32nd Annual Conference

With Keynote Speaker,

Stanley F. Battle, PhD, MPH, MSW

Educator, Author, Administrator, & Civic Activist

May 12, 2017

Radisson Cromwell

100 Berlin Road, Cromwell, CT 06416
Juniper Homecare

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Welcome!

Social workers stand up for millions of people every day. These include people who are experiencing devastating illnesses and mental health crises, our veterans, children, families and communities. They stand up to ensure people get the best care while ill or on the road to recovery or simply dealing with the aging process. They stand up for military personnel and their families. They work to advocate for social justice or concentrate on passing legislation that will help those who are the most vulnerable. They stand up for abused and neglected children, work to insure the educational needs of individual children are met, and find permanency for those children in need of families. Yet many people misunderstand who social workers are and the invaluable contributions they bring to their communities. This proclamation, Social Workers Stand Up, created by NASW for Social Work Month, kicked off a campaign to educate the public about the contributions of social workers and give social workers and their allies tools they can use to illuminate the profession and clarify the role social workers play all over the world. We have adopted this proclamation for our own state conference as we concur that the positive contributions of the profession need to be identified and acknowledged. So, to all the social workers who join us today at this conference, thank you for what you do. While you stand up for your clients, we at NASW stand up for you.

We honor the work that social workers perform in so many different capacities and hope that this conference will provide some degree of thanks, support, and inspiration. We thank the presenters who give so generously of their ideas and time. Thanks also to the Sponsors and Exhibitors whose resources and contributions are truly invaluable. Thank you to the NASW/CT Chapter staff, the workshop Moderators, the Planning Committee, and other volunteers who contribute to making this conference run smoothly. And a special thanks to those of you who support NASW through your membership. Without you there would be no organization to advocate for the profession of social work as well as the services needed by those we serve.

Pat
Patricia Hartman
Coordinator of Professional Development, NASW/CT
Conference Notes

We’re glad you could join us at our 32nd Annual Conference. There is a lot happening to squeeze into one day! In between workshops visit the Exhibitors and Sponsors who so generously support this event and be sure to take advantage of the resources available at the BookShop located near the Registration Desk. You’ll find the Student Poster Session near the Registration Desk as well. Please find the time to check out the work of our BSW and MSW Student participants.

This year we are pleased to have Juniper Homecare as our Partnering Sponsor. Founded in 1998, Juniper Homecare provides many home and community-based services for elderly and disabled residents in Greater Hartford and beyond. Their goal from the beginning was to create an agency that put people first. Juniper Homecare is partnering with NASW/CT this spring to advance their Adult Family Caregiving Program. Believing that the best caregivers are family, now a relative or close friend can devote time, care and service to an elderly consumer in their own home and the caregiver might qualify for compensation for the care they provide. Visit their Exhibit Table at the Conference, meet Andrei Brel, MSW, Juniper’s Executive Director at lunch, or go to their website at www.Juniperhomecare.com for more information about this innovative program.

We hope you find the conference to be timely, meaningful, and an asset to your work in the field. We hope you connect with old friends, meet new colleagues, and enjoy the day. Don’t forget to join us at the Wine & Cheese Reception immediately following the conference.

Books for Sale
Baystate Book Service joins us again, giving you an opportunity to purchase books and CD’s of interest. Some of the most popular authors in the social work field, including some of our presenters, are among those represented and displayed in our very own “BookShop” located near the Registration Desk.

Continuing Education Credits for:
LCSWs, LMSWs, LMFTs, LPC’s, and Licensed Psychologists
This program has been approved for up to 6 Continuing Education Credit hours (including the keynote address) by the National Association of Social Workers CT chapter and meets the continuing education criteria for licensure renewal for LCSWs, LMSWs, LMFTs, LPCs, and Licensed Psychologists. Workshops #13, 25 and 33 qualify for LADCs.

Hotel Accommodations
Should you wish to stay at the Radisson Cromwell, the overnight rate is $119 plus tax. Please call the Hotel directly to make reservations at (860) 635-2000 and say you are with NASW/CT.

At a Glance...

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Exhibitor Set Up</th>
<th>Conference Registration</th>
<th>Exhibitor Displays</th>
<th>Poster Session</th>
<th>Exhibit Set Up</th>
<th>Early Afternoon Workshops</th>
<th>Break</th>
<th>Poster Session</th>
<th>Mid Afternoon Workshops</th>
<th>Drop Off CEC/CEU Participant Form</th>
<th>Registration Desk</th>
<th>Wine &amp; Cheese Reception</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6:30-7:30 am</td>
<td>Conference Registration</td>
<td>Exhibitor Displays</td>
<td>Light Breakfast</td>
<td>Poster Session</td>
<td>Welcome</td>
<td>Welcome</td>
<td>3:00-3:15</td>
<td>Poster Session</td>
<td>Second Half of Full Afternoon Workshops #14-18 Continue</td>
<td>Drop Off CEC/CEU Participant Form</td>
<td>Registration Desk</td>
<td>Join us for a Wine &amp; Cheese Reception</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7:30-8:30 am</td>
<td>Exhibitor Displays</td>
<td>First Half of Full Afternoon Workshops #14-18 Early Afternoon Workshops #19-26</td>
<td>Welcome</td>
<td>Second Half of Full Afternoon Workshops #14-18</td>
<td>3:15-4:45</td>
<td>5:00</td>
<td>5:00-6:00</td>
<td>2 Hour Morning Workshops #1-13</td>
<td>Second Half of Full Afternoon Workshops #27-34</td>
<td>Drop Off CEC/CEU Participant Form</td>
<td>Registration Desk</td>
<td>Join us for a Wine &amp; Cheese Reception</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:30</td>
<td>Welcome</td>
<td>Keynote Address</td>
<td>Exhibitor Displays</td>
<td>Poster Session</td>
<td>Welcome</td>
<td>Welcome</td>
<td>3:00-3:15</td>
<td>Poster Session</td>
<td>Second Half of Full Afternoon Workshops #14-18</td>
<td>Drop Off CEC/CEU Participant Form</td>
<td>Registration Desk</td>
<td>Join us for a Wine &amp; Cheese Reception</td>
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<td>3:00-3:15</td>
<td>Poster Session</td>
<td>Second Half of Full Afternoon Workshops #27-34</td>
<td>Drop Off CEC/CEU Participant Form</td>
<td>Registration Desk</td>
<td>Join us for a Wine &amp; Cheese Reception</td>
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<td>3:00-3:15</td>
<td>Poster Session</td>
<td>Second Half of Full Afternoon Workshops #27-34</td>
<td>Drop Off CEC/CEU Participant Form</td>
<td>Registration Desk</td>
<td>Join us for a Wine &amp; Cheese Reception</td>
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<td>3:00-3:15</td>
<td>Poster Session</td>
<td>Second Half of Full Afternoon Workshops #27-34</td>
<td>Drop Off CEC/CEU Participant Form</td>
<td>Registration Desk</td>
<td>Join us for a Wine &amp; Cheese Reception</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Exhibitor Display Area
Don’t miss the chance to visit and talk with our exhibitors. They’ve brought information about their products and services that may prove helpful to you in your work and your life. Exhibitors are located in the hallways surrounding the Grand Ballroom. If you receive this brochure and wish that you, too, were an exhibitor—give our office a call. Perhaps a space is still available.

Early Registration Special
Have your registration submitted on-line by the end of the day April 19 and you will save on your conference registration fee! All registrations this year must be made online. Go to www.naswct.org for more details. All registrations must be paid in advanced to to concerned complete.

Walk-Ins
While we may be able to accommodate walk-ins on the day of the conference, workshop choices may be limited and lunch tickets may not be available. Don’t take a chance, register today!

Poster Session
Check out the 3rd Annual Poster Session near the Registration Desk. Students in BSW and MSW programs in Connecticut are encouraged to participate. Call Pat Hartman at (860) 257-8066 for more information.
# 32nd Annual Conference

## SAVE MONEY!

**32nd Annual Statewide Conference**

**EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION DEADLINE**

Register On-line by midnight Wednesday, April 19, 2017

## LMSW and LCSW Prep Classes

Two Day Review for License Exam offered:

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- June 17-18
- August 19-20
- November 18-19

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In partnership with NASW/CT

For information and to register go to www.swes.net or call (800) 933-8802

## BookShop

Check out our bookshop near the Registration Desk!

## Social Workers Rollin’ on the River

**SAVE THE DATE!**

Annual Awards Dinner
November 9, 2017

“We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give.”

