-800-368-5777.

SOCIAL WORK POLICY-PRACTICE - SEE SOMETHING, SAY SOMETHING , AND DO SOMETHING

By: Moses Stambler PhD, MAT, MPH, MSW, Professor of Social Work, SCSU

.1 The Social Work profession extends beyond the vocational and includes a personal and professional value commitment to apply skills, dispositions, and knowledge for improving the condition of the disadvantaged and oppressed, of our society. In addition to regular actions by other academic vocation-professions who see something and say something, the profession has a special value driven responsibility and unique opportunity to do something by applying our skills through advocating and lobbying for positive social change.

.2 Social Work incorporates experiences and commitments from two idealistic historical foundations, clinical-practice exemplified by Mary Richmond, and policy-practice exemplified by Jane Addams. Integration of both clinical-practice and policy-practice provides synergistic movement toward positive social change, and advance of ethical objectives in our American pluralistic democracy. We can advance public interests, resources and inclusiveness for disadvantaged people and broader human communities through effective advocacy and shaping of public policy. Also, we can contribute to strengthening national civic ideals and individual rights that we cherish in our society. The joining of clinical-practice to a policy-practice approach increases our ability to bring about desirable personal and social change. Social workers should not abdicate their professional role and capability to advocate and lobby for social justice.

.3 The author's Social Work classes at SCSU include policy-practice courses where students engage in : (a) delineating current proposed legislative bills; (b) viewing and discussing the weekly CT-n T.V. Capitol Reports to become familiar with legislative issues and process; (c) reviewing student selected bills which are related to their current internships; (d) following particular bills of their interest on the internet through ct-n.com; (e) developing an awareness of personal biases; (f) discussion of the force-field and ecological contexts of a bill; (g) contacting social service agencies which focus on the bill's area of interest; (h) analyzing and weighing bills on the basis on how they relate to the Social Work ethics of care; (i) clarifying differences among preven-

tive, alleviative, and curative interventions; (j) applying an ethics of care model of adequacy, equity, and equality; (k) developing sensitivity to policy decisions that affect "who shall live and who shall die"; (l) learning skill development on strategies needed to pass bills in the Connecticut legislative system; and, (m) presenting oral and written reports to the class on the selected bills. In the future, where possible, students will be encouraged to give public testimony at public hearings on their bills.

.4 The policy-practice Social Work courses at SCSU include a focus on preparation courses for vital civic engagement. This is accomplished by the addition of two programs at the General Assembly: a fall Lobby-Training-Day at the Capitol Legislative Office Building prior to the General Assembly session, which is followed by a spring Lobby-Day at the Legislative Office Building, at the same time as the General Assembly legislative session. These are "rubber hits the road" applications of our policy-practice courses, readings, and internship experiences, increased knowledge of agency legislative agendas and understanding, and political skill training for more effective and continued post-course participation in the policy-practice dimension of Social Work. These additional programs are logical components for shaping of activist social workers and their civic involvement.

.5 The fall Lobby-Training-Day program takes place in the Legislative Office Building and is arranged and run by the NASWCT Executive Director Stephen Karp (MSW) and Director of Political Advocacy, Christine Limone (MSW). It is a preparatory program to activate Social Work students with simulated dynamic interactions in the process and content of legislation, prior to the actual start of the January legislative session. Future Lobby-Day events will incorporate a Legislative Showcase developed at SCSU, at which time a number of social service agencies will be invited to report on their political agendas for the forthcoming legislative session. This is an applied policy-practice model for SCSU students.

.6 The SCSU Social Work Department with support from the NASWCT, conducts a follow-up Lobby-Day program

in the spring when the General Assembly is in session. At that time, students have a scheduled meeting with their two State legislators to lobby and present letters to them on the bills they have been following, researching, and writing about in their policy-practice class. This civic engagement activism was initiated and energetically advanced by former Social Work faculty member Dr. Joanne Jennings, who fully appreciated the vital importance of integrating policy with clinical social work in a positive political and supportive legislative policy framework. Dr. Moses Stambler enhanced the program and Dr. Stephen Tomczak is continuing, institutionalizing, and expanding this integration to the MSW level. Governor Dannel Malloy, key social work activists, and highly involved social workers have addressed the Lobby-Day participants over the past three years. Some of the speakers have been politically involved role models such as Rep. Toni Walker (MSW), UConn. Prof. Nancy Humphreys (DSW), and Christine Limone (MSW). They have encouraged a sense of political identification and activism. The Lobby-Day program includes also a one-hour Capitol tour by the League of Women Voters which demonstrate a sense of State civic identification and pride.

.7 The combined policy-practice emphasis of Lobby-Training Day and Lobby Day; integrate the appropriate academic learning experience; provide an organic unity to empower and heighten social worker's self-perception as a needed and qualified advocate and lobbyist for social work values; and, unite both clinical and policy practice. Both days are intended to shape the future role and involvement of our social worker interest group as positive legislative advocates and as civic activists who take a seat at the policy table rather than being victimized by being carved up on the table by other interest groups. This unified program approach by the SCSU Social Work Dept. in connection with NASWCT can serve as a model for Social Work programs at other Connecticut Universities, as well.

Perspectives on Micro vs. Macro Practice

The following are two essays by BSW students at ECSU. Their assignment was to read and critique "Unfaithful Angels" and the debate between micro & macro work. There were two seminar classes and these two essays were selected by the faculty for submission to the NASW/CT Connections Newsletter

Has Social Work Abandoned its Mission?

