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leaders. advocates. champions.



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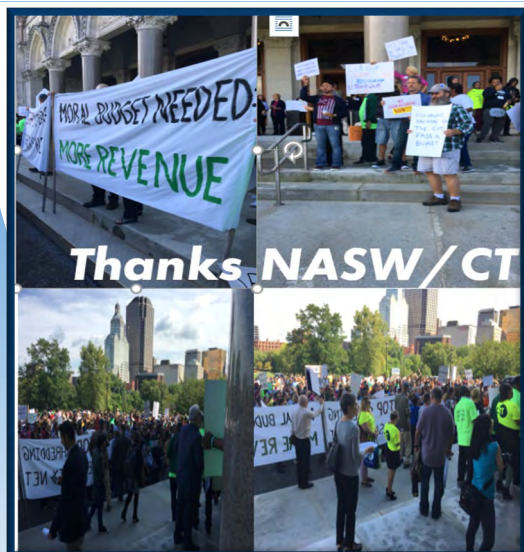
 **N A S W** • CONNECTICUT CHAPTER
National Association of Social Workers

1st Qtr 2018

Featured in this Issue

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Thank you NASW Members for Joining the CT Chapter

Letter To The Editor

As someone who has worked for many years as a therapist with adolescents and adults I am very concerned about the possible legalization of marijuana for recreational use. The reasons for my concern are many: Adolescents will likely see this as an indication of marijuana's safety and will be even more inclined to seek it out for pleasure as well as a mean's of coping with life's challenges. This is of concern for the following reasons:

1. For adolescents, we know that marijuana interferes with the development of the brain's prefrontal cortex which is not fully developed until approximately age 26. The prefrontal cortex is important in executive functioning and the cognitive control of behavior.
2. We know that marijuana is psychologically addictive and often becomes the way users cope with life. As a result, as with all addictions, it tends to be progressive. For some, both adolescent and adult users, abuse leads to the development of paranoia which has serious consequences for an individual's relationships, education and career..
3. Marijuana use interferes with the important emotional, social and psychologically learning that is so important in adolescence and young adulthood. Critical learning does not take place. I have worked with chronic users who are in their 40's and who function emotionally and psychologically like early adolescents (the age at which they began using).

There are those who use medical marijuana for treatment of illnesses. For many this is a necessary and important aid. But, even for these folks, use must be monitored so that they are not negatively effected.

Marijuana is not a benign substance. As responsible adults we must be sure that our state does not try to solve its financial difficulties by legalizing recreational marijuana. Caring for and preserving the health of our youth is a moral imperative. Let's not let them down.

Arlene Havens, M.Ed., M.S.W., L.C.S.W.

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@socialworkers.org
Continuing Education Information	
Pat Hartman, NASW/CT Coordinator of Professional Development	860.257.8066 x 204 phartman.naswct@socialworkers.org
Membership and Continuing Ed.	
Kaitlin Binnington	860.257.8066 x 206 kbinnington.naswct@socialworkers.org
Bookkeeping	
Nicole Lepore, NASW/CT Bookkeeper	860.257.8066 x 203 nlepire.naswct@socialworkers.org
Website, Newsletter & Advertisement	
Brenda Sperry, Office Administrator	860.257.8066 bsperry.naswct@socialworkers.org



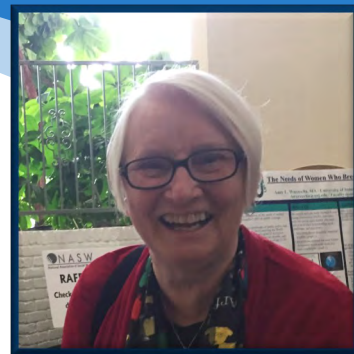
**NASW/CT Latino Network
2018 Annual Recognition Dinner
Monday, March 26, 2018
University of Saint Joseph**

**Recognizing Latino Social Workers
with 25 or more years membership in
NASW**
For Details & Registration
www.naswct.org by March 19th.

Member Column

*The President's Column will return in the May-June
Newsletter*

Maggie Goodwin, LCSW
Co-Chair, ELAN



Dear Members:

The NASW-CT chapter understands that 2018 is a very important year in government.

We need you, as a “five-minute lobbyist” to respond to the legislative alerts that will be sent out based on the identified legislative priorities selected by our board and legislative committee (ELAN).

The CT legislative session begins Feb 7th and we hope we can count on each of you to identify your CT representative and senator. Information on who your elected officials are can be found here: <https://www.house.gov/representatives/find-your-representative> Take note of both their email and phone number to ensure you can call and email them quickly and often when alerted to a NASW legislative issue, concern or suggestions for brighter CT future.

We also would like to hear from you! Call us at 860-257-8066 or email legislative.naswt@socialworkers.org Let us know if you are aware of issues that you think NASW-CT should be addressing. Member input is vital to make this a useful and dynamic process.