- Winston Churchill
Stanley F. Battle, Educator, Author, Administrator, & Civic Activist

Stanley Battle, PhD, MPH, MSW has said that the lifeblood of social work is reaching out and giving people a voice. Even in an age of unprecedented technology, social work must always be “about the needs of people”. Recently named the Director of the Master of Social Work program and Professor of Social Work at the University of Saint Joseph in West Hartford, Dr. Battle started his career as a social work advocate in 1973 when he earned a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology from Springfield College.

Dr. Battle subsequently earned his Master of Social Work degree from the University of Connecticut in 1975 and a Master of Public Health and Doctorate in social welfare policy from the University of Pittsburgh in 1979 and 1980, respectively. His career in academics spans over three decades, starting as an Assistant professor at the University of Minnesota School of Social Work followed by serving at Boston University, the University of Connecticut, Eastern Connecticut State University, and the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee where he served as vice chancellor of student and multicultural affairs. In 2003 Dr. Battle was appointed the fourth president of Coppin State College in Baltimore which, under his leadership, became Coppin State University in 2004. He assumed the role of Chancellor of North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University from 2007 to 2009 and returned to Connecticut to assume the position of Interim President of Southern Connecticut State University in 2010. He was on the faculty at Central Connecticut State University from 2012 to 2013 when it was announced he would be appointed as professor of social work and the founding director of the master’s degree program at the University of Saint Joseph. Throughout the years Dr. Battle made significant contributions to the academic programs he led, contributing scholarly work and leading research projects, while always participating as an active member of nonprofit boards and community organizations.

The opportunity to drive the development of an innovative Social Work master’s program at the University of Saint Joseph was irresistible to Dr. Battle because of its great potential to impact individual lives while redefining the relationship between academic programs and clinical partners. The USJ program prepares social workers for community-based clinical practice in labor force shortage areas such as health and mental health, children and family services, aging and disability services, veterans services, and services to newly arriving population and ethnic communities.

We are honored and delighted to have Dr. Battle as our Keynote speaker at our 32nd Annual State Conference.
1. **A Systemic-Relational Approach to Working with Families Involved in the Foster Care System**
   
   2 CECs
   
   Many parents whose children are placed in foster care have histories of complex interpersonal and systemic trauma. The placement of their children is experienced as another trauma, leading most parents to respond with anger, rage, and defensiveness. For service providers tasked with protecting children, the anger shown is often misinterpreted, perceived to be additional proof the parent is unable to keep the child safe and secure. In this workshop, a therapeutic approach will be presented that takes into account how systemic oppression and complex trauma contribute to lengthy foster care placements. Using case vignettes and videos, participants will learn how to sequence parent, child, and family sessions to work towards a range of therapeutic goals including engaging biological parents, healing relational ruptures, and advocating for systemic processes that respect families.

   **Catherine Lewis, LCSW** is Co-Director of the Foster Care and Adoption Project at Ackerman Institute for the Family in New York City, a project that collaborates with clinicians in the development of a systemic-relational approach to working with families involved in foster care; provides consultation to NYC foster care agencies in best practices; and consults with child welfare administrators to address oppressive practices in the child welfare system. Catherine is also a member of the teaching faculty at Ackerman Institute and Director of Community Training where she works in collaboration with Project Return in Westport to put on an annual conference. She is in private practice in Westport and New York and is a member of NASW.

2. **The Eye of the Storm: How Mindfulness is Shaping Healthcare**
   
   2 CECs
   
   Along with growing empirical data supporting the value of mindfulness practice, there is a deepening recognition in the healthcare community that mindfulness-based interventions can deliver significant clinical value for a variety of clients. This workshop will explore the emerging role of mindfulness in healthcare, which can help clinicians to more fully embody their role as healers while simultaneously protecting them from burnout and stress. This workshop will also examine the role of self-compassion and loving-kindness in caring for ourselves and others through lecture, discussion, storytelling, laughter, and experiential practices.

   **Brandon Nappi, D.Min**, founder and Executive Director at Copper Beech Institute, is a mindfulness teacher, speaker, and writer who passionately believes in the capacity of the human spirit to awaken. He holds a Doctor of Ministry degree from Aquinas Institute of Theology and has received extensive mindfulness training from the University of Massachusetts Medical School’s Center for Mindfulness founded by Jon Kabat-Zinn. Dr. Nappi blogs for the Huffington Post and teaches a course in mindfulness at Yale University.

3. **The Use of Neuroscience Interventions for Caregivers**
   
   2 CECs
   
   Caregivers for elders with neurocognitive disorders and multiple medical problems, veterans with PTSD and service related physical disabilities, or children with developmental disabilities and life threatening illnesses experience numerous stress related illnesses and much higher rates of anxiety and depression. Their brains begin to experience a sense of constant threat, often overwhelming the sympathetic nervous system and impairing the hippocampus (problems with attention/concentration/memory), the prefrontal cortex (problems in decision making), and the limbic system (overwhelming feelings and emotions). Helping caregivers using a variety of neurobiological interventions that can be “transformative in mind and body” will be reviewed, leading to relational integrity with family members and aligning them with the larger community of care.

   **Jack Paul Gesino, DSW, LCSW** is an Associate Professor at Southern Connecticut State University, Department of Social Work and Chair of the Elders and Families Specialization. He is in private practice at the Center for Elders and Families in Hamden and is a consultant at The Whitney Center in Hamden. For over 40 years Jack has been working with elders and families using Positive Psychology, Neuroscience Interventions, Biofeedback, and Life Style Interventions. He is a member of NASW.
4. **Introduction to Human Trafficking:**  
**Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children and Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking**  
2 CECs

This workshop will raise awareness of the risks to children and youth around Human Trafficking and define and illuminate the curriculum of CSEC (Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children) and DMST (Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking). Current legislation, pathways to victimization, identifying and engaging with trafficked children, and a description of the support services and resources that are available will all be a part of this presentation.

*Brooke Morris, LMSW* is an Intimate Partner Violence Specialist for the Department of Children and Families. She provides direct consultation to staff on cases as well as providing education and increasing collaborations and partnerships with intimate partner violence agencies. As the Human Anti-Trafficking Response Team liaison for the DCF Waterbury office, Brooke also provides ongoing education efforts for the community.

5. **Using Creative Techniques to Impact Clients!**  
2 CECs

The next time you feel at an impasse with clients using talk therapy you might want to consider engaging your clients in a multisensory approach. The latest brain surgery suggests that the more parts of the brain that are stimulated the more likely the lasting impact. So, using props, chairs, drawings, and writings can help clients to better visualize their problems. The use of innovative and novel techniques adds interest to the session for both the client and the counselor, helps to minimize the resistance of people entering counseling, and also helps build rapport quickly. More than twenty unique techniques will be shared and all of the techniques presented will be solidly based in major counseling theories. The visual props presented respect all cultures and beliefs and help to bypass language barriers.

*Asha Patlikh, LMFT* has been in private practice since 2004, providing services to individuals, couples, and families. She is an adjunct faculty member at Southern Connecticut State University and is an approved AAMFT supervisor. Asha has presented many workshops on creative techniques and healthy living and finds it rewarding to share these techniques with others.

6. **Engaging Social Justice Through Connection**  
2 CECs

Current politics, economic challenges, and a desire for meaning and connection are struggles evident in our world today. Social workers are uniquely positioned to engage in meaningful dialogue and change. This workshop seeks to support those change makers, healing practitioners, and courageous noisemakers to get involved in social justice activism with clarity and purpose. Join the presenters in a rich discussion to address challenges, explore opportunities to connect, discover contemplative practices, and find meaning, energy, and purpose in your work lives.

*Natacha Kerelejza, LCSW* is the Assistant Executive Director at Advocacy Unlimited, Inc., a source for comprehensive recovery and advocacy education for people with or in recovery from mental health and/or addiction issues. As someone impacted by violence, she is committed to addressing the root causes of these experiences and creating communities that support the opportunity for healing. Natacha is proud to be working for an agency that supports advocacy education, training opportunities, and authentic options for growth and healing.

*Deron Drumm* is the Executive Director of Advocacy Unlimited, Vice President of the Board of Directors for the National Association of Rights Protection and Advocacy, a Qigong practice leader, holistic stress management instructor, and founder of Toivo. After years spent seeking to escape difficult emotions in unhealthy ways, Deron found peace and strength by incorporating holistic healing practices into his life.