By: Amanda Uliasz

Introduction:

The debate as to whether or not social work has abandoned its mission throughout recent years has been a valid concern for practitioners worldwide. As many practitioners have moved to private practice, some argue that the macro issues are not being addressed properly, and it is clear that many of these issues are being unattended. The NASW mission of the social work profession is to enhance human well-being and help meet the basic human needs for all people, with particular attention to the needs and empowerment of people who are vulnerable, oppressed, and living in poverty (NASW, 1996). As a senior BSW student from Eastern Connecticut State University, I do not find this matter to be able to be defined so simply. Although many practitioners argue that there has been a shift from macro to micro practice, the primary purpose of social work is to establish and maintain social justice, which must be implemented when dealing with individuals and society as an entire whole. I do, however, agree that this shift has been occurring and we need to be mindful that all needs of the clients are being met. But, to say that the profession has abandoned its mission is extreme. Something must be done to fix this problem! We must fill these gaps, and ensure that community problems are being fixed. After 100 years, one would think that professional social workers would agree about the basic goal of the profession; yet any social work conference, journal, or even professional dialogue is still filled with disagreements about that goal (Haynes, 1998). As society and the world changes, the profession must also make certain adjustments to meet the needs of clients. Having experience working with oppressed individuals, I understand first hand that many basic human needs remain unmet. I will now introduce myself.

Credentials:

As a senior BSW student, an active member of NASW, and a social work intern at the Windham Region No

Freeze Hospitality Center, an emergency shelter located in Willimantic, Connecticut, I have experienced first-hand the dire need for social workers in numerous areas. At my field placement, I work with clients on all levels—individually as well as on macro issues, as many of these issues are the reasons behind homelessness in the first place. Through my experiences at the shelter, I have noted the lack of government funded programs available for the homeless population, and I do firmly believe that this area needs improvement. I would not say that social workers are abandoning their mission by entering private practice, yet there is still a heavy demand for workers to be advocating on a macro level. In fact, the call for a profession of social work first sounded among leaders in the charity organization movement (Leiby, 1997).

Problem:

According to Harry Specht and Mark E. Courtney, social work as a profession has shifted from its original purpose of demanding community-based social programs to a newer trend toward private practice. Specht initially mentions that when he first came to know social workers half a century ago, they had a mission that was, to me, appealing and significant: to help poor people, to improve community life, and to solve difficult social problems (Specht, 1994). The two argue that the profession has changed throughout the years, and is no longer as valuable as it once was. I do agree with Specht and Courtney's point-of-view in their book, *Unfaithful Angels*, however, I do not think this responsibility lies completely with the social workers. When society thinks of a social worker, the image of a private practitioner more often than not comes to mind. Something should be implemented to change this stereotype, making the public better understand the broad range of what social workers really do. As for community-based programs, Specht and Courtney are correct, there are not enough. Radical thinkers hold in common a series of underlying principles. They believe that the private troubles of clients are fundamentally provoked by problems in the structure of our social, political, and, above all, economic institutions (Longress, 1996). Social workers should be advocating for government funded resources for their clients much more aggressively. Specht and Courtney provide a valid argument that public services and community resources are a primary commitment to the social work profession.

Pro:

Like Specht and Courtney, we have disliked the profession's silence in the political arena, its distance from its historical roots and from its commitment to public service. We want to continue to ensure that advocacy, empowerment, and public social services are included and valued in social work (Haynes & Mickelson, 2010). Much recent attention has focused on the survival of macro social work practice methods including policy/planning, community organization, and administration. Nowhere is this more evident than the decreasing number of

students electing macro methods, which has dropped from 16 percent of enrollees in United States graduate social work schools in 1977 to 10 percent in 1986 (Pine, Healy, Whitening, 1992). Although clinical work is still on high demand, if the system is corrupt, individual sessions may be a waste of time. This has not always been the case. Thirty years ago, social work commanded the entire vertical organization of social welfare, enjoying virtually complete control of the means of social administration, from the highest secretaries to the lowest direct service positions. Today, social administrators are unprepared for the challenges of a postindustrial environment (Stoesz, 1997). I will now examine the other side of the argument.

Con:

The terrible social conditions that have plagued this and all other centuries continue—poverty, poor housing, unemployment, lack of health security, and so on. Although in different eras these conditions shift in quality and quantity, the attention paid to them also shifts in seriousness and urgency. Social work can have only a marginal effect upon these conditions, although it has been demonstrated some ability to design and carry out ameliorative services to ease their impact (Meyer, 1981). Social workers can only do so much, and who is to say it is wrong to enter private practice if it promises higher salary. Social workers are only human beings, and need a way to support themselves as well. Keeping this in mind, it is okay to enter more profitable practice, but somebody needs to be implementing the ground work for the macro issues that are not being properly addressed. The social work profession is broader than most professions with regard to the range and types of problems social workers address, settings in which social workers work, levels of practice, interventions being used, and populations served (Gibelman, 1999). Although social workers may have a difficult task at hand, they should still strive to better the lives of those they serve.

Rebuttal:

Although social workers are not abandoning their mission, certain aspects of the practice do need to be emphasized, such as macro work and community programs. As previously stated, the worker should be just as concerned about macro practice as they are micro. Although psychotherapy is effective, social work has turned to a medical model of diagnosing and treating, which if not monitored, may stray from the mission of the profession. If social workers were evenly distributed to cover all areas of the profession, human rights as well as the effectiveness of workers would advance dramatically. As practitioners, we must fix these problems and fill in the cracks.

Conclusion:

NASW/CT CONNECTIONS

The debate as to whether or not social work has abandoned its mission throughout recent years has been a valid concern for practitioners worldwide. Although many practitioners argue that there has been a shift from macro to micro practice, the primary purpose of social work is to establish and maintain social justice, which must be implemented when dealing with individuals and society as an entire whole. I do, however, agree that this shift has been occurring and we need to make sure that all needs of the clients are being met, but to say that the profession has abandoned its mission is extreme. The mission statement of NASW must be considered and, as practitioners, Micro or Macro, it is our duty to address these problems.

