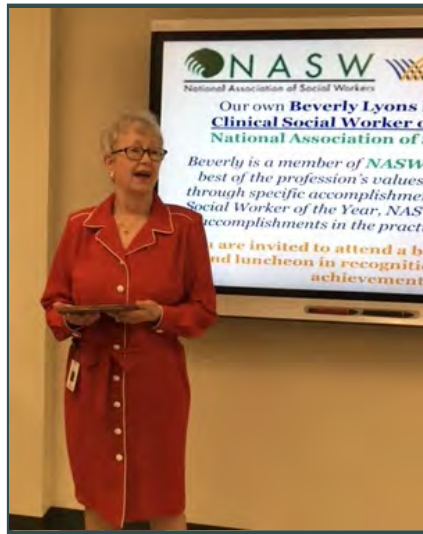


CONNECTIONS



July - September 2017



Clinical Social Worker of the Year

The NASW/CT Clinical Social Workers Network honored **Beverly Lyons, LCSW, ACSW** as the 2017 Clinical Social Worker of the Year. The award was presented to Beverly on May 24th during a luncheon celebration at her place of employment, Staywell Health Center in Waterbury. Beverly is the Director of Behavioral Health at Staywell.

Beverly was recognized for her outstanding work in clinical social work with individuals, families, organizations and communities. Beverly has overseen the growth of the behavioral health department at Staywell from a staff of 5 when she arrived to now 20 staff over four sites. Over the past two years she has developed a medication assistance program that addresses the heroin epidemic and has successfully helped over 75 individuals to be opiate free. Beverly has mentored two middle managers and supervises social work students annually. She has expanded services at Staywell including bilingual services that did not exist prior to her arrival and has professionalized the staffing. Beverly is equally involved in services outside of the job, serving on boards of directors for local agencies, being involved in strategic planning initiatives for New Britain and Avon, and is active in animal rights.

In the nomination Beverly's colleague, Jaclyn Davis, LCSW, Substance Abuse Director said, "Beverly is a highly motivated, intelligent, and selfless individual. Under her leadership, I've seen the behavioral health department at Staywell expand and our team grow better and stronger day by day". The President/CEO of Staywell, Don Thompson wrote, "Her staff reveres her for approachability, candor, and mentorship. Bev's knowledge, skills, and experience enable her to successfully direct an ever-expanding number of services offered in the behavioral health department". Colleague Rose-Ann Wanczyk, LCSW, BCD, DCSW, ACSW said of Beverly's 27 years as Director of Social Services for the town of Plainville, "she integrated her academic knowledge and clinical direct skills with her mezzo and macro proficiency as she remained steadfast to honor social work's spirit and vitality". Furthermore, Rachel Linsky, LCSW who is a clinician in Beverly's department says this of her supervisor, "Bev is the first person I turn to for help... Beverly is an outstanding social worker in every sense of the word".

Featured in this Issue

CONTENTS

President's Column	3
Executive Director's Message	4
Members in the News	5
DPH Addition to Professional Review License	5
Annual Conference	6
Thank You Sponsors	7
Welcome New Members	8
Legislative Threats to Licensure Avoided	11
The End of Legislative Session 2017 Update & Recap	12-13
A Nutritional Approach to Mental Illness	14
Expanding Your Practice... And an Opportunity to Help at the Same Time	16
New Team Member NASW-CT	16
Future Events	17
We Shall Persist: Reflections on The Afford to Dream Campaign	18

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Who to Contact

NATIONAL & CHAPTER DEPARTMENTS

National Office DC Member Services	800.638.8799 x 304
Members can make changes online	www.socialworkers.org
NASW Assurance Services	855.385.2160
CT Department of Public Health	800.509.7603

Ethical Questions & Committee Participation

Stephen Karp, NASW/CT Executive Director	860.257.8066 x 202 skarp@naswct.net
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Continuing Education Information

Pat Hartman, NASW/CT Coordinator of Professional Development	860.257.8066 x 204 phartman@naswct.org
---	--

Bookkeeping

Nicole Lepore, NASW/CT Bookkeeper	860.257.8066 x 203 naswbookkeeper@naswct.net
-----------------------------------	--

Website, Newsletter & Advertisement

Brenda Sperry, Office Administrator	860.257.8066 bsperry@naswct.net
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President's Column

We Create Order Out of Chaos

Those were the words a very wise social work professor (Dr. Julia Hamilton) used to describe what we as social workers do. As I write this in very late June, these are just some of the events that are currently going on as the backdrop to our lives.

There is no state budget to begin the new fiscal year on July 1st; United States Senators are working in secrecy to deprive millions of Americans of health care over the next 10 years; An investigation is underway to determine the level of Russia's interference in our last election and the extent to which that interference was known and or actively supported and encouraged; The rights of the LGBTQ community are under serious threat; Science, facts in general and the media are continually assaulted as "fake" while "alternative facts" are introduced to explain bolster irrational and illogical claims.

And, sexist comments are tweeted by the President of the United States. What did not get as much attention in those sexist tweets directed at Mika Brzezinski were the words that are so often used to stigmatize mental illness. Specifically, the president referred to Ms. Brzezinski as "low I.Q. Crazy Mika" and Joe Scarborough as "Psycho Joe."

Back in the 60's I used to watch "Get Smart," a TV comedy show that poked fun at politics, government and cold war espionage. As I was writing this I flashed back to that show because I remembered that the "evil" villains were from the organization called KAOS and the (not so) secret American agents battling them were from a US government agency called "Control." (I'm beginning to wonder if my desire to become a social worker started with that show – where "Control" battles "KAOS.") Unfortunately though, the more I think about "Get Smart," the more disheartened I become about the state of our government and its leaders. While the president doesn't have the "shoe phone" that Agent Maxwell Smart used to communicate, he certainly has a device he can use at his whim to tweet to all of us (though maybe it should be a shoe phone considering how often he puts his foot in his mouth).