*Kelvin Young* is Director of Toivo by Advocacy Unlimited, a unique and powerful holistic wellness initiative. He is a Holistic Stress Management Instructor, Sound Healer, Certified Addiction Recovery Coach, and Recovery Support Specialist. He serves on the DMHAS Multicultural Advisory Council and received special recognition from Senator Blumenthal (D-CT) for being a positive role model and contributing to the success of re-entry efforts.
7. **I have learned to change my clothes, now help me change my brain:**

* **A Mindfulness-based Cognitive Therapy Intervention**

2 CECs

Alternative cognitive treatment is needed for anxious children as many respond partially or not at all to standard Cognitive Therapy. (R. Semple and J. Lee, 2011). Seven children and their primary parents participated in a 12 week research project integrated into the primary investigator’s weekly behavioral health treatment group of 9—12 year old children. Evidenced based interventions were founded in Mindfulness-based Cognitive Therapy for Anxious Children, (MBCT-C) and modified to fit school based schedule and 3 instruments were added: The Revised Children’s Manifest Anxiety Scale—Second Edition (RCMAS-2) and 2 were created by the primary investigator: Sources of Stress for Children which listed 61 child stressors and Stress Assessment which listed Body Sensations and Today’s’ Emotions associated with stress. Data was collected on stressors experienced, associated emotions and body sensations, anxiety levels and subjective differences experienced by the children and their parents, post experiential activities. The significance of a new behavioral health paradigm and its relevance to early childhood intervention will be discussed. Today, the presenter will use lecture, demonstration, Power-Point, handouts and discussion to captivate the audience to enhance and expand this work in their own settings and practices.

*Rose-Ann Wancyzk, LCSW, BCD, DCSW, ACSW* is a Senior Clinician in the Community Health Center, Inc.’s School Based Health Center in Meriden. Her practice spans 30 years with children, adolescents, and adults in direct care, working in hospital settings, out patient programs, and elementary schools. Current focus exemplifies need for early intervention and prevention of more severe impending behavioral health issues. “Modified Mindfulness-Based Cognitive Therapy for Anxious Children integrated into a Group Therapy for Economically Disadvantaged Urban Elementary School Children” results are in pre-submission stage. She has been a member of the CT. Disaster Behavioral Health Response Network since 2002 and NASW since 1986.

8. **Cultural Competence for Mental Health Professionals**

2 CECs

*This workshop meets the cultural competence requirement for license renewal*

This cultural competence training aims at providing clinicians with a comprehensive overview of culture, the role and influence of their own culture, and the complexity of cross cultural communication in their work. The presentation will pay particular attention to building participant’s skills to identify cultural factors in clients that may promote resiliency and seeking inherent supports from within a client’s culture and community that may enhance treatment and outcome. This experiential training will prepare participants to explore biases and develop skills to provide sensitive and effective therapy and will also train clinicians to use the DSM V Cultural Formulation Interview.

*Sukriti Kushwaha, LMFT* is a therapist at Counseling and More… and is also a trainer for mental health clinicians at Training and Learning for Clinicians in Wethersfield. She is EMDR and TF-CBT trained and provides family therapy, couples counseling, and individual therapy. In 2016, Sukriti and Ivette Betancourt started Training and Learning for Clinicians where they create and offer trainings on current and relevant topics in the field of mental health.

*Ivette Betancourt, LMFT* is in private practice at Counseling and More…where she provides treatment to adults, children, and families from diverse cultures. She and Sukriti have partnered to create Training and Learning for Clinicians and they are presently concentrating on cultural competence training.

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**DO OUR BIASES LEAD TO PREJUDICE AND OPPRESSION?**

April 7, 2017
The Port n’ Starboard at Ocean Beach Park
1225 Ocean Avenue, New London
8:30 to 12:00

Join NASW/CT and NASW/RI at this co-sponsored workshop on Cultural Competency where practitioners will have an opportunity to examine the causes of stereotypes and prejudices in our society. Presented by Deoshore Haig, LCSW, Director of Haig and Associates Consulting, Ms. Haig has over 25 years’ experience in implementing best practices in diversity and cultural competency. Approved for 3 CECs. For information & registration go to www.naswct.org
9. **Avoiding Diagnostic Deficit Disorder:**
   How Undetected or Mistreated Mood Disorders Can Limit the Effectiveness of Therapy
   2 CECS

   Often patients in therapy can’t get the full benefit of their therapy due to a co-morbid, unrecognized, misdiagnosed or mistreated brain chemistry imbalance. In Bipolar Disorder, for example, clinicians misdiagnose adults 70% of the time and this misdiagnosis rate is higher yet in children, seniors, and people with any form of organic brain disease. As manic symptoms can be subtle, they are often missed entirely or, if recognized, are often misdiagnosed and the patient is treated for “depression” and/or “anxiety”. It is critical, therefore, that clinicians have the tools to accurately assess when a chemical imbalance, however subtle, is present as well as make an accurate diagnosis. In this presentation we will identify the often subtle symptoms of mood disorders that may go undetected; understand the thinking among experts in mood disorders that amplified states of anxiety, worry, irritation or obsessing may be “manic spectrum equivalents”; and learn to recognize when a mood disorder is being palliated or “covered up” by medication instead of treated to remission.

   **Steven A. Weisblatt, MD, FAPA** is a former Clinical Assistant Professor of Psychiatry at Downstate Medical Center and held a similar position on the teaching faculty of Albert Einstein College of Medicine. He originated the “Clinician’s Corner” column in Bipolar Magazine and has taught and consulted nationally and internationally on the subject of accurate diagnosis and effective treatment. He maintains a private practice in Stamford.

10. **Brain-based Social Work Practice: Targeting Executive Function Skills in Anxious Adolescents**
    2 CECS

   Research has shown that adolescence is marked by a significant change in brain structure and function. And, of course, we all know how hormones, the environment, and overall turmoil impact those adolescent years for many kids. Given the fragility of the anxious teen and the tremendous neurological changes characteristic of adolescence, social workers have a critical window of opportunity to help students develop and refine the key executive function skills essential for success in and out of the classroom. This workshop will explore the dynamic nature of the teen brain, an executive function skill development model, and strategies to help students struggling with emotion regulation and academic achievement to build the skills they’ll use for a lifetime.

   **Tammy Moscrip, PhD, LCSW** is the Executive Director and Chief Administrator of The Spire School, a NEASC-accredited and CT State Approved Special Education School in Stamford. She is particularly interested in the intersection of the brain, cognition, and behavior. Tammy holds a doctorate in psychology from Columbia University, is a certified school social worker, and is an adjunct professor at UCONN. She is a member of NASW.

   **Kelly Barrett, LCSW** is the lead clinician at The Spire School in Stamford. The focus of Kelly’s clinical work centers predominantly on counseling students who are diagnosed with mood disorders or severe anxiety preventing them from accessing education in a typical setting. Prior to joining the Spire team, Kelly worked in the foster care system in New York City.

Wondering how to get 6 Continuing Ed Online Credits that you know will meet Connecticut’s licensing requirements?

Go to the CE Institute on the NASW/CT website www.naswct.org

Click on Continuing Education/CE Institute.
You’ll discover dozens of classes on dozens of topics at reasonable prices—
all accepted in Connecticut!
11. **Reconceptualizing Domestic Violence Safety Planning in Clinical Settings as a Multidimensional Biopsychosocial Safety Assessment and Plan**  
   2 CECs  
   This workshop will define safety planning and describe its evolution while enhancing clinical skills for comprehensive and collaborative use of safety assessment and planning in health and mental healthcare settings as well as in clinical settings. An assessment and planning tool for clinical settings that was developed by Hartford Hospital’s Domestic Violence Prevention Program will be described. Both lecture and experiential work sessions will be part of this presentation and the material is designed for mental health professionals with advanced concepts and skills for domestic violence work.

   **Danica Delgado, LMSW** is Director of the Domestic Violence Prevention Program at Hartford Hospital where she provides education, curriculum development, consultation, and training to many departments within the hospital. Danica also consults and trains on domestic and sexual violence for healthcare and social service organizations in the community. The focus of her practice has always been medical social work and the prevention of domestic and sexual violence.

12. **This is Not the Real World: Preparing New Employees to Deliver Trauma-Informed Care**  
   2 CECs  
   As agencies transform their practice into trauma-informed care, they discover that the change is not a simple process. Trauma-informed care demands a relationship-based, flexible, compassionate approach and many childcare organizations find their new staff to be inexperienced and not properly equipped. How do we teach these complex skills to new staff and how do we help them develop implementation skills to facilitate delivery? This workshop presents a ten module new employee training program. The modules are short and designed to be offered by supervisors. Each module includes a tip sheet with practical suggestions for immediately implementing that skill. Supervisors and administrators that attend this workshop will have the opportunity to develop a plan for integration of this training into their agency.