The Social Work Mission

By: Stefan Bond

As a human being in this century what provokes strong emotion out of you? Is it mistreatment of others or possibly inequality? Do you have a strong urge to create change in your environment when you feel a great injustice has been dealt? These are the feeling of social workers. As social workers we strive to do what's right, we strive for justice. The NASW (1996) says that it is our duty as social workers to fight for the vulnerable, oppressed, discriminated, and impoverished. I don't believe we have lost that mission, yet improvements can be made. Like all professions it must change with the times. I believe the social work mission for the 21st century should state:

Social Work Mission:

Social workers must be socio-political practitioners who, promote social justice and foster an environment where the impoverished, vulnerable, discriminated, and oppressed can enhance their ability to live in society.

The history of social work was based on basic principles of scientific charity, which states that it should help individuals, families, neighbor and communities define and carry out their natural responsibilities (Lieby, 1997). "Social work is the professional activity of helping individuals, groups, or communities enhance or restore their capacity for social functioning and creating societal conditions favorable to this goal (Gibelman, 1999, p. 3)." It was in this professions' statement that community engagement is deeply rooted in social work. As the profession progressed, there was a constant tussle to deliberate between an emphasis of social work on behalf of all people versus a focus on special population groups or special social problems (Gibelman, 1999).

I believe our current practice in the social work profession has not abandoned its' mission. Although the profession has made a movement into specialization and private practice, it does not reflect negatively on the profession. Having this split in social work adds variety and diversity to our profession. Our work force must be as diverse as our profession's mission statement requests us to be. Micro practice is as relevant in the profession as the macro piece is. Intervening at the individual level corresponds with the desired outcome of increasing or restoring the capacity for social functioning and creating societal conditions favorable to this goal.

Drawing from the theoretical perspective of systems theory, if a part of a system or machine is dwindling, it's important to fix that part specifically so that the entire system or machine can run smoothly. This is the same notion as specialization in the social work profession. In other words, micro practice is a functioning part of the entire profession. The macro and micro functioning of the profession should be thought of cohesively because they are both necessary contributors to promoting social reform.

What's the future of our profession? I believe our profession should continue to progress and change with the times. It should be our mission to continue to find innovative ways to serve our client population. We shouldn't restrict the profession to stringent styles of serving the client population. Although I do believe community engagement is a significant piece of the social work practice, we should not underestimate the value of specialization and private practice in our profession. As we approach the 21st century, we have watched our profession develop and grow. We have increased our participation in the mental health field; private practice has become increasingly important for the provision of social work practice, and the for profit sector has become an increasingly significant alternative for delivering social work services while the proportion of services delivered through the non-profit sector has decreased. (Gibelman, 1999). I believe our profession must continue this type of change if we want social work to be taken seriously. For example, Karen Haynes (1998) articulated, social work used to be considered a woman's profession. Now the profession has spread among all sexes and races. Change is monumental to solidifying the profession. The nature of social work in the future will be affected by the influence of both intra-professional developments and external, environmental conditions and demands (Gibelman, 1999). This belief is a fact and, if want to control that change we must unify the division in our profession.

There are some who don't share this sentiment. Specht and Courtney

(1994) expressed their opinion of the profession movement to private practice as a negative one. In *Unfaithful Angels* they expressed, "We believe social work has abandoned its mission to help the poor and oppressed and to build communality" (Specht & Courtney, 1994, p.5). They illustrate that social work as a profession is devoting itself more and more to "the psycho-therapeutic enterprise (Specht & Courtney, 1994, p. 5)." The profession now seeks overridingly to "perfect the individual" rather than acting on the belief in the "perfectibility of society" (Gibelman, 1999). I don't believe the movement into psychotherapy is completely negative, at the same time I don't believe it's in the professions best interest to be entirely engulfed in perfecting the individual over the community. I believe they both serve their purpose to enhance society. Like Haynes implies, I think that Specht and Courtney's (1994) analysis of psychotherapy in *Unfaithful Angels* seems to ignore the cycles of social reform. She continues to explain that only 11 percent of NASW members were engaged full-time in private practice and 32 percent are not in direct practice at all. In addition, to not equating direct practice with psychotherapy. Notions I agree with.

Retrospectively, I think it is important for our profession to collaborate between direct and indirect practice. Instead of quarreling between the divisions in our profession, we should use each others expertise as resources to further the profession. Above all, social workers should be socio-political practitioners. It's important that our practitioners' knowledge base is versatile enough to contribute in both political advocacy and law making, and counseling and specialized practice. In order to truly help our client population our social work professionals must understand societal, and political factors that may inhibit our clients. This would satisfy the need for individual and societal reform.

Agreement on professional purpose may help the profession resolve its problems with little politics (Meyer, 1981). If I were to implement methods that could generate an overall consensus in our profession, I would ask our social work professionals to look at research that shows the statistics of agencies, organizations, and social worker when they collaborate. I believe it would display positive activity.

I would use my skills as an advocate to ask NASW to explore the idea of unifying the profession. I might address the National Association of Social Work through a letter that pleads that micro and macro practitioners work together on their ventures. Actually, macro work has a pivotal affect on micro practice. Vice versa, micro practitioners can be an important source of information for macro practitioners. The two types of work have a lot to gain from working with each other.

CHAPTER ANNOUNCES ELECTION RESULTS

The following members have been elected to the Chapter's Board of Directors and Nominations & Leadership Committee.

President-elect:	Amy DiMauro
MSW Student Representative:	Jerri Levenson
BSW Student Representative:	Mary Elizabeth Bailey
Region 1 Board Representative:	Kurt Fuchs
Region 2 Board Representative:	Sarah Jane Dailey
Nominating Committee Chairperson:	Jessica Grant
Region 2 Representative Nominating:	Susan Smith
Region 3 Representative Nominating:	Rachel Josovitz

In addition to the above elected members, Kristen Charpentier has been appointed as Secretary of the Board of Directors.

We thank all the members who stepped up to be candidates. We also thank our members who participated in the election.

Congratulations to our new Board and Nominating Committee Members!