On the federal level, the national office sends out legislative alerts and requests for member action on sponsored legislation and policy issues as well as on social justice priorities. If you are not currently getting these alerts and would like to sign up at <http://cqrcengage.com/socialworkers/home?0>

We assume you know our two great senators **Chris Murphy** and **Richard Blumenthal** and request that you also identify your US representative. They are as follows:

District 1 Johns Larson

District 2 Joe Cortney

District 3 Rosa DeLauro

District 4 James Himes

District 5 Elizabeth Esty

National asks that we reach out to our legislators to let them know about legislation we have worked to introduce as well as ask for their support or sponsorship. For information on NASW's national policy issues go to <https://www.socialworkers.org/Advocacy> When you call let them know about the numerous identified social justice and professional practice issues and be sure to tell them that you are a social worker and NASW member.

It is the goal of the CT NASW Education and Advocacy Legislative Network (ELAN) to hear from every legislator who represents CT that they heard from a CT social worker about something every day during this session. We also would like to invite you to join the ELAN committee this year as a member as well. Call us 860-257-8066 or email legislative.naswt@socialworkers.org

Best regards,

Members of the ELAN Committee



Executive Director

Stephen Karp, LMSW

Exciting New Initiatives for 2018

At times I have wondered what new and exciting work is there for the chapter to take on? 2018 marks the 30th year of my employment with NASW of which 27 have been with the Connecticut Chapter. Much has been accomplished to professionalize social work practice in our state, so much so that newly entering colleagues have no sense of the time when we were not licensed, lacked third party provider status, and could not legally hold our records & communications confidential. So what big work is left? Our Board of Directors has answered that question in setting an ambitious and exciting agenda for advancing the field to new practice settings.

Do you utilize your public library? If so you may have seen persons who are homeless, individuals with mental illness, persons abusing drugs, and unemployed persons. These are amongst a number of library patrons that frequent the library who are in need of help - the kind of help that a social worker can provide if that social worker was embedded in the library. There are libraries around the country who have hired social workers with much success. Somerville, Massachusetts and Evanston, Illinois have started successful social work services. Delaware has just launched a pilot project in all three of its counties and the Massachusetts Library System has a consultant (Michelle Eberle, BSW a former chapter intern) working on developing social work positions for libraries in that state. A movie coming out, "The Public", that is about a public library dealing with the social needs of its patrons and when it comes out will heighten the awareness of the need for social work library services. Here is a link to the trailer <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UrGgS8ExsVc>. Jennifer Bennett of our Board of Directors has made initial contact with the library community and the chapter will be following up. This is a new frontier for social work to enter and if we build the necessary linkages and collaborations with libraries social work will become the "go to" profession for library systems.

Expanding social work services within city and town police departments is another of the chapter's newest initiatives. In NYC a city councilman introduced a bill to require each police precinct to have a social worker on staff. Again, throughout the nation, there are police departments that have contracted with social workers or hired social workers. We know that in Connecticut there are departments that work closely with local social work providers. If you are aware of this happening in your community please let me know as we would like to learn more about how police departments are utilizing social workers so that we can demonstrate the value to departments across the state.

Health care is in a sea change and one of those changes is the very positive move toward integrated health care where physical and behavioral health are housed together. We know that Hartford Healthcare and Yale New Haven Health System have initiated integrating social workers into medical practices. NASW/CT is part of a project launched by the CT American Academy of Pediatrics to place behavioral health providers in pediatric offices. I believe that these early attempts at integrated care will become the norm over the next decade. Social work must be prepared to become the preferred provider. That means our schools of social work need to prepare graduates to work in these new settings and current practitioners need to gain continuing education in how to understand the new roles integrated health care will demand and gain skills in operating in such systems. If our profession can pivot toward this new model of care social workers will be part of a growing movement that promises greater coordination of care and we will see a significant increase in the demand for social work services. Again, we have an opportunity here to make social work the preferred provider of the medical establishment.

The opioid crisis demands a community wide response and the Chapter Board is looking at how best the association can respond. One area of consideration is looking at the need for training so that social workers are prepared with the best practices. This may include initiatives at the graduate school level and with licensed social workers. I welcome all ideas that you have as to roles NASW/CT may play.

Exciting New Initiatives for 2018, (continued)

Title protection is the final “new” initiative approved by the Board. I put new in quotation marks as it is not truly a new project but rather a goal we have had for many years. We feel that NOW is the time to begin planning. Only those with social work degrees should be allowed to hold and use the title “social worker”. Amber Reyna, one of our interns, is researching title protection statutes in other states to see what language is used, what enforcement measures are in place, and what exemptions, if any, exist. Following our data collection we will need to meet with potential supporters and detractors to further develop our campaign. Fundraising will also need to take place in 2018 for we need to have \$25,000 to employ our lobbyists to work on a bill. If we do not pass title protection in 2019 we will need to again invest \$25,000 in a following session where we will have to reintroduce legislation. Our target date for introduction of legislation is the 2019 legislative session that will begin in January 2019.

One of the wonderful things about holding a social work degree is that it prepares you for a career that can span numerous settings and practice undertakings. Likewise, one of the wonderful aspects of being chapter executive director is the opportunity to become involved in far reaching, forward thinking initiatives that help shape the social work practice environment. I am particularly excited about these new initiatives NASW/CT has committed to for they have the promise of improving individuals lives, enhancing respect for the profession, and creating new employment opportunities for our profession. I look forward to working with you as we improve service delivery systems through social work intervention and ongoing involvement.