   **Patricia Wilcox, LCSW** is Vice President at Klingberg Family Centers which specializes in the treatment of traumatized children and families. Pat created the Restorative Approach™, a trauma- and relationship-based treatment method. She is a Faculty Trainer for Risking Connection™ and an adjunct faculty member at the UCONN School of Social Work and the University of Saint Joseph. She is a long time member of NASW and in 2011 received the Connecticut Chapter’s Social Worker of the Year Award.

13. **Overview of DBT for the Treatment of Addictions**  
   2 CECs  
   Dialectical Behavioral Therapy has been used for the treatment of people with multiple psychosocial disorders, including those who are chronically suicidal. Many of these patients have co-occurring Substance Use Disorders and, in order to treat these disorders, DBT was further developed to incorporate concepts that promoted abstinence and reduced the length of and negative impact of relapses. The adaptation addressed many addictive disorders other than substance use disorders such as sexual addiction, food addiction, Internet addiction, and gambling addictions. This workshop will provide an overview of the four components of DBT and will review how the skills of each of the four components can be used for the patient with an addictive disorder.

   **Sheila Owen, LCSW, LADC** is a Clinical Supervisor at the APT Foundation. She has over 20 years of experience in mental health and addiction services. Sheila is an adjunct professor at Southern Connecticut State University in the Social Work Department and also maintains a private practice in North Haven. She is a NASW member.
   *This workshop meets the cultural competence requirement for license renewal*

   This workshop provides participants with the opportunity to boldly and directly address issues of race, skin color, colorism, racism, and skin color privilege—and is a courageous workshop to attend. In a respectful, self-explorative, welcoming environment, we will have a conversation evaded by many: the meaning and impact of skin color and racism in both society and the workplace. We will face the current state of racism and colorism in the United States and discuss what we can do, both as people of color and white/light-skinned allies, to empower ourselves and others to participate in dismantling and defeating these systemic injustices. The workshop is designed to present and experientially reinforce new information, creating opportunities for cultural transformation that will have a ripple effect on social and professional realms.

   *Mara Gottlieb, PhD, LMSW* is an Adjunct Assistant Professor, Academic Advisor and Adjunct Clinical Instructor at the NYU Silver School of Social Work. She is also the founder of Talking Changes, an anti-oppression training and bias-awareness consultancy. Dr. Gottlieb’s primary areas of teaching and scholarship are in direct practice, theory, and pedagogy, particularly with an anti-oppression and social-identity lens. Her areas of scholarly interest are the role of self-compassion in social work practice, the optimal methods for teaching cultural competence in social work education, and structural racism, historical trauma, and reparations to these injustices. Her teaching style is collaborative and highly interactive. Dr. Gottlieb is a member of NASW.

15. **Serving Those Who Serve: Essential Competencies for the Helping Profession**  
   *This workshop meets the Veterans Services requirement for license renewal*

   Military members, Veterans, and their families have endured hardships unique to the demands of military lifestyle and the war zone. It is imperative for those who may support readjustment and reintegration to be familiar with the culture, stressors, mental health concerns, and resiliency-building considerations specific to this population. This workshop addresses such provider competencies, examines an experiential framework, and introduces the helping professional to a skills-based warrior resource model of homecoming transition. Using a lecture format, personal experiences, professional experiences, and references to pertinent written material will be employed to take the participant through the journey of the warrior to recognize how they have embodied the values of their culture and how treatment interventions consistent with understanding and deep regard are essential for the helping profession.

   *Amy B. Otzel, MA, MS, LPC* is a Retired U.S. Army Behavioral Health Sergeant, Iraq War combat theater Veteran, former Readjustment Counseling Therapist with the U.S. Department of Veterans’ Affairs Medical Center and CT State Military Support Program Clinician. She is currently continuing the mission in service to military members, Veterans, and their families in private practice at Inner Resource Psychotherapy. Amy routinely contributes in educational service as a Yale University School of Medicine Department of Psychiatry Lecturer, a holistic health facilitator at Toivo by Advocacy Unlimited, and an Advanced Level-2 Breath-Body-Mind teacher for survivors of trauma.

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**Without NASW/CT, who would be working for you?**

From the beginning, NASW/CT has advocated for the profession and worked publicly as well as behind the scenes to strengthen the social work workforce, staying on top of legislation that affects you, your job, and the profession of social work. It’s important to be part of the organization that invests in YOU and for YOU and we need your support now more than ever.

Go to www.socialworkers.org to JOIN or call 860-257-8066 for information.
16. Dialectical Behavior Therapy: Adolescents & Their Families
3 CECs

Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DBT) was originally developed by Marsha Linehan, PhD, as a treatment for chronically suicidal women diagnosed with Borderline Personality Disorder. It has shown positive treatment results over the course of many years. A specific DBT treatment developed for adolescents is now considered an evidence-based practice for adolescents with intense emotion dysregulation, pervasive interpersonal conflict, impulsivity, self-harming behaviors, and substance abuse. Connecticut’s DCF Albert J. Solnit Children’s Center has implemented DBT for the past ten years in both their hospital and residential programs with success. This workshop is intended for participants of all levels and will use a wide range of techniques including lecture, video, and case examples to provide the opportunity to learn the basic concepts in DBT while practicing Mindfulness, doing some role play, and learning about the fifth module of DBT specifically for adolescents called Walking the Middle Path.

Michelle Sarofin, LCSW is the Facility Superintendent at the Albert J. Solnit Children’s Center in Middletown, which offers a 38 bed Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facility (PRTF) for adolescent boys, a 24 bed PRTF for adolescent girls, and a 50 bed psychiatric hospital for both adolescent boys and girls. She has an extensive background in multi-disciplinary management and leadership and special expertise in the treatment of children, adolescents, and young adults in the area of trauma, DBT, and cognitive behavioral therapy. She is a member of NASW.

Samantha T. Wright, LCSW is a clinician at the Connecticut Juvenile Training School in Middletown where she provides individual, group, and family therapy to adolescent boys adjudicated in the juvenile justice system and placed in a secure therapeutic facility. She uses DBT therapy groups to increase youths’ coping and interpersonal skills.

17. Loyalty: The Root of Perpetual Unhappiness. A Control-mastery Perspective
3 CECs

Why do clients, despite the therapist’s efforts to help, remain unhappy? Why do they seem to remain stuck, go in and out of unsatisfying or abusive relationships, and appear to seek out situations that result in their ongoing suffering and unhappiness? This workshop will draw on Control-mastery Theory, an empirically supported, cognitive, psychodynamic, relational, theory of psychotherapy that offers a framework for understanding clients struggling with these dilemmas. These behaviors can be understood to convey useful information about a client’s past as well as reflecting acts of deeply held unconscious loyalty to her/his family and culture of origin. The presentation will include discussion and case examples illustrating how such loyalty develops and is maintained. Participants will be invited to practice identifying how loyalty is expressed and how to develop case-specific treatment strategies to help their clients.

Jo Nol, PhD, MS, LCSW has been a social worker for 43 years, practicing, writing about, and teaching Control-mastery Theory for 21 years. She is a partner at the Women’s Center for Psychotherapy in West Hartford and teaches as an adjunct professor at UCONN School of Social Work. She has also taught at Michigan State University School of Social Work, Smith College School for Social Work, and the University of Saint Joseph, Department of Social Work. Dr. Nol is a member of NASW and has served as the President of the CT Chapter as well as chair of the chapter’s Ethics Committee. She presently chairs the NASW/CT Clinical Social Work Network. She has published two mysteries, Dead in Winter, and Murder Mismanaged, with a social worker as the protagonist.

Thank you to the Conference Planning Committee members:

Jennifer Bennett, LMSW; Kaitin Binnington, Tom Broffman, PhD, LICSW; Jessica Grant, LCSW; Diana Lombardi, MSW; Kris Robles, LCSW; and Lorraine Wozniac, LCSW.
18. **Fostering a Gender-Responsive Culture**  
3 CECs

People experience life differently based upon their gender, whether it be the different barriers they confront, inequalities, stigmas, traumas, and overall life experiences. As social workers, it is our job to understand these differences and work to make the culture of our organizations inclusive to all. Having a gender-responsive culture means cultivating an environment in which all aspects of service reflect an understanding of the lives of individuals according to their gender. Using lecture, video, and experiential processes, attendees will begin to understand the differences between sex and gender, the impact of gender stereotypes on care, and the importance of a gender-responsive culture. Gender-responsive assessment tools will be shared, allowing participants to begin to assess their own organizations and think about how to make changes in their everyday work in order to better serve the individuals that come through their doors. Attendees will leave the workshop not only understanding gender-responsiveness but will feel prepared to institute change in their own practices.

