

**Macro Social Workers Network of NASW/CT
Network Charge
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Authorization and Accountability

The Macro Social Workers Network of NASW/CT is a Board of Directors approved Network of the Connecticut Chapter of NASW. The Network reports to the Board of Directors at least once a year on the activities of the Network.

Purpose

To provide a professional network for macro social workers, including but not limited to community organizers, policy practitioners, and social work administrators, to meet for: sharing of mutual interests, providing support to each other, addressing issues of concern to macro social workers, educating social work students and practitioners as to the principles and practices of macro social work, and advocating for macro social work as a visible and valuable practice field.

Time Frame

The Network is an ongoing unit of the Connecticut Chapter.

Members, Terms, and Criteria

The Network is open to all involved and interested in macro social work practice, especially community organization, policy practice, and administration. This includes practitioners and students trained in schools of social work as well as those trained and working outside of the profession. Macro social workers that are non-members of NASW may participate in the Network activities; however, membership in NASW is encouraged for those who hold a social work degree.

The chairperson or co-chairpersons of the Network shall be appointed by the chapter President with the advice of the Network's steering committee, for a term not to exceed two years and may be reappointed for additional terms.

Specific Responsibilities

- To advocate for macro social work practice within NASW/CT and the greater social work community.
- To provide support, guidance, sharing of best practices, and networking opportunities to macro social work practitioners through formal and informal gatherings.
- To provide education and training on the practices of macro social workers, including community organization, policy practice, and administration.

- To inform the members of NASW/CT on the practices of macro social workers through use of the chapter's communication vehicles, such as the newsletter, website, Facebook, and e-updates.
- To keep members of the Network informed on issues, activities and matters of interest through direct communication with Network members.
- To serve as a resource to individual members regarding macro social work practice.
- To develop information and resources on macro social work that will be made available to NASW members, non-member social workers and the general public.
- To serve as a vehicle for various macro social work practitioners in Connecticut to learn of each other and to connect with each other.
- To participate in NASW/CT and/or community projects and activities that utilize techniques and strategies associated with macro social work practice.
- To engage micro social work practitioners, such as case workers and group workers, in issues and matters related to macro practice.
- To create a series of macro social work-oriented workshops at the yearly NASW/CT conference.

History

The Macro Social Workers Network is an expanded and revised version of the Community Organizers Network. The purpose of this new Network is three-fold:

- 1.) Build a network of support and guidance amongst macro social workers, including community organizers, policy practitioners, and administrators.
- 2.) Provide macro social workers with resources, events, and networking/career opportunities.
- 3.) Educate other social work practitioners on the values and skills associated with macro social work practice, especially through trainings, workshops, and programming at the yearly NASW/CT Conference and other venues.

In 1995 NASW/CT was the first NASW chapter to form a Community Organizers committee. The original Network existed for several years, providing continuing education events and networking opportunities. The Network disbanded when the leadership moved onto other professional endeavors and new leadership for the committee did not emerge.

In 2005 an effort was launched for revive the Community Organizers Network in collaboration with the UCONN School of Social Work's Community Organization concentration. A proposed Charge was developed and recruitment of members undertaken. The effort met with minimal interest and the committee was not successfully re-launched.

The Network was re-started in January 2013 by a group of practitioners and social work students. Six meetings were held between January and December 2013, with a core group of participants to plan and initiate the Network.