The TV show "Get Smart" was supposed to be satire; a parody of the events of the times that were genuinely frightening on a daily basis – the cold war with nuclear weapons at the ready, networks of spies trying to bring down America, government agencies acting in secrecy, leaders putting out "disinformation" while protecting "plausible deniability," etc. It is unfortunate that we are here in the 21st century still afraid of the same things – a global War on Terror, Russian and American operatives working to potentially affect free election outcomes, senators acting in secrecy drafting a (non) Health Care Bill, and unpredictable leaders - who are not supposed to use



Kurt Fuchs, LCSW
President
Connecticut Chapter

sexist and stigmatizing language like 60's TV characters did.

These are indeed challenging and chaotic times to help clients negotiate social systems, safety net programs, and their own fears and symptoms of emotional, physical, and behavioral health. The task is that much more difficult not knowing which safety net services will still be funded and at what levels. And when the president of the United States stigmatizes mental illness, belittles women (again), or stereotypes Muslims and "illegals" as bad, it provides tacit permission for others to do the same which raises fear, anxiety, and safety issues for everyone who is female, or struggles with the symptoms of mental illness, or who is not "straight" or who is not white, economically well off, or of a Judeo Christian faith.

The challenges of the next year(s) may be difficult, unpredictable, frustrating, irritating, and maddening. I am grateful that there are so many people from NASW and other associations who are trying to limit the damage and provide support for our clients and ourselves. There are times when I am very tempted to "lower the Cone of Silence" (the device in "Get Smart" that keeps conversations private) when it all becomes too loud and overwhelming – and to just keep myself under it. In my own way I do disconnect from the chaos and loudness of the background when it infiltrates my foreground – it's my way of taking control of what I am exposed to and allows me to recharge. So, in the coming days, as budgets are settled and bills are passed, make sure you are taking time to recharge yourselves as well – the work we do can be exhausting and overwhelming. Let's make sure we keep ourselves off the casualty list so we can help our clients take as much control as possible to limit the chaos in their lives. To each and every one of you, I extend – and hope you will accept – my sincere thanks and gratitude for your dedication and hard work.





Stephen Karp, LMSW
Connecticut Chapter

Executive Director



Summertime Offers No Rest for the Weary

It has been a busy program year here at NASW/CT. We have run a variety of workshops throughout the year, our annual conference sold out for the second year in a row, chapter committees were active in their respective areas of interest, and, of course, the legislative session kept us hopping from January to June. Here in the office we became national staff in July as part of a modernization of the association that has required us to submit numerous reports to our national office and I serve on a workgroup on governance. This past year saw changes twice in our administrative assistant position and over the school year we were offered an internship for four students. So, right about now, I begin to really look forward to most committees taking summer breaks and some down time. This summer, though, is not looking to be one of those "summertime and the living is easy".

First off we have the state budget. I am writing this column on June 22nd with a state budget deadline of June 30th. By all accounts the legislature and governor may not come to a budget agreement that can pass the legislature and be signed by the Governor. If that is the case this means who knows what! Governor Malloy will have to determine, line by line, what is funded if there is no budget. The uncertainty for agencies, towns, and all state funded services will be very tough for all, but especially for those who depend upon state funded services for care of a loved one or themselves. The pressure on our clients and the anxiety this may cause will be seen by social workers who must try to assure clients and be their advocate even while we, too, will be impacted by the budget and are as unsure of our future as are our clients. I can only hope by the time you read this paragraph there will be a fair budget in place.

Now let's turn to the federal level and add the Republican health care repeal and replace Obamacare effort. A U.S. Senate vote is expected before the July 4th congressional recess. If that happens and the bill passes the Senate the House and Senate will then have to reconcile the two chambers bills and pass a final bill for President Trump to sign. Any bill that can pass this Congress will be devastating to health care delivery in this nation. The Affordable Care Act was the most significant health care reform passed in this nation since Medicare and Medicaid came into existence. To go backwards to lifetime caps, essential benefits not being required (such as mental health), restricting Medicaid to block grants instead of an entitlement, and denying coverage or charging far more for pre-existing conditions are all in the Republican bills. We will see up to 23 million Americans lose health coverage while the very

wealthiest households get tax breaks. It is all quite obscene!

So the summer calls upon us to remain vigilant and proactive. We must continue to be social justice activists. We need to keep calling our legislators at the state level to raise new revenues for a state budget that preserves the essential human services, education, and health care programs that makes Connecticut a livable state (even if a budget is passed we need to keep up this message for future budget years because the outgoing years will be no easier). And we need to keep up our support for our state's Congressional delegation, all of whom are fighting to stop the devastation of our health care system. Even though our federal delegation is excellent on health care issues they need to hear from us, as we all need encouragement when taking on such an uphill fight. You can also help here by contacting family, friends, colleagues and others you know in other states, especially those living in Republican districts, and ask them to be in contact with their federally elected officials. **Protest, protest, protest needs to be our summer mantra.**

So, yes, summer is often a time to reenergize one self, perhaps with some time away or just enjoying one's home and time away from work. But there will not be work for all of us if we do not win on the budget front.

My anger about the current status of our state and federal politics fuels me for a summer where all hands on deck is required. The State Legislature put off funding pensions in our state for 30 plus years and now the deficit is structural as payments come due. We have a \$5.1 billion deficit in the 2017-19 biennial budget and the next five years or more will be tough ones. As for federal health care, the Democrats passed Obamacare - an amazing accomplishment - and then too many of them ran away from it in the following election. The Democrats lost elections by not standing up and defending a program that has widespread support. We are now left to pick up the pieces and work our tails off to slow down the trajectory of the Republican health care agenda, with the hope that the more citizens learn about the bill the louder the protest to ultimately derail it.