**Colette Anderson, LCSW** is the Executive Director of the Connecticut Women’s Consortium and she co-chairs the Trauma and Gender Practice Improvement Collaborative for the Connecticut Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services. Her expertise is in trauma-informed systems change and she spearheads multiple groups and initiatives across the state to promote trauma-informed, gender-responsive care. Colette is a member of NASW and in November of 2016 was named the CT Chapter’s Social Worker of the Year.  

**Kathleen Callahan, BS** is the Trauma and Gender (TAG) Coordinator at the Connecticut Women’s Consortium. She holds a BS in Computer Engineering and is presently transitioning from a gratifying career in software design, development, and implementation as she pursues her MSW with a concentration in co-occurring disorders.  

**Shannon Perkins, MSW** is the Development Coordinator at the Connecticut Women’s Consortium. She is a certified SBIRT trainer. Shannon has done research on parent-child relationships and is knowledgeable about the impact of adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) across the lifespan. She is a member of NASW.

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**Full Afternoon Workshops**  
1:30—4:45

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**Social Workers Stand**
19. What is Palliative Care Really?
Enhancing the Social Worker’s Understanding of Palliative and Hospice Care
1.5 CECs

Increasing population challenges in chronic illness welcomes palliative care as an answer to improving the quality and quantity of life. The early introduction of palliative care eases the transition to hospice care and the social worker’s role is often key to a successful outcome. Highlights of this workshop will emphasize how a skilled social worker can convey the differences between palliative care and hospice care, thus alleviating some of the fear that comes with chronic illness as the patient makes this journey. The presentation will address the important role the social worker plays in guiding the decision-making process, helping the patient and family access hospice care, and building a team to improve communication among all the medical providers as well as with the patient.

**Joseph Sacco, MD, ABFM, ABHPM** is the Chief Medical Officer at The Connecticut Hospice, Inc. in Branford and was appointed as a clinical assistant professor of medicine at the Yale School of Medicine. He is Board Certified in Family Medicine and Hospice and Palliative Medicine. Dr. Sacco is published in *Health Affairs*, the *American Journal of Hospice and Palliative Medicine*, and *The New York Times*, has appeared on National Public Radio, and has lectured extensively on hospice and palliative medicine.

**Mara A. Brosler, LCSW** is a senior member of Connecticut Hospice’s social work team, having thirty years experience in social work and seventeen with Connecticut Hospice. Mara’s work as a therapist includes both individual and family therapy. Her work experience covers many environments including hospital based liaison, discharge modalities, and in inpatient with disturbed adolescents.

20. A Call to Action: Social workers and the ethical imperative of racial justice organizing
1.5 CECs

*This workshop meets the cultural competency requirement for license renewal.*

At the root of social work is the NASW Code of Ethics which states that social workers “should act to prevent and eliminate domination of, exploitation of, and discrimination against any person, group, or class on the basis of race, ethnicity, national origin, color, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, age, marital status, political belief, religion, immigration status, or mental or physical disability”. This experiential workshop calls on social workers for ongoing engagement and action with anti-oppression and anti-racism work within and outside of their professional institutions. The presenters will share their own experiences as white social workers, discussing various modes of organizing, direct action and legislation, as well as coalition building and collaboration. Personal barriers to organizing against racism as well as white privilege will be explored along with brainstorming beginning steps towards challenging white supremacy in their own relationships, communities, and organizations. This workshop explores the ethical imperative of white social workers moving to action in racial justice organizing in 2017, issuing a call to action for engagement in this work.

**Amber Kelly, PhD, LCSW** is an Assistant Professor at Quinnipiac University. Her clinical experience includes working in the medical setting as well as working with survivors of violence. Her research has focused on using trauma-informed mindfulness based programs with survivors of traumatic violence in both the community and prison based settings. She is a member of NASW.

**Elizabeth Hammond, MSW** is a facilitator and a member of Just Moves, an interracial collective supporting courageous conversations about race and racism in Connecticut. She is also an Equity Fellow at the William Casper Graustein Memorial Fund whose philanthropic mission is dedicated to the work of anti-racism and social justice. Committed to positive community change, she has held positions at Public Allies CT, the Institute of Living, Yale Child Study Center, and the community foundation for Greater New Haven.
21. Supporting Diverse Families When Their Children Come Out
   1.5 CECs
   **This workshop meets the cultural competency requirement for license renewal**

   The single most important risk factor for LGBT youth is the response of their families when they come out. If family rejection is the response, this leads many LGBT youth to homelessness and the survival behaviors associated with homelessness such as truancy, substance abuse, and sexual acting out—all of which put them at greater risk for becoming a part of the juvenile corrections system. While LGBT youth represent about 5% of the total population they represent up to 40% of the homeless youth population. Emerging research demonstrates that many of these risk factors can be reduced if families modify specific behaviors. This workshop will explore the barriers to acceptance and provide concrete strategies and interventions designed to help families better meet the needs of their LGBT child. **This workshop is not for beginners.**

   **Robin P. McHaelen, MSW** is the Founder and Executive Director of True Colors, Inc. True Colors trains more than 2400 people annually, organizes the largest LGBT youth conference in the country with more than 3000 attendees, and manages the state’s only LGBT mentoring program. Robin has co-authored two books and several articles on LGBTQ youth and is a nationally recognized thought leader on this topic. A member of NASW, she is the recipient of numerous awards, including the NASW/CT 2008 Social Worker of the Year Award. Robin is a sought after speaker and consultant and certainly one of CT’s most passionate advocates for ensuring that LGBT people are valued and affirmed as full and productive members of society.

22. Integrated Social Work Response in Emergency Medicine
   1.5 CECs

   Every year thousands of people struggling with overwhelming social issues also seek medical attention in hospital emergency departments. In this setting social workers are key members of the health care interdisciplinary team, utilizing a biopsychosocial-spiritual perspective to advocate for individuals and families by considering the whole person within their environment. Their work faces unique and significant challenges due to the limited time patients and their families spend in the emergency room. This presentation will use case studies from emergency department social work to highlight some of the issues emergency department social workers tackle daily, the skills they need to quickly assess and engage patients, and how they can empower their clients as well as provide clinical services using the biopsychosocial-spiritual approach to care. The workshop will also touch on new research looking at the effects of physical trauma on patients’ mental well-being and will also broaden the scope to include medical social work across the health-care continuum.

   **Jennifer Grasso, LCSW** is a social worker at Hartford Hospital with a focus in emergency medicine. Prior to joining the Hartford Hospital team, Jennifer worked extensively in child welfare, was a foster parent, and was engaged in domestic violence prevention. She teaches at UCONN Medical School as an allied professional and is a member of NASW and the Society for Social Work Leadership in Healthcare.

   **Clare Cryar, LCSW, LICSW** is licensed in both Connecticut and Massachusetts and has worked at Connecticut Children’s Medical Center since 2012 and at Hartford Hospital since 2014. Her professional experience includes work in palliative care, public healthcare, medical social work, pediatric and family psychotherapy, and bereavement counseling. She is a member of NASW.

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**Nominations Sought for the Clinical Social Worker of the Year**

The NASW/CT Clinical Social Workers Network presents an annual award to a clinical social worker who has excelled in the practice of clinical social work. For the award criteria and nomination process please send an email request to skarp@naswct.net. The deadline for nominations is March 31, 2017.
23. Suffering in Silence: Examining Perinatal Mental Health in Connecticut
   1.5 CECs

   The group of emotional, psychological, and behavioral complications affecting a women’s thoughts, feelings, and behaviors during the peripartum period—-that period of time shortly before, during, and immediately after giving birth—is a common complication of childbirth known as Perinatal Mood and Anxiety Disorders or PMADS. One notable factor in the perinatal depression experience is anxiety and this workshop will discuss identification, education, support, and treatment for mothers and their families who experience this distress. The impact of perinatal loss will also be addressed. Given that the sociocultural norms about birth and parenthood often prevent parents from expressing their needs authentically, this presentation aims to provide social workers with a “toolbox” of resources that will encompass information about resources, support groups, and evidence-based treatment models to build a safety net of treatment and care for Connecticut mothers and their families.

   Jennifer Vendetti, LMSW, CEIM is a perinatal support coordinator for the UCONN Health Nurturing Families program where she has been facilitating mother-infant social support groups for seven years. A founding member of the CT Chapter of Postpartum Support International, Jennifer helped orchestrate the organization’s two-day conference held in Connecticut in 2015 on Perinatal Mood and Anxiety Disorders. She is a part of the Mind Over Mood Initiative addressing maternal mental health within the Nurturing Families Network. Jennifer is a member of NASW.