Chapter Promotes LMSW Employment

This past fall the chapter did a mailing to human resource directors in 70 agencies that were identified as likely employers of master level trained behavioral health professionals. The mailing informed employers of the advantage of hiring a LMSW as LMSWs must have a license in order to practice. We informed agencies that other new master level graduates in behavioral health fields cannot be licensed until they have completed work hours and passed their respective license exam. Hiring a LMSW allows for the employer to have a licensed professional right from the day of hire.

NASW/CT has also sent out emails to LMSWs pointing out that they hold an advantage when applying for positions and we suggest that they tell potential employers of the value in having an employee who is already licensed due to NASW/CT successful passage of two tier licensing for social work.

NASW/CT supports multi-tiered licensing for all behavioral health providers and has submitted testimony in past years on bills for marital & family therapy and professional counselors licensing of new graduates. At some point we expect that other professions will attain multi-tier licensure given our success in creating precedence. Until such time, however, social workers hold an advantage with employer's that recognize the benefits of having a fully licensed behavioral health workforce.



THE NASW/CT 2018 ADVOCACY FUND DRIVE

Our Legislative Agenda Includes:

- ◆ Protecting the Safety Net for Connecticut's most vulnerable citizens
- ◆ Pursuing family economic security thru Paid Family & Medical Leave
- ◆ Protecting Medicaid from further funding cuts or reduction in reimbursement rates. Working to restore cuts to HUSKY for parents
- ◆ Codifying the ACA protections into state statute
- ◆ Strengthening Mental Health Parity
- ◆ Supporting access to an original birth certificate for all adoptees
- ◆ Supporting the National Popular Vote for President Compact
- ◆ Defeating any bills that infringe on social work practice
- ◆ Promoting progressive revenue sources to pay for human services
- ◆ Supporting an increase in Medicare rates for LCSWs (federal)
- ◆ Supporting the Social Work Safety Act (federal)

100% of your donation goes to the cost of having contract lobbyists that are our "eyes and ears" at the Capitol. By donating today, you will assure that NASW/CT is positioned to have maximum impact at the State Capitol and with the U.S. Congress.

YES I AM A SOCIAL WORK POLITICAL POWER BUILDER!

\$500____ \$250____ \$100____ \$50____
\$35____ \$25____ \$10____ Other____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Donate Online <http://naswct.org/donate-to-advocacy-fund/> or Check Payable To NASW/CT or credit card using this form:

Name on Credit Card _____

Credit Card Type: _____ **Card No.** _____

Expiration Date: _____ **3 Digit Number on Back of Card:** _____

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

Check here if you DO NOT want your name listed as a donor in the newsletter: _____

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

Members in the News

Stephen Karp, LMSW has been appointed by House Majority Leader, Matt Ritter, to serve on the *TASK FORCE TO STUDY THE PROJECTED SHORTAGE IN THE PSYCHIATRY WORKFORCE IN THE STATE*. Steve was chosen to represent the fields of social work and counseling. Steve was also appointed by NASW CEO Angelo McLain to serve on the NASW Social Action Committee.

Irwin Krieger, LCSW has announced the publication of the 2nd edition of *Helping Your Transgender Teen: A guide for Parents*. The new edition has an expanded resource list and much more information about youth with non-binary identities. Published by Jessica Kingsley Publishers you can find more information and order the book at <https://www.jkp.com/usa/helping-your-transgender-teen-2nd-edition-35583.html>

Kristin Lipinski of Connecticut has been slated as a candidate by the National Committee on Nominations & Leadership Identification for the Board of Directors position of MSW Student Representative. She is running against **Brittany Dwyer** of Kansas.

Mary Jane Lundgren, MSW has been appointed by NASW President Kathryn Wehrmann to serve as the national Political Action for Candidate Election (PACE) chairperson. Mary Jane is a former chair of CT PACE and is an elected official in New Milford.

Eunice Matthews-Armstead, Ph.D., MSW has been appointed to the Association of Social Work Boards/Council on Social Work Education Licensing and Regulation Task Force. Eunice is the chairperson of the BSW Program, Eastern CT State University.

Have news to share? Send it to Members in the News at bsperry.naswct@socialworkers.org



Chapter Welcomes New Staff for Membership and Continuing Education

We are pleased to announce the hiring of Kaitlin Binnington, BSW who joined the chapter staff in mid-December. Kaitlin will be working 15 hours per week focusing on membership retention and recruitment, plus assisting in increasing the chapter's continuing education programming.

Kaitlin has her BSW degree from Central Connecticut State University having graduated in December 2017. As a student Kaitlin volunteered with the chapter on recruiting social work students that included presentations to various schools. She also was a member of the Awards Committee, Annual Conference Committee, ELAN, Membership Committee and PACE Board of Trustees. Being well grounded in the chapter's committees and activities made her a strong candidate for the new position of Membership and Continuing Education Associate.