Keep in mind that you can get a suntan at a protest demonstration as easily as you can at the beach or in the backyard. It is going to be that kind of summer. Keep the faith, stay an activist true to social work's social justice roots, and thank you for all you do to make Connecticut a better place to live.

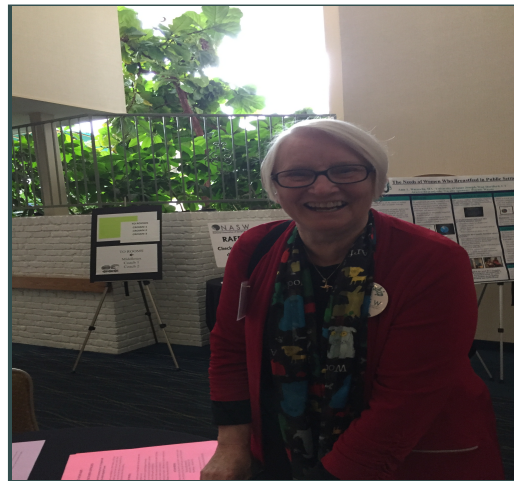
Members in the News

Christina Allen, LCSW was recognized by the VA Healthcare System for her work in partnering the VA Connecticut Healthcare System with the Southwestern CT Area Agency on Aging CHOICES program for health insurance assistance and meeting veterans mental health needs. Her work led to the CT Veterans Healthcare System being one of three facilities nationally to win the 2017 Veterans Health Administration (VHA) Community Partnerships Challenge that highlights successful partnerships between the VHA and nongovernmental organizations.

Amy DiMauro, LCSW has been elected as the regional representative from Connecticut and New York City NASW chapters to the National NASW Board of Directors. Amy is a former chapter president for CT NASW and serves on the Finance Committees for both the CT Chapter and National NASW. Amy is also a delegate to the 2017 Delegate Assembly.

Joseph Futschik, LCSW, LADC, SAP, Bonnie Muller, CRS, LCSW and **Maria Coutant Skinner, LCSW** were amongst Medicaid providers who spoke at a press conference June 20th at the Legislative Office Building on the importance of protecting Medicaid from state budget cuts. Joseph is the President, Family Services Intervention Center in Waterbury, Bonnie is the Emotional Well-Being Coordinator for the Friends Center for Children, in Fairhaven and Maria is Executive Director for McCall Center for Behavioral Health in Torrington.

Lynn Healy, Ph.D. has been elected as an NASW Social Work Pioneer. The Pioneer designation is given to a select few social workers for recognition of their ground breaking contributions and career in the social work profession.



Maggie Goodwin — NASW Member
PACE & ELAN



DPH Addition to Professional Review License

Public Act 17-10 implements a recommendation by the Department of Public Health in regards to actions the Department may take against licensed professionals. The Department has fairly broad discretion on disciplinary actions, including revoking or suspending a license, requiring supervision, additional continuing education, letters of reprimand and putting a licensee on probationary practice. Added to these actions and others already available to DPH, Public Act 17-10 allows DPH to “Restrict or otherwise limit practice to those areas prescribed by the board, commission or department”.

If you are the recipient of a complaint to DPH we recommend you seek legal representation. Professional liability insurance through NASW Assurance Services Inc., provides assistance with legal advice. Email them at asi@naswasi.org or call (855) 385-2160.

Over 500 Attend 32nd Annual Conference!

May 12, 2017 marked the Chapter's 32nd Annual Conference. Registrants, presenters, and exhibitors totaled over 500 — a fact not missed if you were trying to walk down one of the hallways surrounding the Ballroom. We hosted 40 vendors, all with great resources, and we extend our thanks to them for their loyal support and contribution to the conference. Truly, we could not have our conference every year without them!

The morning started with an excellent keynote by Dr. Stanley, Director of the Master of Social Work Program and Professor of Social Work at the University of Saint Joseph. This was followed by a two-hour morning session consisting of 12 possible workshops—including topics from How Mindfulness is Shaping Healthcare, to Human Trafficking, to Using Creative Techniques to Impact Clients. Since the breakout rooms all have different capacities, almost every workshop was filled to capacity and evaluations were overwhelmingly positive. Following lunch, registrants could attend either a three-hour workshop or two 1 ½ hour workshops and again, the range of topics was wide and timely—from Racism, White Privilege, and the Myth of Colorblindness, to DBT, to Veterans Services, Emergency Medicine, and Forensic Social Work. All told there were nineteen classes to choose from and, again, very positive evaluations from the attendees. 33 social work students with 9 posters participated in the Poster Session and we extend a big thank you to them for fitting this task into their end of the year activities. It was great to have such a good response and we look forward to continuing this tradition and improving on the process of submitting, judging, and awarding prizes.

Many of you offered suggestions for future conferences as well as a critique of this conference. Thanks for your interest. We take your ideas seriously and will share them with the Planning Committee. A few quick remarks, however. We would love to have fruit at the morning coffee but it is exceptionally expensive so we err on the side of bagels. Sorry. That also goes for soda in the afternoon. The cost is well over \$1,200 so we hope you'll be able to find water, bring water, or buy water at the hotel registration desk. However, we will try to make pitchers of water more accessible in the future. It would also be great if every presenter could be supplied with a microphone but since the rooms are not really soundproof, there would be interference from room to room, not to mention another huge expense. As for some workshop cancellations, there are times when presenters are unable to attend at the last minute and, while this is upsetting to them and those who registered for the workshop, we have no re-

course but to postpone for a future date, something we, of course, regret having to do. Having 500 people attend is a great opportunity but it does make for crowded hallways, some tight workshop rooms, and wavering temperatures. May I suggest wearing layers to the conference? There were some issues with the hotel this year for the first time ever and I have addressed that with the staff. So, hang in. We will aim for improvements next year.