   Kathy Novak, LCSW is currently a therapist and trainer with the Mind Over Mood Initiative at UCONN Health. She has treated new mothers who are experiencing Postpartum Mood and Anxiety Disorders with Cognitive Behavioral Therapy since 2009. Kathy, too, helped coordinate the two-day conference in 2015 and is a founding member of the CT Chapter of Postpartum Support International. She has been a member of NASW for over thirty years.

24. The Role of Birth Families in Adoption
   1.5 CECs

   Birth families are an often unacknowledged part of the adoptive family but, in fact, they are always present, at least in spirit, and their presence can have a profound effect on the adoptee, as well as the adoptive parents and others. Ignoring them does not make them go away but acknowledging them often feels fraught with danger. This presentation will discuss the many ways birth families impact the adoption experience and will include addressing how adoptive families come to be in the first place—such as domestic, planned adoption at birth, foster care adoption, and international adoption. Attendee participation will include conversation about how social workers can best help address birth family issues, help adoptive families explore their feelings and expectations about birth family contact, and help birth family members understand their roles in the adoption experience.

   Nancy Randall, PsyD owns East Lyme Psychological Associates, providing psychological evaluations for adults, children, and families. Dr. Randall earned a Post Masters certificate in Clinical Issues in Adoption and serves on the Board of Directors of Rainbow Adoptions, Inc. as well as the clinical practice committee of the CT Council on Adoption. She has co-authored articles on post adoption services and has presented on adoption and loss issues at local and national conferences.

   Kim Shepardson Watson, LCSW is a therapist at East Lyme Psychological Associates, specializing in adoption competent therapy with children and families. She earned a Post Masters certificate in Clinical Issues in Adoption, has co-authored articles on adoption, and has presented at professional workshops and conferences on adoption, infant mental health, and children’s emotional/behavioral issues. She is a member of the CT Council on Adoption, the CT Association for Infant Mental Health, and NASW.
Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment or SBIRT: Integrating a Practical Skill Set in Social Work
1.5 CECs

MSW students are often eager to leave their educational experience with tangible skills that translate across populations and the lifespan. Adapted from a medical model, SBIRT provides a way of engaging respectfully with individuals who may be at risk for a substance use disorder. Given the recent surge in opioid dependence, it is likely that new MSW practitioners will be exposed to clients with substance use disorders regardless of the practice setting. Enhancing a sense of self-efficacy in their capacity to engage and refer to appropriate treatment is essential. This workshop will create opportunities to role-play and the opportunity to begin to understand how to apply this model.

Diane Michaelsen, LCSW, LADC is the Director of Field Education and MSW Admissions at Southern Connecticut State University. She has worked in the field of addiction treatment for nearly thirty years and holds a Specialty Certificate in Alcohol, Tobacco, and Other Drugs from NASW. Diane is also a certified Cognitive Behavioral Therapist, a licensed alcohol and drug counselor and teaches part time in the MSW program at SCSU. She is a member of NASW and serves as a Reviewer for the NASW Continuing Education Committee.

William S. Rowe, DSW is a Professor and Coordinator of the DSW Program at the Department of Social Work at SCSU and is also a Professor Emeritus at the University of South Florida. He has authored numerous academic and professional works and has provided lectures and seminars nationally and internationally.

Todd Rofuth, DSW, has been a Professor at SCSU for twenty-two years. His post MSW social work practice has been primarily in social welfare policy analysis and research and he has been successful in obtaining more than thirty grants in a variety of areas including child welfare, drug courts, community housing, child care, welfare reform, and Ryan White. Dr. Rofuth is a site visitor chairperson for the Council on Social Work Education and is active in the New Haven community.

School Social Work: Ethical Dilemma or Education as Usual?
1.5 CECs

School social work, particularly in more underprivileged communities, is often crisis driven as vulnerable students experience higher rates of emotional and behavioral disturbances. The role of the school social worker is pivotal in stabilizing students; however, as the crisis is managed the goal of assessing students with special educational needs may go unaddressed thus depriving children of a lawful education under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). In poorer school districts this disproportionately impacts students of color, students where English is not their first language, and students who are also dealing with multiple family psychosocial stressors. While not responding to the federal mandate of IDEA isn’t the overt intention, the system response to “putting out the fire” perpetuates the disturbances in the long-term. Social workers have a unique lens that helps school systems understand their students from a biopsychosocial perspective which is crucial in identifying students facing barriers. In their unique role, social workers are poised to be the leaders in working for school-based systemic change to insure equitable access to education for ALL people. An objective of this presentation is to review the federal and state laws that define the process for identifying students with potential learning disabilities using clinical case examples to address constructing IEP goals, preserving fidelity to intervention models, and evaluating progress to inform educational goal setting.

Richard Padykula, BSW, JD is in private practice at Padykula Law, LLC in Windsor. As a social worker at Holyoke Medical Center in 1999 he provided mental health treatment for people in crisis, advocating for their civil rights. As an attorney in 2016 he expanded his law practice to protecting the unique needs of children with special needs and their civil right to a free and appropriate public education—regardless of condition, income, or social capital.
27. **Got Care: A Health Care Interprofessional Collaboration for Older Adults**

1.5 CECs

This innovative, unique, interprofessional model of care has several important goals. Operating in Middlesex County, which was found to have a disproportionate share of rapidly increasing older adults, many of whom were relying on emergency department use for ambulatory care conditions, this IPCP or Interprofessional Cooperative Practice, was organized to increase healthy well-being among that population. Through a grant, a university-hospital-community partnership was formed to test the model called Got Care. The model was designed to re-shape how care is delivered and, at the same time, to increase the clinical workforce in the field of geriatrics by training students. Faculty and students from nursing, social work, dental medicine, pharmacy, and physical therapy, along with a homecare nurse navigator, a primary care physician, a public health resource, and a case manager were included. This interprofessional faculty-student team developed an understanding of the different roles, responsibilities, and values of other professionals while they coordinated in-home assessments, care coordination, and continuity of care plans. This workshop will detail the outcomes of this three-year project including the improvements in quality care and health, patient satisfaction, reduced costs, and improved provider satisfaction.

*Catherine Medina, PhD, LCSW* is an Associate Professor of Puerto Rican and Latin@ Studies at UCONN School of Social Work. She is the Chair of the Policy Practice, Chair of Macro and substantive area in Aging, and teaches courses in macro practice and contemporary practice with diverse populations, using a multidimensional lens to health disparities. Dr. Medina is a scholar, author, and co-principal Investigator on the UCONN Nursing and Middlesex Hospital HRSA grant on collaborative practice. She is a member of NASW.

*Catherine Rees, MPH* is the Director of Community Benefit at Middlesex Hospital where her responsibilities include oversight of the Hospital’s community benefit program, community health needs assessment and implementation plan, and liaison for community collaboration. Since 2009, a focus on geriatrics has been a goal of the Hospital Community Benefit. *Eric Rodko, LMSW* is Executive Director of St. Luke’s Community Services in Middletown. He has worked in the fields of elderly services, Medicare education and advocacy, volunteerism, and clinical care management for the past twenty years. Eric is a board member of the Middlesex Area Interagency Council, a member of the Middletown Rotary Club, and a member of NASW and the Chapter’s Aging Committee.
28. **Amplifying Marginalized Voices: Social workers’ advocacy role with voter turnout**  
1.5 CECs

Many communities served by social workers have been historically oppressed and left out of the political process that influences policy and resource allocation, including individuals with felony convictions. This presentation will show attendees why social workers and organizations should include political empowerment as part of their service delivery and how social workers in all practice settings can play an important role in voter turnout. The discussion will cover three main topics: How voting has individual and community benefits, how many service providers are misinformed about felony voting rights, and how voting has the power to direct resources. Case studies, successful interventions, and increased resources in vulnerable communities will all be highlighted to show the connection between voting and individual and community well being.

*Tanya Rhodes Smith, MSW* is the Director of the Nancy A. Humphreys Institute for Political Social Work at the UCONN School of Social Work and visiting lecturer at the School of Social Work teaching Program Development, Political Advocacy, and Political Social Work. She has extensive experience in policy development, nonprofit administration, community organizing, legislative advocacy, research and evaluation. She is a member of NASW.