A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR MEMBERS WHO HAVE DONATED TO THE ADVOCACY FUND

We thank the following members for their donations to the chapter's 2012-13 advocacy fund. All donations go directly to NASW/CT's lobbying at the Legislature and with the Malloy Administration. This list reflects donations received from March 23 to June 30, 2013. Our goal for the 2012-13 Fiscal Year was **\$6,000**. Total amount received **\$6,255**. Thank you to all of our donors for making it possible for us to have exceeded our goal!

Diane Cady	Millie Grenough
Toby Coit	Irwin Krieger
Priscilla Cornell	Mary Jane Lundgren
Sarah Jane Dailey*	Mary Montany
John Ely	Helen Rasmussen
Terry Freeman	Patricia Schneider*

*denotes member of NASW/CT Board of Directors

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Mail To: NASW/CT Advocacy Fund, 2139 Silas Deane Hwy. Ste. 205,
Rocky Hill, CT 06067

Contributions are recognized in the chapter newsletter. Check here if you DO NOT want your name printed: _____

Contributions are an investment in your profession but regrettably not tax deductible.

LMSW FUNDING & GRANDFATHERING PASSES

We have been down this road before so are cautious but hopeful that the LMSW that NASW/CT got passed in the 2010 Legislature will finally come into being. For the second year in a row NASW/CT was able to have funding placed in the state budget for DPH to hire a staff person and launch the LMSW program. We also successfully worked with DPH to revise the eligibility dates for grandfathering in the LMSW.

As some of you may recall we had achieved funding in last year's state budget but DPH had not filled the position prior to Governor Malloy taking back all unfilled state jobs as part of a budget deficit remediation. Starting with the July 1, 2013 biennial state budget funds have been allocated for DPH to hire a staff person and start the LMSW. We do not know when DPH will hire and begin the LMSW. We do have plans to meet with DPH staff in August to discuss implementation. Our hope is that the LMSW is in

place by the end of 2013. Of course we will notify members once we have more definitive information.

The original law passed in 2010 had a provision to grandfather all those with the MSW on or before October 1, 2010 and the grandfathering was good until October 1, 2012. Since the LMSW has not yet started NASW/CT successfully advocated for new dates and DPH agreed to revise the dates in a technical revisions bill that routinely passes the Legislature. We are pleased to announce that the new dates allow anyone with the MSW degree on or before October 1, 2013 to be grandfathered into the LMSW (license without exam) and the deadline for grandfathering is now October 1, 2015. For those seeking grandfathering please note that the license must be issued by DPH by October 1, 2015 so one would want to apply well in advance of that date. The grandfathering will start on the same date as the LMSW program starts, which is yet to be determined.

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NASW/CT Aging Committee Celebrates 10 Years!

By: Sue Raggo, MSW, Past Committee Co-chair

On May 2nd, 2013 in recognition of Older American's Month, members and friends of the Aging Committee gathered at Emeritus in Rocky Hill to celebrate the committee's accomplishments over the past decade of service to the chapter. Since this was also a networking event, committee members graciously welcomed "new faces", including recent MSW and BSW graduates.

Beginnings

It was in June of 2003 when a room full of social workers sat and stood around a table at the NASW/CT office to discuss the formation of the Aging Committee. At that first meeting we did introductions, identified areas of concern, and brainstormed ideas related to the tasks of the committee.

Normally NASW/CT committees do not meet during July and August, but the Aging Committee was energized and met throughout the summer. Jennifer Tanger kept us focused and led us through an exercise to define our committee charge. Maria Roja maintained order in the meetings, all the while asking thoughtful questions to challenge us. In September of 2003 Maria Roja and Jennifer Tanger became our first co-chairs. Our committee charge was finalized in early September 2003, and presented to the Board of Directors in October 2003. The following committee goals continue to guide our work:

Committee Goals

- Provide educational opportunities in the field of gerontological social work for professional development and enhancement of skills.
- Collaborate with Connecticut schools of social work to develop programs in gerontological and medical social work.
- Form a Speakers Bureau in the field of geriatric social work to be a resource for NASW and/or the larger community.
- Address and engage in legislative policies related to aging issues and gerontological social work including, but not limited to, coalition building with local, state and national organizations in the field of aging in order to strengthen and expand the social work power base.
- Engage in outreach activities to raise awareness about aging issues and gerontological social work as a field of practice. Outreach will in-

clude, but is not limited to, member and practitioner recruitment.

- Provide a forum to address ethical issues that can arise in the practice of geriatric social work.

In October of 2003, the committee made it a priority to increase aging content in the workshops offered at the NASW/CT annual conference, beginning with the spring 2004 conference. Thanks to the suggestion of Becky Anderson, the committee has also made it a priority to offer an "aging track" of workshops at almost every annual conference. Many thanks to Waldo Klein, Jennifer Glick, Jennifer Bennett, Mary Strauss, Nancy Leonard, and Becky Anderson, who have either presented at conferences or arranged for presenters on an aging related topic. The committee is grateful to Jack Gesino, DSW from SCSU who has consistently presented workshops on aging topics which are engaging and well attended.

Newsletter Articles

In early 2004 the committee made it a priority to include aging related articles in each issue of the chapter newsletter. Although we've missed a few issues, the committee has submitted articles on a variety of topics, including Medicaid Waivers, changes to the Connecticut Home Care Program for Elders, Aging Legislation and Energy Assistance to name a few.

Specialty Conferences

In the fall of 2004 our state chapter held its first fall specialty conference. The theme was Aging and Disabilities. Our newly formed committee (less than a year old) eagerly stepped forward, created a subcommittee, and helped to make the first fall specialty conference a huge success. In 2007 we again revisited aging as a specialty conference topic at a conference entitled "Redefining Long-Term Care: Aging and Disabilities Revisited". Rosaline Kane was our Keynote Speaker. We also had Randy Frost host a hoarding workshop in the afternoon. This November 15, 2013 will be our 3rd specialty conference on Aging, with keynote Speaker Susan Jacoby, Author of "Never Say Die: The Myth and Marketing of the New Old Age".