The Conference theme, borrowed from National's Social Work Month, was "Social Workers Stand Up". Social workers stand up for millions of people every day—those experiencing illness and mental health crises, our veterans, children, families, and communities. They work to advocate for social justice or concentrate on getting legislation passed that will help those who are most vulnerable. This campaign was created to educate the public about the contributions of social workers and clarify the role social workers play all around the world. So, thank you for your contributions and the work you do. We are pleased you attended our conference this year and we hope you found it to be enriching, educational, and fun as well.

Patricia Hartman
Coordinator of Professional Development



Thanks To Our Sponsors

NASW/CT's 32nd Annual Statewide Conference, May 12, 2017



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University of Connecticut School of Social Work
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Karen Giunta, LMFT
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OutFilm CT
Sacred Heart University
Social Work Examination Services (SWES)
University of Connecticut School of Social Work
Wheeler Clinic





New NASW Members

First	Last
Irma	Aliaj
Nakesha	Alleyne
Cindy	Archibald
Julian	Arias
Candra	Bacote
Jean	Bagnati
Suzana	Barros
Kai	Belton
Lori	Brennan
Michelle	Burke
Ivana	Butera-Violette
Marilyn	Cardone
Jillian	Carlson
Margaret	Carmalt
Claudia	Carmona
Jocelyn	Claudio
Jenna	DeLuca
Jessica	Dimock
Sheona	Douglas
Erica	Ecker
Meghan	Eichelberg
Dana	Fouladi
Michele	Garron-Wenchell
Michelle	Gienau
George	Gogas
Carolina	Grijalba-Rodriguez
Louise	Harmon
Emilie	Held
Rafael	Herrera
Allison	Hibbs
Eva	Hodosy
Nora	Ingle
Jannet	Jones
Amy	Kelly
Sarah	Kennedy
Rachel	Kulscar
Adna	Linden
Stephanie	Madler
Ashleigh	Miller
Angel	Munoz-Velazquez

First	Last
Daniel	Pace
Solese	Peroza
Davina	Przygoda
Leah	Pullaro
Manny	Ramada
Laura	Reyes
Michelle	Rumery
Rebecca	Sanchez
Victoria	Scofield
Shirlene	Scott
Cecilia	Segura
Samantha	Silva
Mariell	Trimachi
Jillian	Tuschhoff
Roxann	Walker
Christina	Williams
Rosemarie	Williams
Kelly	Zando

NASW BENEFITS	VALUE
THE VALUE OF NASW MEMBERSHIP FAR EXCEEDS THE COST OF MEMBERSHIP (REGULAR DUES: \$225).	
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Monthly national e-newsletter, MemberLink, covering advocacy, professional development, awards, member discounts, career opportunities, social work news and much more	\$41
Discounted rates just for members on insurance from NASW Assurance Services	
TOTAL SAVINGS	\$773+



SOCIAL WORKERS ROLLIN' ON THE RIVER



November 9, 2017

Inn at Middletown
70 Main Street
Middletown, CT

Send in your Nominations by

September 18, 2017

to

naswct@naswct.net

or call Pat Hartman at 860 257-8066 for information

CAMP KESEM AT BROWN UNIVERSITY



WE NEED A MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONAL!

*Providing free summer camps for
children through and beyond a
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Camp dates and Location:
Aug 20-25, 2017 at Camp Laurel-
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Please send resumes/CVs to
brown@campkesem.org

www.campkesem.org/brown

JOB DESCRIPTION

As mental health professional, you will act as a resource to the counselors and staff who are supervising the kids. This includes giving them tools to handle issues that are behavioral or tie to home situations or bereavement.

JOB REQUIREMENTS

You must have a Master's degree in:

- Social Work
- Counseling, School Counseling
- Or a related Mental Health field.



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 2017.*

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.

Legislative Threats to Licensure Avoided

Whenever the Legislature is in session there is the potential for bills or amendments to bills being introduced that will adversely impact social work licensure and/or practice. The 2017 legislative session saw two such threats, one at the start of the session and the other as the session neared its end.

Early into the session a bill was introduced that would have allowed non-MSWs with a master degree in related fields who worked in health care settings, to become LCSWs without exam. The bill was introduced in order to assist a person without the social work degree who sought promotion to the Director of Social Work in a skilled nursing facility. The position requires a LCSW. Through quick and comprehensive lobbying organized by NASW/CT we were able to keep the bill from being raised for consideration by the Public Health Committee. NASW/CT kept a keen eye on the bill until the deadline to raise bills passed, thus killing the bill.

Late in the session an amendment was introduced to a bill that would have required master degrees for art therapists. NASW/CT had no position on the original bill however the bill's advocates wanted to turn the bill into an art therapist license through an amendment to the original language. The amendment, in our opinion, did not sufficiently clarify that clinical social workers could use art work in clinical practice. In fact, some of the drafts circulated for the amendment would have definitely restricted social workers use of art. Again NASW/CT jumped into action, pressuring the Speaker of the House not to allow the bill to come for a vote (it had been on the "GO List" for a vote). We also worked with the art therapists association to find language that clearly protected clinical social workers. This amendment that was about to be voted on was delayed by our action and then further delayed when the music therapists added their own licensure language to the amendment. The original bill and amendment died on the last day of session as the House never brought it up for a floor vote.

The Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services successfully proposed a change that prohibits the diagnosis of a mental illness or behavioral or emotional disorder from being grounds for a petition regarding a health care professional's inability to practice with reasonable care or safety.

The bill eliminates the current requirement for a health care professional to notify the Department of Public Health (DPH) within 30 days of their being given a diagnosis of a mental illness, behavioral or emotional disorder. If signed by the governor this bill takes effect October 1, 2017.