*Jason Ostrander, PhD, MSW* recently defended his dissertation, “To Participate or Not to Participate, That is the Question: A Critical Phenomenological Study of Clinical Social Workers and Their Political Participation”. Jason is very active in politics on the local, state, and federal levels and was a congressional aide to Congressman John Olver. His work focuses on political social work and the political participation of social workers. He is a member of NASW.

*Shannon R. Lane, PhD, LMSW* is Associate Professor at the Adelphi University School of Social Work. She spent ten years as a political social worker with the US Senate. Her scholarly focus is political social work and her current research projects are related to the efficacy of political social work and voter engagement and their integration into social work education. She is the author of the forthcoming book *Political social work: Using power to create social change* and is a member of NASW.

*Jenna Powers, MSW* is currently a student at UCONN’s School of Social Work PhD Program and is also a Research Assistant for the Humphreys Institute for Political Social Work. During her time in the University of New England’s MSW program, Jenna focused on community organizing and program development with an emphasis on educating and empowering individuals to participate in the political arena. She co-founded the Maine Chapter of New Leaders Council and coordinated the Northern New England Campaign School, a replication of the UCONN Campaign School. Jenna is a member of NASW.

29. **Everything You Wanted to Know About Sex-Positive Social Work (But Were Afraid to Ask!)**  
1.5 CECs

One of the barriers to comprehensive and effective clinical practice, especially around HIV/STI prevention (Sexually Transmitted Infections) and the continuum of care, is the inability of many social workers to openly and honestly discuss sex, sexuality, and sexual health with their clients. Too often, a “sex-negative” conversation ensues, emphasizing abstinence, shame, and silence about sex and sexuality. The aim of this presentation is to encourage a safe, affirming, non-judgmental dialogue among social workers to help them learn the language and skills needed to have conversations about sexual health and help in the prevention, care, and treatment of HIV or other STIs. One of the objectives of this workshop is to introduce participants to effective models of sex-positive social work, innovative HIV/STI prevention tools, and structural changes in HIV prevention work to improve public health.

*John Bonelli, MSW* works at the UCONN School of Social Work as a Field Education Coordinator. He also taught New Perspectives on LGBT Issues and an Independent Study on Sexuality and HIV Prevention. Working with Project ACHIEVE in New York City, John coordinated the innovative and effective outreach efforts in which thousands of potential vaccine and behavioral study participants were engaged and hundreds were enrolled.

*Alberto Cifuentes, Jr., LMSW* is an independent macro social work practitioner specializing in community organization, community outreach, and program and conference planning. He has spent much of his professional career advocating for people living with HIV/AIDS, people of color, immigrants, and gender and sexual minorities. He currently serves as a leader of several grassroots and professional organizations including GLSEN Connecticut, the Connecticut Library Association, the Macro Social Workers Network of NASW/CT, and the Latino/a Social Workers Network of NASW/CT.

*Nilda Fernandez-Betancourt, LMSW* works as Community Health Specialist at the University of Connecticut/CT Children’s Pediatric & Youth HIV Program and is a member of the International Association for Social Work with Groups. Having worked in the field of HIV/AIDS for about twenty years, she has published various abstracts and has presented on youth and HIV. She works as a field instructor for UCONN.
30. Understanding and Managing Micro aggression, Bi-Phobia, Trans-Phobia, and Internalized Homophobia in Group work with LGBTQIA Adults
1.5 CECs

This workshop meets the cultural competence requirement for license renewal

There can be a common assumption that all LGBTQIA individuals understand and can negotiate the nuanced aspects of identity that fall under the umbrella of LGBTQIA and that shared experiences of coming out are universal. When this misconception is challenged in a group through micro aggressions perpetuated by other group members, without proper support and skilled facilitation, the group can inadvertently become yet another oppressive space. In this workshop, through scenario-based learning, exercises, lecture, and discussion, participants will learn how to provide safe space and open discussion while managing common “isms”, in particular internalized homophobia, that develop in these diverse groups of adults coming out later in life.

Beth Counselman-Carpenter, PhD, LCSW is a clinician and educator who maintains a private practice in Norwalk and NYC focusing on treating trauma, mood disorders and developmental life concerns through psychodynamic and expressive therapies. A full-time lecturer at the Columbia University School of Social Work, she teaches Gender and Sexuality, Foundations and Advanced Clinical Practice courses. Beth has been featured in Oprah Magazine, develops programming and facilitates groups for the Triangle Community Center, and is a NASW member.

31. Changing Policy: Providing Services
The role of social workers in the fight to end homelessness for Connecticut families
1.5 CECs

This interactive presentation highlights the inter-related nature of policy and service availability using a case study of the Reaching Home Campaign spearheaded by the Partnership for Strong Communities and their initiative to end family homelessness by the end of 2020. A mapping exercise will explore the intersection of homeless families, homeless youth, and families involved in the child welfare system or youth involved in the juvenile justice system. The point of contact with DCF or the judicial system can be used to prevent future homelessness and improving housing stability has far-reaching implications for increasing the efficacy of other services used. Workshop participants will identify service and data gaps that need to be addressed to create policy changes to end homelessness for these youth and families.

Megan Feely, PhD, MSW is currently an Assistant Professor at the UCONN School of Social Work. Her research focuses on the understanding and promotion of well-being of child welfare-involved children and youth. Her teaching interests are in the development and evaluation of evidence-based programs.

Christi Staples is the Deputy Executive Director at the Partnership for Strong Communities and a MSW Student at UCONN. She has been instrumental in refining the campaign’s approach to ending homelessness for families. She brings a wealth of experience to improving the lives of Connecticut residents through policy and practice changes. Christi is a member of NASW.

Tanya Rhodes-Smith, MSW is the Director of the Nancy A. Humphrey’s Institute for Political Social Work at the UCONN School of Social Work. The Institute works within the school and across New England to increase awareness of the importance of voting and political engagement for social workers. Ms. Smith has engaged new constituencies in the Campaign School to train social workers to engage in the political process in a non-partisan manner and to run for political office as a mechanism for creating social change. She is a member of NASW.
32. **How Can You Help Those People?!**  
The Role of the Forensic Social Worker in Criminal Defense  
1.5 CECs

How many of us have watched the evening news provide the details of a crime and think, “Who would do such a thing?” or “Lock them up and throw away the key!” Do criminals deserve help? This workshop will explore the role of the forensic social worker in the Public Defender Division in Connecticut and will address this very question. Tasked with working on the defense teams for juveniles and adults accused of crimes, the forensic social worker utilizes their clinical expertise in a non-clinical setting. They provide advocacy and work to access alternatives to incarceration plans in an environment of ever decreasing resources. The objective of “humanizing the criminal” as a tool for the defense attorney will be discussed along with other challenges faced by the Public Defender Social Workers.

**Jessica Macho, LCSW** has been employed with the Public Defender Division since 2000 and works on misdemeanor and felony cases providing mitigation towards the best possible legal disposition. She conducts mental health and substance abuse assessments, makes referrals, and is the link between the attorney and all the local, state, and federal agencies that clients come in contact with. She has also become involved in Miller/Graham cases and parole hearings for juveniles convicted of violent crimes.

**Katie Heffernan Farrell, LCSW** is the Chief Social Worker for the Division of Public Defender Services. She has extensive experience as a crisis and mobile clinician, direct practice clinician and supervisor. As a volunteer with the Connecticut Innocence Project, she was the social worker on the team that found the first inmate in Connecticut innocent after serving 18 ½ years of a 45 year sentence. Katie has presented on the topics of sex offender probation, psychiatric disabilities, cognitive disabilities and competence to stand trial. She has co-created and co-facilitated training for police officers on how to assess and communicate with individuals who have cognitive disabilities. She is a member of NASW and a past recipient of the Social Worker of the Year Award from NASW/CT.

33. **Harm Reduction, Addiction and Opiate Overdose Prevention and Response**  
1.5 CECs

The opiate overdose epidemic sweeping the nation is well known to everyone at this point and Connecticut has been in the thick of it. Between 2009 and 2015 there were over 2500 accidental and unintentional opioid involved deaths that occurred in 152 of Connecticut’s 169 towns and cities. This workshop will address substance use, the changing landscape, stigma harm reduction, opiate overdose prevention and response. Naloxone, or Narcan, the life-saving antidote to an opioid overdose will be described, including how to recognize and respond to an overdose and how to administer Narcan. Connecticut’s strides to address this issue will be discussed, including the formation of a statewide Opiate Overdose Prevention Workgroup and a roadmap developed under the direction of the Governor. Social work practitioners, whether new to the work or seasoned veterans, will gain new knowledge that they can bring to their work regardless of field or discipline.