Outreach to Schools of Social Work & Community Colleges Our charge focuses on providing educational opportunities in the field of gerontological social work. In 2003-2004 and each year since the committee mails letters to the Connecticut Schools of Social Work and Community Colleges, offering to speak about geriatric social work. This was a very large undertaking. Many of us on the committee have presented at schools throughout the state.

Advocacy

Over the years, the committee has invited

members of the Connecticut General Assembly's Committee on Aging, to attend our meetings. The purpose was to have the opportunity to have a dialogue about aging policy issues, and priorities. Also on multiple occasions, we have invited the Connecticut Commission on Aging to our meetings to inform members of proposed legislative changes to aging related programs and policy. Many of our committee members have testified in person or in writing on a number of aging related bills at public hearings. Some topics include: reimbursement rates for service providers, the Connecticut Commission on Aging, prescription drug plans changes to the Connecticut Home Care program for Elders. In addition to testimony, our committee members have been active in contacting their legislators to rally in support of (or against) a particular bill.

Networking

Another goal of the committee is to provide networking opportunities. Thanks to Jennifer Bennett and Claire Cote for leadership in this area. Jennifer and Claire both served as co-chairs of the committee. Jennifer & Claire developed an Aging Committee brochure and launched the first annual aging committee networking event.

Collaboration

Several years ago the committee conducted a statewide survey of nursing home social workers. The survey was conducted under the auspices of the chapter's Committee on Aging and was designed and administered by Dr. Waldo Klein of the UCONN School of Social Work. Claire Cote, then co-chair of the Aging Committee assisted Dr. Klein in the tabulation of data. The survey asked questions about a variety of topics including training needs, job descriptions, and credentials to name a few. The data collected was valuable in planning future outreach and advocacy efforts on behalf of nursing home social workers.

As a follow up to the survey Jennifer Bennett (then co-chair) and Steve Karp initiated a meeting with Nancy Schafer, the state long term care ombudsman to discuss the results of the survey, and opportunities to collaborate on outreach efforts to nursing home social workers. In 2013, Eric Rodko, committee co-chair lead efforts to schedule training sessions for nursing home social workers in many locations throughout state.

Many individuals have contributed to the accomplishments of the Aging Committee over the years. The NASW/CT staff has been a major support to us. Thanks to everyone who has been a part of the Aging Committee experience.

MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

The Avon Senior Center was selected as one of seven Senior Centers in the state to receive a Program of Excellence Award by the CT Association of Senior Center Personnel. The award was in the Education category for their Taking Charge Program, a group that was formed to provide mutual support and build skills for self-advocacy. The Avon Senior Center director is **Jennifer Bennett, MSW**, an active member of the chapter's Committee on Aging and the support group was facilitated by Cathiann Velez, MSW intern.

Karen Carney, LCSW, RN, and the Safe Place to Grieve Foundation, where Karen is Director, were honored May 23rd by the Connecticut School Counselor's Association for their collaboration with school districts and response to school crisis events. Four hundred copies of the book, *Together We'll Get Through*, written and illustrated by Karen, were donated to school counselors deployed to Newtown as well as parents of children who were traumatized. The book reassures children that with love and support of family they will get through even the most difficult of events. To learn more about the Barklay and Eve Children's Book Series written by Karen Carney go to: <http://barklayandeve.com>

Governor Dannel Malloy has appointed **Eugene Hickey, LCSW**, to the Advisory Board of Whiting Forensic Division of DMHAS. Gene will serve as a representative of social work on the Board.

Have news to share? Send it to us at skarp@naswct.net

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Ann Abbott
Johanne Bach
Lashonda Barrett
Tara Bergeron
Cherolle Brown
Ruth Cineus
Kaitlyn Croteau
Merideth Dearington
Anthony Fulco
Meagan Gavey
Bruce Graham
Omar Green

Juliet Gurevitz
Timothy Habegger
Cynthia Hall
Julie Halpin
Ann Haney
Allison Hennon
Venetta MacBeth
Mary Miley
Matthew Morris
Chae-vonne Munroe
Patricia Nogelo
Alyssa Palumbo

Amy Ramirez
Leslie Schillo
Angie Scraders-Murphy
Meagan Scott
Elizabeth Shea
Donna Shamer
Jenna Soderberg
Tina St. Georges
Nicole Stutz
Marisol Vega
Jessica Wendell

JOIN YOUR COLLEAGUES FOR NETWORKING AND EDUCATION AT A NASW/CT REGIONAL MEETING

Region II meets the third Tuesday of the month from 5:00 - 6:30 pm at
CMHC, New Haven, Connecticut.

Region III meets the first Tuesday of each month from 4:45 - 6:15 pm at
The Westport Town, Westport, Connecticut.

Open to all social workers. Most meetings are approved for 1.5 continuing education credits.

NASW/CT CONNECTIONS



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WHAT GOOD IS A SOCIAL WORK DEGREE WHEN YOU NO LONGER CAN PRACTICE?

Dear Social Work Colleague,

Whether you are a NASW member, former member or never have been a member this message is for you. The Social Work profession faces many challenges in the coming years including budget cuts to social services, increased competition in the workplace, and policy makers that do not see the need for, or value of, social work. **The Social Work degree is no longer enough to assure your right to practice. That is why every social worker needs “Career Insurance” and that is what NASW membership provides you.**

Without a strong NASW our profession will lose ground, our jobs and your ability to practice will slowly erode, taken over by individuals with non-social work degrees because everyone thinks they can do social work. No matter how many years you have been a social worker you still need to have **“Career Insurance”** which comes with your NASW membership.