On a related note the DPH put forward a technical change to the Marital & Family Therapists and Professional Counselors licensing statutes that clearly indicate that the practitioner has no more than 12 months from time of eligibility for licensure to pass the license exam. Furthermore, if the practitioner fails the exam they must immediately stop practicing until passage of the exam and licensure. Some practitioners kept practicing under supervision past the 12 months, or indefinitely. Such extended practice is practicing without a license. Because of the LMSW this is no longer a problem in clinical social work practice and makes the LMSW more valuable to employers as the possibility of having a MFT or PC not passing the exam and needing to be laid off is not a concern with LMSWs who can continue as a LMSW if they do not attain the LCSW.



The End of Legislative Session 2017 Update & Recap

This was most certainly a busy legislative session for NASW-CT. We have lobbied at the State Capital, held meetings with legislators, sent out numerous legislative alerts and updates to our members, had monthly Education and Legislative Action Network meetings, and collaborated with coalitions in support of a wide variety of human rights. We also submitted 15 testimonies on a number of bills and, although not all ended up in our favor or had an opportunity to get voted on, together with your support we have gained some positive changes for the lives of people in Connecticut.

Here is a recap on bills and issues we have worked on:

HB 6695: AN ACT CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF YOUTH FROM CONVERSION THERAPY

Was nearly unanimously passed and signed into law by the Governor. We submitted written testimony on this and strongly collaborated with the CT Equality Coalition. We sent out legislative alerts asking you all to contact your state legislators to support this very important bill, which has now outlawed conversion therapy practice for minors in the state of Connecticut. Thank you all for your time and support on this very important piece of legislation!

SB 903: AN ACT CONCERNING EDUCATIONAL AND PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS FOR PROFESSIONAL COUNSELORS

"To strengthen and clarify academic qualifications for licensed professional counselors and require licensed professional counselors to complete continuing education in professional ethics." NASW-CT submitted written testimony in support and this legislation was passed successfully.

SB 1: AN ACT CONCERNING EARNED FAMILY AND MEDICAL LEAVE

This bill would have implemented a paid family medical leave policy in Connecticut. NASW-CT submitted written testimony and in person testimony was given on behalf of NASW by MSW intern Tim Demers. Unfortunately, this bill was not voted on in either chamber. It was, however, debated in the Senate, which is the first time paid family & medical leave has actually been debated by a chamber of the CT General Assembly.

HB 7314: AN ACT CONCERNING A TAX ON CERTAIN SWEETENED BEVERAGES

This bill would have implemented a tax on sugary beverages which could have brought in more revenue to support much needed social service programs. NASW-CT submitted written testimony in favor, unfortunately this bill did not pass, however, may be included the state budget that is eventually adopted in the special session.

SB 586: AN ACT EXPANDING MANDATED HEALTH BENEFITS FOR WOMEN, CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS

"To: (1) Expand mandated health benefits for women, children and adolescents; (2) expand mandated contraception benefits; and (3) require the Commissioner of Social Services to amend the Medicaid state plan to provide expanded contraception benefits." This bill that was supported by NASW/CT, passed the Senate unanimously but unfortunately died when it was not brought up for a vote by the House due to threats of numerous amendments.

HB 6980: AN ACT CONCERNING ART THERAPISTS

NASW-CT sent out legislative alerts to members asking for opposition of this proposed bill due to the concern that it may prevent social workers from utilizing art therapy within practice. An agreement on language protecting social work practice was worked out. This bill died when never called for a vote by the House.

HB 6497: AN ACT CONCERNING LICENSURE REQUIREMENTS FOR CLINICAL SOCIAL WORKERS

"To protect the employment of those whose academic credentials and working history have been in the area of providing social work services but have not obtained the required statutory credentials for licensure as a clinical social worker." This bill would have jeopardized and threatened licensing credentials for social workers in the state of Connecticut. Legislative alerts went out encouraging members to contact legislators on the public health committee to express opposition to this bill. With your tremendous support we were able to stop the bill from being considered by the Public Health Committee!

The End of Legislative Session 2017 Update & Recap

SB 977: AN ACT CONCERNING ACCESS TO ORIGINAL BIRTH RECORDS BY ADULT ADOPTED PERSONS

Testimony was submitted by NASW-CT and legislative alerts issued, with the bill closely monitored by the chapter's Legislative Committee. Unfortunately, despite a strong lobbying effort, it died in the state senate where the bill was never taken up for a vote.

HB 5434: -AN ACT ADOPTING THE INTERSTATE COMPACT TO ELECT THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES BY NATIONAL POPULAR VOTE.

"To enter Connecticut into the Agreement Among the States to Elect the President by National Popular Vote, thereby committing the state's votes in the Electoral College to the presidential candidate that wins the popular vote nationally, regardless of whether such presidential candidate wins the popular vote within the state." NASW-CT submitted written testimony on this and other related bills, unfortunately this bill was not voted on by the House.

HB 7091: AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH AND ADDICTION SERVICES' RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING REVISIONS TO THE PROFESSIONAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FOR REGULATED PROFESSIONALS.

"To implement the recommendation of the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services to prohibit diagnosis with a mental illness or behavioral or emotional disorder from being grounds for a petition regarding a health care professional's inability to practice with reasonable care or safety." As described best by our lobby firm, Gallo & Robinson, "The bill eliminates the current requirement for a health care professional to notify the Department of Public Health (DPH) within 30 days of their being given a diagnosis of a mental illness, behavioral or emotional disorder." This bill was passed by both the House and Senate and is expected to become effective October, 2017.