Kaitlin is the 2017 NASW/CT BSW Student of the Year and was the Vice President of the CCSU chapter of the Chi Upsilon Phi Alpha Social Work National Honor Society. She has volunteered for the Hands and Feet Project that assists homeless persons and is active in the Fellowship Church.

If you have ideas on CE workshops or are looking to have NASW/CT come to your school or place of employment to present about the work of the Chapter contact Kaitlin at 860-257-8066 or kbinnington.naswct@socialworkers.org

Dear Region 3 Member

Those of you living in Region 3 (Fairfield County etc.) may be curious about our FIRST TUESDAY NASW Regional meetings.

Here's a brief summary of a typical group: Last September 5th (the first Tuesday) we greeted a recent school of social work graduate, a newly minted LCSW, a 12 year seasoned hospice worker, and several senior clinicians in private practice.

The presentation, which awarded 1.5 CEC's was titled , "A Chance to Kvetch" presented by Shelly Berman, LCSW, (and the first Region 3 Rep from our beginnings in 2011) allowed for education and relaxed, mutually respectful, supportive interaction. Isn't that what we learned in group work courses?!

Our work is rewarding as well as challenging & ironically isolating. In these particularly difficult times there is no better time to join us and be reminded of the values and value of our profession. We share knowledge and skills, network, and exchange resource ideas as we learn of gaps in the continuum of care.

If you can, get to FIRST TUESDAY, 4:30-6, in the Westport Town Hall (Room 201). You'll be warmly welcomed by we who enjoy the many, many reasons for joining NASW. Our meeting on Tuesday, March 6 will feature Steve Karp, Executive Director of the CT Chapter and our meeting on April 5 (**NOTE THIS IS A SPECIAL EXCEPTION THURSDAY**) will be on Binge Eating Disorders. Stay tuned for detailed information sent by email several weeks before each gathering.

Dee Unterbach, DSW, LCSW

(Adjunct) Assistant Professor (Ret)
Region 3 Group Leader



Annual Awards Dinner, 2017



2017 was no exception to the tradition NASW/CT has established in hosting an amazing and inspiring evening where outstanding social workers and those who support the mission of social work in exemplary ways are honored! The above photo includes, from left to right, Nina Heller, PhD, LICSW, Educator of the Year; Kathleen Novak, LCSW, Social Worker of the Year; Irwin Krieger, LCSW, Lifetime Achievement Award; Mara Gottlieb, PhD, LMSW, Distinguished Achievement Award; Kaitlin Binnington, BSW Student of the Year; Jeff Currey, Legislator of the Year; and Sarah Howroyd, MSW Student of the Year. Missing is Michael Machniak, Esq., Public Citizen of the Year.

Representative Currey was introduced by Steve Karp, Executive Director of the Chapter as the recipient of the 2017 **Legislator of the Year**. Among his many contributions to the field of education and the mission of governing in Connecticut, Steve highlighted the fact that Representative Currey was the primary sponsor of An Act Concerning the Protection of Youth From Conversion Therapy, a legislative priority for NASW/CT in the 2017 legislative session. NASW/CT recognizes him for his leadership on this critical issue of LGBTQ rights and his ability to work tirelessly to attain bi-partisan co-sponsors for the bill to help assure its passage.

Michael Machniak, Esq., is the Executive Director of Guardian Ad Litem Services in Naugatuck and received the **Public Citizen of the Year** Award. Although out of state on the evening of the award dinner, he was introduced by Sara Valentino, LCSW, his colleague at Guardian Ad Litem. This grassroots endeavor, initially known as Melissa's Project, was started as a result of the communication gaps between the Probate Court, DMHAS, and community service organizations in servicing individuals in need of a Conservator. The innovative model that Attorney Machniak created provides intensive care coordination to assist individuals in the recovery process and has grown from servicing 12 individuals to 250!

Kaitlin Binnington, BSW Student of the Year, was introduced by one of her professors at Central CT State University, Joanne Leon, PhD, LCSW. Kaitlin was honored for her outstanding academic achievement at CCSU, her induction into the Social Work Chi Upsilon Phi Alpha Honor Society, and her enthusiastic involvement in NASW/CT, particularly her volunteer work in recruiting social work students to the organization. As of mid December, 2017 Kaitlin joined the staff at NASW/CT as Membership and Continuing Education Associate where she participates on the Conference Planning Committee, the Membership Committee, ELAN, and PACE.

Annual Awards Dinner, 2017 (Continued)

Sarah Howroyd, LMSW and **MSW Student of the Year** was introduced by John Bonnelly, MSW and Sandy Lomonico, MSW, MPH. Not only was Sarah recognized for her exceptional work as a social work student and her dedication to social justice, but because she, herself, is a vehicle for change and has shown many, many people what change can look like “in action”. Sarah co-founded, developed, and implemented HOPE, the Heroin and Opiate Prevention and Education initiative while placed at the Manchester Police Department for her internship. As a person who struggled with addiction at one time, she is now an accomplished and inspiring advocate for those dealing with drug use and opioid addiction. Sarah worked closely with Chief Montminy in Manchester to divert those caught in the cycle of addiction, aiming to treat the problem rather than sending people into the criminal justice system.