What is **“Career Insurance”** you may be asking yourself and why do I need it? **“Career Insurance”** is having a professional association with the vitality to protect the practice of social work. Why is a social work degree not enough? Because your degree alone does not achieve the following – **but as a NASW/CT Member we can:**

Make sure we keep SW licensure and expand it to new graduates.

Defeat legislation that threatens the third-party reimbursement law for LCSWs.

Defeat legislation that would let insurers sell insurance in CT without mental health coverage.

Assure that the Social Work Confidentiality Law remains intact.

Assure that LCSWs can continue to have LLCs and PCs.

Promote school social work and new school social work jobs in the wake of Newtown.

Expand social work jobs opportunity by making sure the State of CT is hiring degreed social workers.

Fight to allow LCSWs in private practice to be covered by Medicaid.

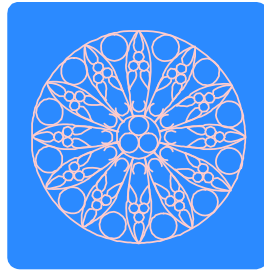
Always there as a vigilant voice for Social Work practice at the State Capitol.

Remember, with NASW membership you are buying yourself **“Career Insurance”** from the best available source! Your NASW membership assures a strong CT Chapter and a strong CT Chapter assures that we are here to fight for you.

SAVE THE DATE

November 15, 2013

*Are We Living the New Old Age?
A Conference on the State of Aging in Connecticut*



With Keynote Speaker,

Susan Jacoby

Author of Never Say Die: The Myth and Marketing of the New Old Age

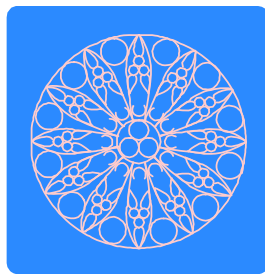
It is our distinct pleasure to announce that Susan Jacoby, writer and independent scholar, will join us as our Keynote Speaker this November. Her book, Never Say Die, offers an impassioned, tough-minded critique of the myth that a radically new old age awaits the huge baby boom generation. She raises the fundamental question of whether living longer is a desirable thing unless it means living better and she considers the profound moral and ethical concerns raised by increasing longevity.

With Ms. Jacoby's appraisal as a backdrop, NASW/CT presents a challenging conference on the state of aging in Connecticut. What does our older population look like? What are they about in their lives and how are they faring? Workshops that discuss economics, living and dying, mental health issues within the elder population, grief and loss, patient centered care, and many other topics will be offered in a daylong conference that should not be missed by those who work with people who are older, have parents who are older, and who plan to get older themselves.

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November 15, 2013

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Questions? Call 860 257-8066

NASW/CT CONNECTIONS**TELL GOVERNOR MALLOY IT IS TIME FOR THE STATE TO GIVE PREFERENCE IN HIRING TO MSWs & BSWs FOR SOCIAL WORKER POSITIONS IN STATE SERVICE**

NASW/CT has been lobbying the State of Connecticut to change the job description for the social worker position so that MSWs and BSWs will be given preference in hiring. DCF has agreed to hire only MSWs and BSWs for their social worker jobs. DSS has agreed to give preference in hiring to those with a social work degree. NOW IT IS TIME FOR THE STATE TO CHANGE THE JOB DESCRIPTION FOR ALL APPLICANTS FOR THE POSITION OF SOCIAL WORKER.

We are asking members to email, call or write Governor Malloy this month. Ask him to assure that the citizens of CT are served by state social workers who are educated in social work. Specifically ask the Governor to direct state personnel officials to put in place preference in hiring of MSWs or BSWs for the position of social worker. Here are some talking points:

- Studies that date back to the 1980's have shown that individuals with a baccalaureate degree (BSW) or master degree (MSW) in social work have better client outcomes than individuals with related degrees.
- Connecticut has three graduate schools of social work and six undergraduate programs. Combined with master degree programs in surrounding states there is an ample pool of candidates to fill state social work positions.
- BSWs and MSWs acquire their degree through a rigorous curriculum that is nationally standardized by the Council on Social Work Education.
- Social Work students must complete supervised field internships to earn their degree. This guarantees that the social worker is entering the workforce with real life practice experience.
- The Commissioners of DCF, DSS and DVA (veteran affairs) all support preference in hiring of MSWs and BSWs.
- Ten organizations, including eight non-social work organizations support this effort.

To email the Governor go to: <http://www.governor.ct.gov/malloy/site/default.asp>

To call (860) 566-4840 or toll free (800) 406-1527

To write: Office of the Governor, State Capitol, 210 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, CT 06106

A Stellar Awards Dinner



NASW/CT was delighted to host the 2013 Annual Awards Dinner Celebrating Social Work on June 18th at Anthony's Ocean View in New Haven. Once a year we gather to celebrate those who have made outstanding contributions to the mission of social work and the profession of social work and, once again, we were inspired by the work of our awardees and honored to acknowledge them.



From the left is **Vickie Alston**, LCSW, QUICSW, DCSW, our 2013 Social Worker of the Year. Presently Vice President of Health and Wellness for Value Options, Vickie worked for the past 10 years with Correctional Managed Health Care at the University of Connecticut Health Center where she oversaw a team of discharge planners as they worked to provide successful and humane transition of medically and mentally ill inmates into the community. As one of her colleagues remarked, "Vickie Alston has led the improvements in care for severely compromised inmates in an exemplary manner displaying the highest levels of commitment, integrity, and advocacy". Introduced by Marie Carlin, LCSW, Vickie was recognized for her innovative work, for her passion for her work, and for supporting the efforts and the creativity of a staff that deals with extremely challenging cases through her effective and energizing leadership.