Connecticut State Budget Updates:

Legislators have called themselves into special session, as a budget still has not been passed. In addition to the budget, they will focus on a bond package, school construction package, and budget implementers. It is likely that they will not convene for special session until a promising budget is put together that has the likelihood of passing. Legislators face a deadline of July 1st, when the new fiscal year begins. If no budget is passed by this deadline, the Governor will then begin running the state government with monthly allotments. Which according to our lobby firm, Gallo & Robinson, LLC, "That means he will release an allotment report each month until there is a budget passed by the legislature and signed by him, listing what he plans to allot to each line item for which the funding is not mandated or statutorily required." It is highly unlikely that a budget will be successfully voted upon before the start of the new fiscal year on July 1st.

One of the very important considerations we must pay attention to is the threatened cuts to Medicaid/HUSKY A, which is the state's insurance programs for children, parents, caregivers, pregnant women, and families that have a household income currently below 155% of FPL (*which is only \$38,130 for a family of four*). According to the Connecticut Association for Human Services (CAHS), the following are the proposed Medicaid/Husky changes for the budget:

The four proposed budgets address this issue in the following ways:

- Governor's Budget: Reduces the income eligibility from 155% to 138% FPL.
- Democratic Budget: Reduces the income eligibility from 155% to 138% FPL and suggests imposing monthly \$26 co-payments, [which may or may not be legal](#).
- Senate GOP Budget: Reduces the income eligibility from 155% to 138% FPL and suggests imposing monthly \$26 co-payments, [which may or may not be legal](#).
- House GOP Budget: Maintains the eligibility rate at 155% FPL, but suggests imposing monthly \$26 co-payments and eliminates optional services.

The End of Legislative Session 2017 Update & Recap

Please note that in all of these budget proposals the HUSKY A/Medicaid program is threatened significantly in Connecticut and this could mean over 9,500 parents losing healthcare coverage as soon as the budget is passed! It is imperative that we continue dialogue with legislators over this extremely concerning issue. It is also crucial that we stay informed of what is going on both on the state and federal level when it comes to the current healthcare proposals and budget cuts. Proposed Medicaid cuts at the federal level when combined with proposed cuts at the state level will be a double whammy for Medicaid recipients. The work is still far from over.

As for revenues NASW/CT continues to press legislators to adopt new revenues as part of the final budget that is adopted. We ask our members to send your state senator and state representative a simple message, by calling or email, telling them that you are willing to pay a little more in taxes to preserve the state's social service and health care programs funded by the state.

Please continue to advocate on behalf of those we serve and for the greater good of Connecticut and beyond. As always we thank you for your continued support and we encourage you to reach out to your legislators to also thank them for their hard work.

If you need information on resources in relation to advocacy and legislation please contact our office or visit our website.

A Nutritional Approach to Mental Illness



On June 21, over 80 people attended this excellent, thought provoking, information packed workshop at Copper Beech Institute in West Hartford. Presented by Dr. Georgia Ede, nutrition researcher and staff psychiatrist at Smith College in Northampton, the three hours flew by as Dr. Ede tackled how nutrients work in the brain, why sugar is so bad for the brain and the body, and how we can incorporate nutrition counseling into our work with clients.



Dr. Ede initially addressed the brain's need for protein and how the source of the protein, for example meat, fish, eggs, soy, beans, is important. She talked of cholesterol and fats and how the brain uses each. The second section of her presentation addressed "good" and "bad" carbs, the downside of excess sugar intake, and the topic of insulin resistance. The final part of her talk included some ideas for incorporating nutrition counseling into your work with clients. The well-received workshop included many questions and answers and was followed by a tasty lunch prepared by the cooking staff at Copper Beech. A wealth of material on this topic can be found on Dr. Ede's website www.diagnosisdiet.com where she also offers reading resources and other web site resources.

Thank you to our colleagues who have Presented at Regional Network meetings since the Fall of 2016



Region 2 Network:

Esther Howe, LCSW, *"The Diversity of Diversity"*

Erin Williamson, LMSW, *"Human Trafficking: The Grooming & Recruitment Process and What Service Providers Can Do"*

Collette Anderson, LCSW, *"Creating Trauma-Informed Spaces"*

Michelle Gage, LCSW, *"Finding Wellness/Self Care: Being Our Best Self in the Field"*

Region 3 Network:

Dee Unterbach, PhD, *"Power, Control, & Domestic Violence"*

Elisabeth Schraldi, LCSW, *"Therapeutic Social Work Intervention Supporting Personnel Active & Veteran"*

Sandra Eagle, LCSW, *Body Sensations As a Path of Healing: Therapeutic offerings from Somatic Experiencing"*

Elizabeth Huber, LCSW, *"The Challenges of Working with the Addicted Client"*

Andrew Whelan, LCSW, *"Mandating Reporting of Child Abuse/Neglect in CT"*

Dee Unterbach, PhD, *"Training: Structure & Methodology"*

Nancy Kolodny, LCSW, *"Eating Disorders: Practical & Proven Strategies for Outpatient Treatment, Part II"*

Nancy Meyer-Lustman, PhD, *"Transgender Teens and Their Families"*

Dee Unterbach, PhD, *"An Ego Function Method of Understanding Organic Brain Syndrome"*

Region 3 Network NORTH:

Jennifer DeWitt, LADC, *"The CT Opioid Crisis"*

Brooke Morris, LMSW, *"Intimate Partner Violence—Engaging Fathers"*

Fairfield County Social Workers in Private Practice:

Steven A. Weisblatt, MD, *"Accurate Targeting of Mental Health in Veterans: How Not to Miss"*

Channe Fodeman, LCSW, *"Why Live to be Old?"*

Alberto Cifuentes, Jr., LMSW, *"That's SO Gay! Cultivating Safe, Inclusive, and Affirming Spaces for ALL Students"*

Joseph Sacco, MD, *"What is Palliative Care REALLY? Enhancing the social Worker's Understanding of Palliative and Hospice Care"*

Edith Snyderman, LCSW, *"The Emotional Impact on Older Adults in the Hospital Setting"*

Donna Zaharevitz, *"The Expansion of Gaming in Connecticut: The Effects on our Communities and Citizens"*

Nicole Kikosicki, LCSW, *"The Application of Motivational Interviewing to Enhance Client Engagement"*

Expanding Your Practice...