Mara Gottlieb, PhD, LMSW is a social justice activist who tackles topics such as racism, bias, white privilege, and diversity in ways that truly resonate. Introduced by Kathleen Callahan of the Connecticut Women’s Consortium, Mara was recognized for making a special contribution to the field of social work through her writings, her trainings, and her skill and passion for addressing what others might side step. While current events have exposed and exacerbated class, race, sex, gender, and ideological divisions, Mara’s provocative, insightful, and stimulating trainings offer hope that insight and change are possible. Mara was recognized with the **Distinguished Achievement Award** for her contributions to achieving this end.

Nina Heller, PhD, LICSW, the current Dean of the UCONN School of Social Work, was introduced by Edna Comer, PhD as the **Educator of the Year** awardee. Nina Heller has had a rich career as a clinical social worker, serving as a consultant to many statewide boards, as author of numerous publications, and as a faculty member for 23 years in both the MSW and the PhD programs. She has significantly contributed to the mentorship of many future social work educators and, as a testament to her fine teaching skills, has received both the Faculty Excellence in Teaching Award and the University of Connecticut Teaching Fellow Award. She is the consummate administrator, tapped for leadership for her ability to communicate, listen, inspire, and empower. She brings vision and creativity to her work and embodies the mission of social work, its values, and its ethics.

Kathleen Novak, LCSW has been practicing social work for over thirty years, exemplifying both micro and macro social work as a treatment provider, advocate, supervisor, convener, peacemaker, trainer, group facilitator, manager, and community organizer. Kathy was introduced by her colleague, Jennifer Vendetti, LMSW, at the Nurturing Families Network as the **2017 Social Worker of the Year**. In addition to direct practice in the Nurturing Families Network, Kathy has presented countless trainings, clinical supervision, and pioneered “In Home Cognitive Behavioral Therapy” in Connecticut for the treatment of depression in mothers. Her efforts to address Perinatal Mood and Anxiety Disorders with mothers in early childhood home visitation are nothing short of remarkable. She has worked with hundreds of mothers and their babies to provide, relief, hope, coping strategies, emotional resilience, and healing. As the Lead Clinician and Trainer with the Mind Over Mood Initiative at the University of CT Health Center she is development Connecticut’s first statewide network of home-based psychotherapists specializing in treating pregnant and parenting women, a dedicated group of infant and perinatal mental health therapists. She was honored for her substantial contributions to the field of social work over her career, particularly in the area of maternal and child health.

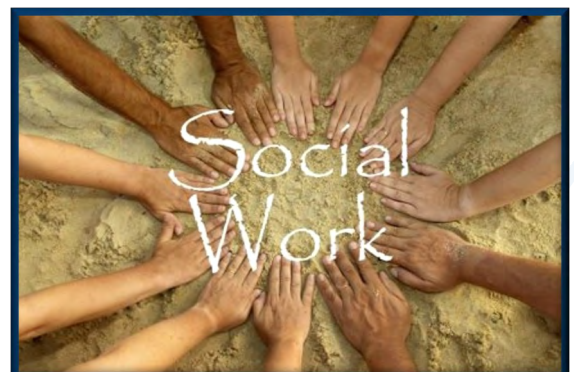
Irwin Krieger, LCSW was introduced by Amy Meyers, LCSW as the recipient of the 2017 **Lifetime Achievement Award**. A clinician for over 30 years, his contributions are a model of excellence. His career has been dedicated to the importance of human relationships, the dignity and worth of his clients, and generously assisting other social workers who seek his counsel and insights. In particular, he has been a stalwart advocate and hero to transgender teens and their families, elevating them from emotional despair to lives filled with acceptance and hope. Irwin has been a pioneer in the field of providing care and social work to those living with HIV/AIDS as well as the LGBTQ community. While this may seem commonplace in 2017, it was not the case 20, or even 10, years ago, when these marginalized populations were fighting for their rights and acceptance and self-esteem, often in the shadows. His publication “Helping Your Transgender Teen” has provided invaluable information and support to countless individuals, parents, and counselors. He is a consultant to the Transgender Care Team at Yale Health Center and has presented all over the country where he is welcomed as an outstanding trainer and educator, generously sharing his wealth of knowledge. He has created a network of providers in this field who are caring and knowledgeable and his impact is indelible.