Judi-Ann McDuffus, BSW, second from the left was awarded the BSW Student of the Year Award and was introduced by her Eastern Connecticut State University professor Thomas Broffman, PhD, LICSW, LCDP. In addition to an excellent academic record and outstanding volunteer work in her community, Judi-Ann was specifically recognized for her work as the President of the Social Work Club at ECSU where she was successful in engaging not only junior and senior social work majors as participants, but actively recruited pre-social work major underclassmen to serve in elected positions. Under her leadership the club engaged in many activities that supported the No Freeze Shelter in Willimantic, 3 families for the holidays, and fundraisers to support club members attending the Annual NASW/CT Conference.

Third in the photo is **Representative Catherine F. Abercrombie** who is serving her fourth term as State Representative for the 83rd House District of Meriden, Berlin, and Kensington. She serves as House Chair of the Human Services Committee and is a member of the Human Services subcommittee of the Appropriations Committee. Introduced by Mary Jane Lundgren, Chair of the Chapter's PACE Committee, Catherine Abercrombie was cited as a strong supporter and advocate of social service programs, children and family welfare, and services for the disabled, and she has also taken a special interest in working with families affected by Autism. Representative Abercrombie was responsible for assuring that LCSWs were reimbursed providers as part of the treatment team for autism services and also advocated actively for the LMSW statute to be initiated.

Brunilda Ferrai, MSW Student of the Year, fourth in line, graduated from UCONN School of Social Work this spring with a concentration in Policy Practice as well as having completed the requirements for the International Issues in Social Work Focused Area of Study. An exemplary student, Brunilda was chosen to be the Student Commencement Speaker, a prestigious honor bestowed upon a student by a vote of their peers. Brunilda worked tirelessly throughout her time at UCONN with the CT Coalition Against Domestic Violence, the Human Rights Reading Group, the Hartford Public Library Immigrant Civic Engagement Project, as a Legislative Aide for Representative Toni Walker, as an intern with the Connecticut Commission on Health Equity, as the Graduate Student Representative on the School's Educational Policy Committee, and as co-chair of the Social Workers for Global Justice organization. Her social activism, tenacity, and thoughtfulness have distinguished her as an MSW student.



Nominated by her professor, Dr. Rebecca Thomas, who was out of the country at the time of the Annual Awards Dinner, Brunilda was introduced by Catherine Medina, PhD, LCSW, Associate Professor at UCONN and Lynn Healy, MSW, PhD, Board of Trustees Distinguished Professor.

Peter Dapallo, LCSW, MS, second from the right, was the 2013 Educator of the Year. Prior to his academic career as an Extension Instructor at UCONN School of Social Work, Peter was a social work practitioner for over 30 years. A teacher of extraordinary ability and dedication, his strongest contribution lies with his students who he challenges to meet the highest academic standards, encourages to think critically, and pushes to examine and explore the subject matter and to believe in their capacity to become skillful in social work practice. His talents as a stimulating classroom teacher extend to his work as faculty field liaison where he exhibits concern and interest in his students, mentoring in the best sense of the word. Peter also offers his time to the community, sitting on boards and professional committees, conducting workshops, and reviewing best practice models. Introduced by Catherine Havens, JD, MSW, Assistant Professor and Associate Dean at UCONN, Peter was described as a master teacher, an outstanding social work educator respected by both students and colleagues.

And, on the far right, **Joan Pollack**, LCSW, MHSA, who received the Lifetime Achievement Award. Joan started her lifelong career in social work by earning her bachelor's degree in social work from Sacred Heart University, the very same university from which she retired in June. Her positions over the years have been varied, from Intake Worker at DCF, to Clinical Social Worker with Catholic Charities, to Director of Administration and Human Resources at the Southwestern Connecticut Agency on Aging, to Special Events Coordinator for the Girl Scouts of Connecticut, to teaching at Western Connecticut State University, and ultimately becoming the Director of the Baccalaureate Social Work Program at Sacred Heart University. In addition to her many contributions to her clients and colleagues within the work environment, Joan has given generously and selflessly to the profession by serving as Board President of the NASW/CT Chapter as well as participating on the PACE Committee and the Committee on Inquiry. She has been on many Executive Committees and Boards, always taking on new challenges and building and strengthening the programs that engage her. Her many accomplishments and commitment to the field of social work over the past thirty years are truly a "Lifetime Achievement".



Joan Pollack, LCSW, MHSA, Lifetime Achievement Awardee, with Bronwyn Cross-Denny, PhD, LCSW, Sacred Heart colleague who introduced her, Sylvia Juarez-Marazzo, Adjunct Faculty Member at Southern Connecticut State University and Pat Carl-Stannard, LCSW, Assistant Clinical Professor and colleague at Sacred Heart University.

And, finally, a thank you from Pat Hartman, Professional Development Coordinator, Stephen Karp, MSW, Executive Director, and Christine Limone, LCSW, Director of Political Advocacy to you for supporting the work of the Chapter, the mission of NASW, and all the social workers who strive to make the world a better place for all.



NASW/CT Clinical Social Work Network Social Worker of the Year



Congratulations to Diane Lafferty, LCSW, OSW-C, 2013 Clinical Social Worker of the Year. Diane, who works at Midstate Medical Center in Meriden, CT was given this award by her peers for “Exemplary Practice of Clinical Social Work within the Field of Oncology Social Work with Cancer Patients and their Families” at the 28th Annual State Conference in Waterbury.

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April 19, 2013
NASW/CT's 28th Annual Statewide Conference

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NASW/CT CONNECTIONS

LCSW PREP CLASS OFFERED

NASW/CT sponsors a LCSW Preparation Class presented by Ventajas. Taught by Dr. Julie Cooper Altman, the class emphasizes content review and test taking strategies. Class sizes are kept to no more than 26 students to insure individual attention. Study guide and seminar materials are included in the seminar price of \$375.

The next class is on October 18 & 19 in Plainville. To register for a class visit www.SocialWorkInfo.com or call toll free (877) 793-9267.

Study guides are also available for purchase through NASW/CT at \$150 for members and \$175 for non-members. To order a study guide contact the chapter at 860-257-8066 or naswct@naswct.net

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NASW/CT CONNECTIONS

Clinical Solutions Series at NASW/CT

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sponsored by the NASW/CT Clinical Social Work Network

NEW DATE!!