And an Opportunity to Help at the Same Time

The number of vulnerable individuals living in our communities continues to rise at an alarming rate. Now more than ever our Probate Courts are charged with finding qualified individuals who can assist in providing for those most at need. There has never been a time more critical than now.

Social Workers are uniquely qualified to fill a multitude of roles assumed by professional and family fiduciaries. The well trained, experienced, Social Worker understands the roles of multiple disparate agencies who come together to care for their common clients or patients. The Social Worker is taught to embrace the value that all participants offer throughout the continuum of care. Then, in a manner that is far more progressive than any other "helping profession," the social worker creates a collaborative approach to fostering those relationships and employing them in a manner that is beneficial to all – particularly those most "at need."

Employing these concepts has proven to be most effective in establishing an Interrelated System of Care for those most gravely disabled individuals living with multiple forms of mental incapacities. The numbers are staggering such as the reduction in recidivism rates, Emergency Department visits, Long term hospitalizations, arrests and incarcerations. The well-rounded practice of Social Work can

expand beyond traditional "clinical" therapy to include a community based practice providing coordinated care for Persons In Environment. With introductory education about the legal process, best practices tips and tools, as well as commonly applied concepts of "Least Restrictive Means of Intervention" and person-centered planning, the Social Worker can create a meaningful and fulfilling practice doing the work they truly love.

Guardian Ad Litem Services will be offering courses, on-line training, coaching and other educational resources to start your journey in this most important and valuable opportunity. Best of all, we have partnered with NASW-CT to offer you Continuing Education Credits for our live seminars and workshops. Please visit us at www.MichaelMackniak.com to learn more.

By Michael Mackniak, JD,
Conservative Care, Inc. and Guardian Ad Litem Services, Inc.



Newest Member of NASW Team Brenda Sperry, Administrator

As the new Office Administrator at NASW I wanted to introduce myself to our members.

My background has been within youth services, specifically working in the Boston's Child-At-Risk Hotline. I specialized in crisis intervention and implementing the 51A reporting process with the Department of Social Services.

For many years I worked as a Juvenile Probation Officer, investigated social history's of our clients and providing diversion programs for youth. I developed a program for youth within Dorchester which implemented art therapy for behavioral problem youth.

Later in my career I moved into the field of elder care. I was a case manager in South Boston. This involved home visits to 80 homebound clients which included assessments on ADL's and IADL's of our elder population. I was also the Elder Care Team Administrator for a National EAP Program Work/Family Directions.

For over 15 years I worked as a holistic counselor in the field of stress reduction. As a counselor I have found that most clients suffered from their inability to manage anxiety. I loved teaching clients meditation and mindfulness techniques.

As you are aware social workers never receive IT and/or administrative support. I have been a passionate social worker but this naturally led to a love of project management. I'm grateful for the years I worked in direct services, which has enabled me to understand IT systems that benefit organizations.

I would love to hear your feedback on how our office can support you in your vocation and specific education components that you desire. I look forward to supporting you in the future. Please feel free to reach out with any questions and/or concerns.





Future Events for the Chapter

Check our website, www.naswct.org , for registration information

October 6, 2017

9:00 AM to 11:30 AM

Central CT State University, Student Center, New Britain

Registration and coffee from 9:00 to 9:30. Program starts promptly at 9:30

“Working with the Post 9/11 Veteran:

What a Civilian Social Worker Needs to Know”

with Sharon Young, PhD, LCSW and Jennifer Lewis, LCSW

Approved for 2 CECs and meets the Veterans Services requirement for license renewal.

November 4, 2017

8:30 AM to 12:00 PM

Port ‘n Starboard, Ocean Beach Park, New London

Registration and coffee from 8:30 to 9:00. Program starts promptly at 9:00

“Starting and Managing a Private Practice”

**Pat Carl-Stannard, LCSW & Ginna Swan from MedDirect will provide
an overview of the facts, figures, and foundations
you need to start a private practice.**

Approved for 3 CECs by NASW/CT

November 9, 2017

5:30 PM to 9:00 PM

Inn at Middletown, Middletown

**NASW/CT Annual Awards Dinner to be held this evening at the Inn at
Middletown. Come celebrate those social workers who have made
outstanding contributions to the profession**

We Shall Persist: Reflections on the Afford to Dream Campaign

by Alberto Cifuentes, Jr.,
LMSW



This legislative session, I had the honor and privilege to work with Connecticut Students for a Dream (C4D), a social justice organization committed to protecting and advancing the lives of undocumented students and their families. I served on their Campaign Organizing Team to advocate and push for the passage of HB 7000 and SB 17, two bills that would grant institutional aid to undocumented students in public colleges and universities in Connecticut.

Institutional aid is a pool of money that is created through student tuition and not funded through taxpayer money. All students pay tuition, but only documented students have access to institutional aid. Many organizations, including the Connecticut Board of Regents of Higher Education and the University of Connecticut, agree that this is an inequitable practice that unfairly discriminates against undocumented students. However, the state continues this tradition at the expense of undocumented students and the growing state economy.