New NASW/CT Members

Alison Fennell
Allison Lisbon
Alyssa Fiori
Amber Reyna
Amon Gitau
Ann Sandercox
Annette O'Neill
Ashley Kelly
Ashley Riggs
Benjamin Moore
Betsi Mufson
Brandy Petrone
Christine Sacane
Clara Burlinson
Courtney Hall
Daberal Castillo
Dana Tufariello
Daniel Belonick
Donna Underhill
Elana Plenby
Elise Husa
Emily Rioux
Ethan Shukis
Gina Teti
Hali Vaclavik
Haylee Glad
Hilary Dommu
H'Vanna Samuels
Jenna Arnowitt
Jennifer Argenio
Jennifer Catuccio
Jennifer Rainey
Jennifer Stewart

Jennifer Surdam
Jessica Tavares
Jody Truwit
Joselyne Canchanya
Kathryn Watkins
Kathy Pjura
Kristen Wiltshire
Kristin Lipinski
Latoya Watson
Laura Merrick
Laurie Reisman
Lindsay Mapes
Lynn Steinmayer
Maria Pensiero
Matthew Konowe
Michelle Melendez
Rachel Vogt
Rebecca Eisenberg
Seth Wallace
Sheila Duggan
Smana Seradieu
Stefanie Jimenez
Stephen Paul
Taylor Rispoli
Tracy Follert
Vickie Pagan
Wanda Mejias



Chapter Takes Lead in MSP Outcry

As part of the state budget passed in January the Legislature included significant cuts to the Medicare Savings Program that assists approximately 112,000 low income seniors and disabled persons who are on Medicare. The program utilizes Medicaid as a supplemental insurance plan to cover the monthly Medicare premium of \$134 and other out of pocket expenses not covered by Medicare. The budget cuts would remove over 68,000 individuals receiving assistance and reduce the help provided to thousands more. The elimination of funding was to begin on January 1, 2018. When this cut first became apparent most state legislators responded by saying they did not realize what they were cutting when voting for the budget.

The NASW/CT Aging Committee was one of the first groups to respond to this outrageous reduction in support to low income households. The Committee drafted a Letter to the Editor and asked all the Committee members to send it to their local daily and weekly newspapers. The letter, which mentions NASW/CT as the source of information, described the hurt that would be caused by the cut in funding and called for the Legislature to restore the funding. We know the letter ran in the Hartford, Norwich, Willimantic, Danbury and New London dailies, and weeklies in Rocky Hill/Cromwell and Durham/Middlefield. It was also submitted to other papers including New Haven, New Britain and Stamford.

Following the action of our Committee on Aging the Chapter's Legislative Committee took up the cause, sending out three legislative alerts to members over a 3 week period, calling upon members to contact their legislators, and more importantly, to have clients affected to call legislators. Action was also taken by the Chapter's Board of Directors, including submission of letters to newspapers. Meanwhile, chapter staff joined with other advocacy groups to plan actions and rally against the cuts.

The combination of work by seniors, disabled persons, advocates, and providers lit up the phones and computers of state legislators. The first success came quickly when DSS responded by delaying the start date by two months. That did not quell the anger, however, for legislators continued to receive an avalanche of angry constituents that within four weeks moved legislators to call a special session of the Legislature to restore the MSP funding for fiscal year 2018 (thru June 30, 2018). At this time Governor Malloy has put the changes on hold until June 30, 2018 and the Legislature has passed a bill that does the same.

NASW/CT remains in the forefront of advocacy groups in fighting to protect the MSP funding and to push for permanent restoration of funding that does not result in reductions to other Medicaid programs or low income supports as the means for paying for continued funding of MSP. As we enter the 2018 legislative session this will be a focus for the Chapter.



CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

National Association of Social Workers

Connecticut Chapter

2018 Clinical Social Worker of the Year

The *Clinical Social Worker Network* of the National Association of Social Workers, Connecticut Chapter is pleased to announce the 2018 call for nominations for the Clinical Social Worker of the Year Award. This award will be given by the *Clinical Social Worker Network* to a licensed clinical social worker (LCSW) in recognition of outstanding service in the field of clinical social work.

CRITERIA FOR AWARD

1. The awardee must be a Connecticut licensed clinical social worker in good standing and NASW/CT member in good standing.
2. The awardee's primary focus and employment is in direct clinical social work practice in an agency or private practice. The nominee must be engaged in direct practice with clients for at least 20-30 hours a week.
3. The LCSW must be nominated by a least two letters of support by two clinical social work practitioners, or one clinical social work practitioner and one professional person who works directly with the nominee in the capacity of supervisor, co-worker, or any other person to whom the nominee's work is known. Because of the nature of clinical social work practice, no comments submitted by clients, past and present, will be accepted.
4. In conjunction with what others consider good, effective, direct clinical practice the awardee will be engaged in other activities related to clinical practice. The activities deemed for consideration might include the following:
 - ◆ activity that enhances the area of clinical social work practice
 - ◆ activity that inspires other clinical social workers to broaden and deepen their clinical skills
 - ◆ activity that contributes to clinical social work practice knowledge
 - ◆ activity that promotes knowledge and visibility of clinical social work practice to the general public and in the profession of social work as a whole
 - ◆ a commitment to improving clinical social work practice
 - ◆ a willingness to share her/his work with others, with the purpose of mentoring teaching, supporting colleagues toward enhancing the practice of others
 - ◆ a commitment to regularly examining her/his own practice toward the goal of improving her/his own effectiveness with clients.

TO SUBMIT NOMINATIONS SEND THE LETTERS OF NOMINATION DESCRIBING HOW THE NOMINEE MEETS THE CRITERIA OF THIS AWARD

Send to: *Clinical Social Workers Network*, NASW/CT, 2139 Silas Deane Hwy., Suite 205, Rocky Hill, Connecticut 06067. Include contact information of the nominee and nominators.