Psychopharmacology:

Understanding Medications & The Brain

Friday, September 27, 2013 * 9 AM to 4:30 PM

Medications are frequently used in the treatment of mental illness and addictions. This workshop will provide participants with an understanding of commonly prescribed psychiatric medications and discussion will include normal brain chemistry, abnormal brain chemistry of Axis I illnesses, and how medications can assist in normalizing brain chemistry. The classes of psychiatric medications will be identified, examples will be provided, and participants will understand how each class of psychiatric medication functions. The rationale for prescribing medications for specific disorders will be part of the discussion and participants will become better informed advocates for clients regarding medications. Although sophisticated biological material is part of this workshop, it will be presented in an understandable manner so “sciencephobics” may attend with ease. This workshop will be presented by **Patricia Mulready, MD**. Dr. Mulready is a graduate of the UCONN School of Medicine and is board certified in family medicine. She also carries a master’s degree in Rehabilitation Counseling from UCONN. Her orientation to medicine blends conventional and complementary modalities to create an integrated healing of body, mind, and spirit. She has years of experience in administration, program development, and providing psychotherapy in the addictions and mental health fields. The founder of P.A. Mulready Associates, LLC, a professional consulting firm, Dr. Mulready has been a speaker and workshop presenter at numerous conferences and is an adjunct instructor at the UCONN School of Social Work.

Workshop has been approved for 6 CECs for LCSWs, LMFTs, and LPCs. It will be held at the Crowne Plaza in Cromwell, CT and Lunch is ON YOUR OWN from 12 to 1:30. Cost is \$99 for NASW Members, \$139 for Non-Members, and \$65 for Students. Register online at naswct.org or call 860 257-8066 for more information.

YOU HAVE THE POWER TO MAKE A WISH COME TRUE

If you could wish for anything in the entire world...what would it be?

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If you know of a child that is battling a life-threatening medical condition, a simple phone call can begin their magical journey to a wish come true. To refer a child or learn more about Make-A-Wish and its mission, visit ct.wish.org or call 877.203.WISH today. Together, we can make wishes come true. Together, we can *share the power of a wish®*!



28th Annual Statewide Conference

April 19, 2013
 “Weaving Threads of Resilience and Advocacy”



Over 350 people joined NASW/CT at their Annual Conference in Waterbury on April 19th. The conference title refers to our national fabric which is comprised of many different lives. Vibrant and strong because it has been woven from the stories and struggles of people from every continent, each thread helps to create the final colorful tapestry. As resilience and determination alone cannot overcome all crises, the social workers' advocacy role works to challenge systems that impede progress. It is the resiliency and the advocacy that make for a powerful combination when working towards what is possible rather than simply accepting what is. This conference and the 24 workshops offered during the day were offered so that social workers might be supported and inspired in their work to improve individual lives and alter social systems to strengthen our society.



Introduced by Board President Raymie Wayne, PhD, JD, MSW, our Keynote Speaker, Gary Bailey, MSW from Simmons College provided an inspiring opening speech encouraging those in the room to be agents for change, locally and internationally. Professor Bailey's history with NASW has been long and rich, starting with being the President of the Massachusetts Chapter in the early 90's to his tenure with NASW National which culminated in serving as President of the Board of Directors of National NASW. In 2010 he was elected President of the International Federation of Social Workers headquartered in Switzerland. We were delighted and honored to have Gary with us for our 28th Annual Conference. 34 Exhibitor tables lined the hallways and the rear of the main ballroom, bringing resources, job opportunities, and ideas to those who attended the conference. Providing the backbone of our conference budget, we thank all our exhibitors with a special thanks to UCONN School of Social Work and Wheeler Clinic for being the Tote Bag Sponsors and AHEC of Northwestern Connecticut for being our Keynote Sponsor.



28th Annual Statewide Conference

April 19, 2013

“Weaving Threads of Resilience and Advocacy”

In particular we are always pleased when social work students attend the Annual Conference. This year the Social Work Club from Eastern Connecticut State University held numerous fund raisers to pay for their members to attend the conference AND host an Exhibit Table! Students from the UCONN School of Social Work at the Nancy A. Humphreys Institute for Political Social Work presented the workshop entitled “The Advocate Within”, and the Central Connecticut State University Social Work Club attended in great numbers as you can see from the photo below.



Thank you to all who generously presented the 24 outstanding, well received workshops; thank you to the Exhibitors and Sponsors without whom the conference would not be possible; and thank you to all who attended this successful event. We hope the knowledge, passion, and commitment to social work that was in the air that day will serve to inspire you until our next Annual Conference!

Pat Hartman, Professional Development Coordinator

Attention:

Those interested in FREE TF-CBT Training
RFQ for TF-CBT

Child Health and Development Institute (CHDI) announces an opportunity for community agencies and group practices (or individual practitioners working together with other practitioners) serving children, particularly children in the child welfare system, to receive training in Trauma Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (TF-CBT). Selected providers will receive training, through a learning collaborative, at no cost and will receive a small stipend. *The deadline for responding to the RFQ is July 19, 2013 at 4:00 pm.*

For more information or to respond to the RFQ,
visit <http://www.chdi.org/news-detail.php?id=149>.
You may also contact Kim Campbell, Project Coordinator, at 860-679-2907
or kcampbell@uchc.edu

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Seeking an experienced, Masters-prepared, licensed social worker to serve as the coordinator of Yale's mental health and addiction services in the state's juvenile detention centers. Experience with children/adolescents is required. Supervisory experience is preferred. Involvement in training and consultation activities is possible. The individual will receive a faculty appointment in the Department of Psychiatry. Yale University is an equal opportunity employer. For further information contact Scott Migdole, MSW at scott.migdole@yale.edu.

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