**Shawn M. Lang** is the Deputy Director with AIDS Connecticut (ACT). She oversees ACT’s Care and Treatment; Prevention, including Syringe Access and Naloxone distribution; Member Services; and provides trainings throughout the state. Shawn also coordinates CT’s HIV/AIDS public policy activities on the state and federal levels and in 2013 convened and chaired CT’s Statewide Opiate Overdose Prevention Workgroup which has engaged in an extensive advocacy campaign to increase awareness about, and access to, Narcon. She was recently nominated and chosen, out of a field of 900, as one of ten White House Champions of Change for Advancing Prevention, Treatment, and Recovery.
34. Do As I Do: Deceptively simple techniques for improving clinical interactions and reducing compassion fatigue
1.5 CECs

Compassion fatigue is an occupational hazard in the helping professions. Left unchecked, it can take a significant toll on us both personally and professionally. Studies have shown that the more you care, the more likely it is that you will experience this condition. This workshop will address the differences between burnout, vicarious traumatization, and compassion fatigue and the various techniques for managing them. You’ll be taught Millie Grenough’s OASIS™ 60 second strategies for “changing your channel” and reconnecting with yourself—simple techniques that tap into the brain’s ability to reorganize itself by forming new neural connections. Participants will experience firsthand the benefits of these practices and identify ways to incorporate them into their daily work lives, leaving both the client and the clinician with an improved sense of well-being.

**Suzanne Rosenberg, LCSW** is the clinical director at The Connection Counseling Centers. Her experiences range from direct practice to program management in both medical and behavioral health settings. An OASIS™ authorized practitioner and an Accelerated Resolution Therapy (ART) practitioner, Suzanne specializes in solution-focused approaches in both clinical treatment and supervision. A seasoned presenter and an adjunct faculty member at UCONN Stamford, she is a long time member of NASW.
ANNOUNCING A

POSTER SESSION

AT THE NASW/CT 32nd ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Present your research or study, individually or as a team, at the upcoming Annual NASW/CT Conference.

We are looking for well organized, visually pleasing posters that will efficiently and effectively communicate your student research.

This poster session is aimed at students in a BSW or MSW Program at a Connecticut School of Social Work. Judges will select a maximum of 15 posters to be displayed at the conference.

☑ Posters may be 2 x 3, 3 x 3, or 3 x 4. The work must be mounted.

☑ Each Poster shall include a Title at the top with narrative text below.

☑ Please feel free to include graphs, pictures, diagrams, to illuminate your study.

☑ Include Background, Methods, Results, Conclusions, References, and Acknowledgements if appropriate.

☑ Please include your name, your university affiliation, your faculty mentor/sponsor, and an email address at the top of your poster under the title for those who might want to know more about your research.

☑ Plan to be at your poster from 7:30 AM to 8:30 AM; from 9:45 AM to 10:15 AM; and from 3:15 PM to 3:30 PM to discuss your study with conference attendees.

☑ Prizes awarded!

Submit your “Intent to Display” by registering your name, your school affiliation, and the Title of your Poster with Patricia Hartman, Coordinator of Professional Development at phartman@naswct.net and NASW/CT will send you a confirmation by return email. The “Intent to Display” deadline is April 17, 2017. If more than 15 posters are registered, NASW may request that you submit your poster electronically for a preliminary review. Once selected, please bring your poster to the conference where an easel will be provided.
Call For Nominations
NASW/CT ANNUAL AWARDS 2017

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD ∞ SOCIAL WORKER OF THE YEAR
STUDENT OF THE YEAR, MSW & BSW ∞ EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR
LEGISLATOR OF THE YEAR ∞ PUBLIC CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

The Connecticut Chapter of NASW annually honors individuals who have made valuable contributions to the social work profession. Anyone who appreciates a Social Worker is eligible to make a nomination. NASW/CT's 2017 Annual Awards Dinner Committee considers all the nominations and the selected honorees are recognized at the Annual Dinner. The awards give the Chapter an opportunity to show appreciation to the members of the profession who exemplify the commitment, spirit, advocacy, and integrity of a social worker. Those wishing to resubmit past nominations are encouraged to do so.

Criteria For Awards

The LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT award is given to a person having a career-long history of exemplary performance representing the mission of social work and notable participation in NASW. She/he should be a role model to other social workers.

The SOCIAL WORKER OF THE YEAR should have made a recent outstanding contribution to the profession. She/he should demonstrate exceptional qualities that make her/him exceed the expectations of her/his job.

The STUDENT OF THE YEAR, either a MSW or a BSW student, should have an above average academic record in addition to having made noteworthy contributions to the professional community beyond the expectations of the field experience. May include students who graduated in 2016.

The EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR award is given to an educator who has excelled in the field of social work education.

The LEGISLATOR OF THE YEAR award is given when a legislator demonstrates outstanding leadership and commitment to social and economic justice.

The PUBLIC CITIZEN OF THE YEAR award is given to someone who is not a member of the social work profession but who has advanced the profession’s aims and ideals.

All nominees must:
• Be a member of NASW/CT in good standing (with the exception of the Public Citizen of the Year and the Legislator of the Year); demonstrate notable ability to take a leading role in contributing to the growth and development of the social work profession; and stimulate the contributions of others. NASW/CT Board Members are not eligible for consideration.
• Contribute to the positive image of the social work profession.
• Effectively integrate experience and education to promote the development of social work practice to meet human needs.
• Represent the professional ethics of social workers as defined in the NASW Code of Ethics.
• Demonstrate a willingness to take risks for improved social services.

To Submit Nominations
Send to: NASW/CT, 2139 Silas Deane Highway, Suite 205, Rocky Hill, CT 06067

ALL NOMINATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED by 9/18/17

Nominations should include:
• A statement explaining why you are nominating the individual AND the award for which the candidate is being nominated. (Please include clear and specific description of the nominee’s outstanding contributions)
• Supporting documentation (i.e. letters of support from colleagues, newspaper clippings, AND her/his resume or c.v.).
• The CANDIDATE’s name, place of employment, address and phone.
• YOUR name, address, and phone number.
Convenient Registration Information:

Registration Fees:

- **NASW Member**: $155.00 ($175.00 after Wednesday April 19, 2017)
- **Non-Member**: $195.00 ($225.00 after Wednesday April 19, 2017)
- **Full-time Student**: $65.00 ($85.00 after Wednesday April 19, 2017)
- **Presenters**: $35.00
- **Exhibitors**: $77.50

Look for an emailed invitation sent to the email address you have on file with us. Follow the links within that email or visit our website at naswct.org and look for the Conference information in the “Special Events” section of our homepage. If you chose to pay by check instead of credit card, please mail to:

NASW/CT
ATTN: Conference Registration
2139 Silas Deane Hwy, Ste. 205
Rocky Hill, CT 06067

**Note:** We Accept Visa, Master Card, Discover and American Express
All conference registrations must be paid in full to be considered complete. For consideration of hardship contact NASW/CT in confidence.

SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS!

If you require special accommodations to permit your attendance or participation, please contact Pat Hartman at the chapter office (860) 257-8066

Deadline for Requests:
April 7, 2017
to enable us to contact resources.

**Lunch Choices at the Radisson Cromwell**

- Southwestern Wrap: Blackened chicken, corn and black bean relish, pepperjack and chopped romaine. Served with a dill pickle and a side salad. Dessert too!
- Grilled Chicken Cobb Salad: greens, applewood smoked bacon, slow-roasted tomatoes, grilled red onion, blue cheese crumbles, and herb grilled chicken with buttermilk ranch dressing. Served with warm rolls and butter. Dessert too!
- The Hummus Wrap: roasted red pepper hummus, match stick sliced vegetables, chopped romaine and alfalfa sprouts in a spinach wrap. Served with a dill pickle and side salad. Dessert too!
Thanks to our Tote Bag Sponsors!
Directions to the Radisson Cromwell  
100 Berlin Road, Cromwell, CT  
(860) 635-2000

Traveling from the North (Hartford): Take I-91 South to Exit 21. Turn left off exit. The hotel is on the left and the Parking Garage is behind the hotel.

Traveling from the South (New Haven): Take I-91 North to Exit 21. Turn left off the exit. The hotel is on the left and the Parking Garage is behind the hotel.

Traveling from the East (Waterbury Area): Take I-84 to Exit 27 for Route 691E to I-91 North. Take I-91 North to Exit 21. Turn left off the exit. The hotel is on the left.

Traveling on Route 9 either North or South: Take Exit 20S onto I-91 South. Take Exit 21. Turn left off the exit. The hotel is on the left and the Parking Garage is behind the hotel.