Submission Deadline: March 31, 2018

Children on Sex Offender Registries at Greater Risk for Suicide Attempts, Study Suggests

-- Other risks include sexual assault, being approached by an adult for sex, and mental health problems

A new study led by researchers from the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health found that children who were legally required to register as sex offenders were at greater risk for harm, including suicide attempts and sexual assault, compared to a group of children who engaged in harmful or illegal sexual behavior but who were not required to register.

The most troubling findings, the authors say, pertained to suicidal intent and victimization experiences. The study found that registered children were four times as likely to report a recent suicide attempt in the last 30 days, compared to non-registered children. Registered children were nearly twice as likely to have experienced a sexual assault and were five times as likely to have been approached by an adult for sex in the past year. Registered children also reported higher rates of other mental health problems, more peer relationship problems, more experiences with peer violence and a lower sense of safety.

The findings, which were published online last week in the journal *Psychology, Public Policy and Law*, highlight the consequences of placing children on sex offender registries.

“The process of subjecting children to sex offender registration and notification requirements not only conveys to the child that he or she is worthless, it also essentially alerts the rest of the world that a child has engaged in an illegal sexual behavior,” says study lead Elizabeth Letourneau, PhD, a professor in the Bloomberg School’s Department of Mental Health and director of the Moore Center for the [Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse](#). “Not only is this policy stigmatizing and distressing, but it may make children vulnerable to unscrupulous or predatory adults who use the information to target registered children for sexual assault.”

Thirty-eight states subject children under age 18 to sex offender registration for offenses adjudicated in juvenile court while all states subject children to sex offender registration for offenses adjudicated in adult court (i.e., when children are waived to criminal court). This practice has been controversial from its beginnings in the mid-1990s due to concerns about the stigmatizing effects of labeling children—often for life—as “sex offenders.”

For the study, the researchers surveyed 256 children ages 12 to 17 across 18 states who had received treatment services for engaging in harmful and/or illegal sexual behaviors. Of these, 74 had been required to register as sexual offenders and/or subjected to public notification in which law enforcement alerted others to the child’s status as a registered offender. Some children were even included on public sex offender registry websites. Five girls were included in the sample, although analyses were ultimately reported only for the 251 boys. Compared to nonregistered children in this study, registered children had worse outcomes on measures assessing mental health problems, peer relationships, safety and exposure to sexual and nonsexual violence.

To identify registered and nonregistered children for this study, researchers obtained referrals from frontline practitioners (e.g., psychologists, counselors, social workers) who treat children for problem sexual behaviors. Children completed surveys by phone, on hard copies or on computers and steps were taken to assure confidentiality. Most of the children identified as male (98 percent) and were on average 15 years old. Half were white, more than one-quarter were African American and 18 percent identified as Hispanic. Most participants, 86 percent, identified as heterosexual.

"Policymakers have argued that if sex offender registration improves community safety it is worth the costs associated with it, which begs the question, does registrations work? Does it make communities safer? The answer is a resounding no," says Letourneau. "On top of that, our study suggests that these requirements may place children at risk of the very type of abuse the policy seeks to prevent, among other serious negative consequences. Our hope is that this study will convince even more policymakers that the time has come to abandon juvenile registration".

Previous research by Letourneau and others demonstrates that less than three percent of children adjudicated for a sexual offense go on to commit another. However, despite numerous studies, including this one, that have evaluated the effects of sex offender registration and notification policies, none have found any evidence that suggests that such policies prevent sexual abuse and assault or make communities safer and, in fact, the results from this study suggest that these policies may be harmful to children.

Previous research has examined the unintended effects of sex offender registration and notification on adults. This is the first study to look at the effects of registration policies on children.

“Effects of juvenile sex offender registration on child well-being: An empirical examination” was written by Elizabeth J. Letourneau, PhD; Andrew Harris, PhD; Ryan Shields, PhD; Scott Walfield, PhD; Geoff Kahn, MSPH; Amanda Ruzicka, MA; and Cierra Buckman, MHS.

The research was funded by the Open Society Foundation, the Annie E. Casey Foundation and the Moore Center for the Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse.





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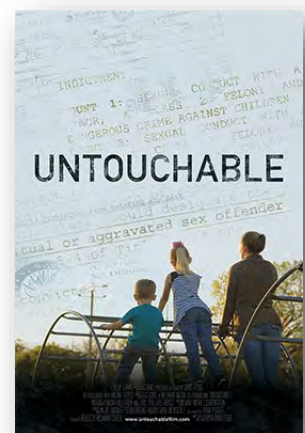
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Have you thought about taking on a leadership role in your chapter?

Or perhaps you know someone who would make a terrific chapter leader?

If so, now is the time to let us know!

Being an elected leader of the NASW/CT Chapter provides you with the opportunity to have a direct say in the chapter's programs, policies, use of resources, and future directions. It's also a terrific way to meet colleagues from throughout the state and to gain a feel for the pulse of social work practice in Connecticut. You will be providing the Association with your expertise and in turn making networking connections that will help in your own career advancement. Truly it is a win, win situation that's enjoyable too!