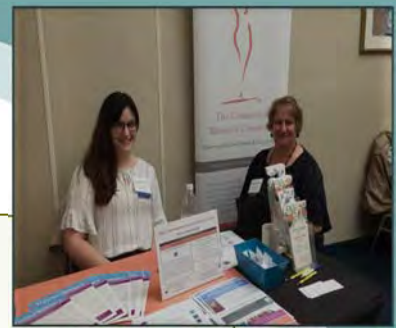
Unfortunately, this bill did not pass either the House or Senate, but this has not demoralized C4D or our supporters, many of whom are social workers dedicated to improving the quality of life of immigrants in Connecticut. Here are just some of the Afford to Dream Campaign's many accomplishments:

- At the Public Hearing for HB 7000 in February, over 40 students and allies testified in person, packing the hearing room for seven hours. Not a single person spoke out against the bill, and over 190 online testimonies were submitted in support of the bill.
- In April during our Afford to Dream rally, over 100 students, allies, members, and supporters marched and rallied from the Legislative Office Building to the Capitol steps.
- After months of collecting petitions, on May 9th, 20 of our campaign's students delivered over 2000 petitions to the Speaker of the House, Joe Aresimowicz (D). Our message to him was clear: Our futures and our dreams deserve a vote. We were granted a meeting with the speaker where our students shared their stories.
- Throughout this legislative session, C4D's regional teams across the state worked to engage and build support from their local communities. They organized petition tables, phone banks, and local "Get Active" meetings.
- On the last day of the legislative session, June 7th, we held a Dream Graduation on the back steps of the Capital, where seven of our undocumented students who would have benefited from HB 7000 and SB 17 took part in a symbolic graduation ceremony and shared their hopes and dreams for their futures. **We celebrated our resilience and strength, and pledged to continue our fight.**

I am so proud of the brave undocumented students and leaders who were at the Legislative Office Building and Capitol almost every day tirelessly lobbying for these two bills. These are the dogged and empowering community organizers that inspired me to become a social worker in the first place.

The battle for equal educational and economic opportunities for all students, especially people of color, is not over, and we will not be defeated. If you would like to continue this fight for equal access to institutional aid in public higher education and advocate for the rights of all students, please visit C4D's website at www.ct4adream.org and find out how you can get involved. You can also learn more about the Afford to Dream Campaign at www.ct4adream.org/institutional-aid. **The lives and contributions of immigrants are being threatened everywhere. Join C4D to be part of the change you want to see in the world!**





Office Sharing: West Hartford, CT



I am looking for another therapist for an office sharing arrangement in WH Center. My office is in a well-kept building with elevator and cleaning service. Fax machine available. There is a private waiting room. The office is available on Mondays and Fridays (including evenings) ; Saturday until noon; and after 5:30 on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Please leave a message on my answering machine, expressing your interest. Please include your full name and a phone number and a good time for me to reach you. Thank you!

Laura Reiter, LCSW 61 South Main St., Suite 307, WH 06107. (860) 231-9331.



NASW CT Seeks the Names of Social Worker Candidates Running In the 2017 Local Elections

If you are a candidate or know of a social worker running for local election please send us the name, contact information and position they are running for.

We are looking to develop a list of locally elected officials with social work degrees for possible endorsement and encouragement for running for higher office in 2018.

Send your responses to Steve Karp at skarp@naswct.net



LOOK AROUND YOU

Consider nominating someone for
An NASW Social Work Award
Do you see a social work
colleague who is:

- ◆ Breaking new ground
- ◆ Leading the profession in a new direction
- ◆ Taking a social issue and moving it forward?

These awards recognize NASW members who have made a significant contribution to Social Work Practice, Social Work Education, Social Policy & Change, someone who is an Emerging Leader, or has had a Lifetime of Achievement.

SHARE your admiration . . .

Make a nomination!

Email naswct@naswct.net

Or go to www.naswct.org

Click on the Call for Nominations under
The Special Events Tab on the home page
For the Annual Dinner.

New Law Allows Donations of Tax Refunds to Mental Health Fund

Effective as of July 7th Governor Malloy signed into law Public Act 17-147 that creates a Mental Health Community Investment Account within the General Fund. This investment account will allow taxpayers to directly contribute from their tax refunds into a non-lapsing General Fund account targeted specifically to mental health. The fund will also accept donations from other sources.

Moneys in the account shall be expended by the Commissioner of Mental Health and Addiction Services, in consultation with nonprofit mental health organizations, for the purposes of improving services and programs in the state, including, but not limited to, residential services, job training and placement services, educational programs and support groups, designed to support individuals diagnosed with mental health conditions.

The mental health fund is an addition to the already existing funds that tax refunds can be donated to as follows: organ transplant; AIDS research; endangered species, natural area preserves and watchable wildlife; breast cancer research and education; safety net services; individual savings plan established under the Connecticut Higher Education Trust.



...the power of social work
NASW
Presents
MANAGING YOUR PRIVATE PRACTICE

For Social Workers Looking
to Start or Enhance their
Private Practice



Are you considering going into private practice? Or are you looking to improve the business functions of your current practice? This workshop will address all of the questions you might have at this juncture in your professional career including setting up the practice, using collateral contacts, deciding upon specialty practice areas, maintaining good records, the "business" of billing, changes in billing and developing both a clinical plan and a business plan. Learn about claims forms and filings, billing, communicating with insurance companies, and balancing the clinical side of your business with the revenue side. An ample opportunity for Q & A with a panel of experts to address your questions will follow the formal presentation.

Presented by private practitioner, Patricia Carl-Stannard, LCSW, ACSW with 25 years of private practice experience and Ginna Swan, a claim specialist and sole proprietor of Med-Direct, LLC, serving mental health offices in Connecticut and New Jersey.

This workshop has been offered in other parts of the state to rave reviews!

November 4, 2017 8:30 am – 12 pm
Port N Starboard
1225 Ocean Avenue
New London, CT 06320

NASW Member \$ 50 Non-Member \$ 80
Approved for 3 CEU's



2139 Silas Deane Highway, Rocky Hill, CT 06067
1860.257.8066 | naswat@naswat.net | naswat.org