In developing the ballot, the Nominating Committee seeks to successfully meet the chapter's diversity plan, geographic representation, and representation from diverse fields of practice. All nominees are given full consideration and while we may not be able to offer all nominees a place on the ballot these individuals are often considered for other leadership appointments within the Chapter.

The Nominating Committee is seeking NASW/CT members to serve on the Board of Directors as **first vice president, BSW & MSW student representative, At-Large Member and Region 3 Representative** (Southwest/Western CT). The Committee is also seeking NASW/CT members to serve as **regional representatives to the Nominating Committee**. Terms of office for the Board are for three years, except for students who serve one year. Nominating Committee members serve 2 year terms. All terms begin July 1, 2018.

If you are interested in being nominated for a chapter leadership position, would like to know more about available elected opportunities or would like to recommend a colleague please contact Steve Karp at the Chapter Office – 860-257-8066 or skarp.naswct@socialworkers.org

How Social Workers Can Help Clients Qualify for Social Security Benefits



When you see firsthand that your client has a permanent disability, it can be extremely frustrating to know that they will be subjected to a long and difficult application process to get the benefits they need. Although you can't do anything to change the system and its requirements, there are things you can do to make the process easier for your client. Here are some top ways you might be able to help your client qualify for Social Security:

Educate Clients About Available Disability Benefits

Applying for Social Security Disability Insurance ([SSDI](#)) or Supplemental Security Income ([SSI](#)) can be complicated. Both programs pay monthly disability benefits, but are intended for different applicants. SSDI is structured to support disabled individuals who worked and paid Social Security taxes throughout life, while SSI supports low-income applicants like seniors and children who lack sufficient work history to qualify for SSDI. Social workers can advise their clients on which program they should apply for based on income and work history as well as:

- ◆ The best way to assemble medical and financial evidence for their claim
- ◆ Explain how the Social Security Administration (SSA) [grid rules](#) apply to their case if they are over 50.

The average client may be aware of the SSA disability programs, but remain in the dark about the eligibility and application process. This is where you can help.

Provide Written Confirmation of Client Impairment

The SSA determines many claims using its medical guide known as the [Blue Book](#), which lists known impairments and the criteria for each one. If your client's disability does not meet a Blue Book listing but they are genuinely unable to do the work they are qualified to perform, you can provide a written testimony regarding their limitations.

When writing your confirmation, use your personal observations to state how your client's physical and / or mental symptoms [impact their ability to function](#). Can they cook? Keep their home clean? Stand or sit for extended periods without pain?

Disability applicants who include written statements from social workers and other professionals in their application packages are more likely to be approved for benefits from those who don't. The more limitations you can describe, the better your client's odds of approval.

Speak for Your Client at an Appeals Hearing

The majority of Social Security disability applications are denied the first time around, so reassure your client that this is both normal and, in most cases, simply another step in the process. They have the right to file an appeal and have their application reviewed once again.

Should this result in another denial, you can help your client request a hearing in front of an administrative law judge. At this hearing, the judge will review the application, listen to testimony from any witnesses and professionals such as physicians and social workers, and decide whether to grant disability benefits or uphold the SSA's decision.

How Social Workers Can Help Clients Qualify for Social Security Benefits

You can help your client at this hearing by explaining your personal knowledge of their disability and confirming that their condition impairs their ability to work and provide for themselves. Judges often give a great deal of weight to professional input from primary care physicians, therapists, and social workers, so your testimony will be pivotal in getting your client the benefits they need.

Dealing with a permanent disability is difficult for anyone. As a social worker, you can play an important role in helping them qualify for benefits that give them a measure of financial independence and help them face the future with a more positive frame of mind.

Helpful Links

About SSDI: <https://www.ssa.gov/planners/disability/index.html>

About SSI: <https://www.ssa.gov/ssi/>

Grid Rules: https://www.ssa.gov/OP_Home/cfr20/404/404-app-p02.htm

Blue Book: <https://www.ssa.gov/disability/professionals/bluebook/AdultListings.htm>

Activities of Daily Living: <https://www.disability-benefits-help.org/glossary/activities-daily-living>

Apply Online: <https://www.ssa.gov/forms/apply-for-benefits.html>

Deanna Power
Director of Outreach
Disability Benefits Help

Chapter Submits Testimony on Dental Coverage

The Department of Social Services is proposing to amend the State Medicaid Plan to change the dental coverage available for adults on Medicaid. The chapter has concerns as to the proposed coverage limitations and submitted the following comments:

Setting a limit of \$1,000 annually is too low an amount to adequately cover adults under Medicaid. While we recognize that many commercial dental plans have limits between \$1,000-1,500 per year, we note that \$1,000 is at the lowest end and should not be the measure for Medicaid coverage. In addition, those with private dental coverage typically are individuals who have greater economic resources to cover needed care that exceeds the coverage limit. This is not the case for adults on Medicaid.

NASW/CT is also opposed to limiting to once per year an oral examination and prophylaxis. Persons covered by Medicaid frequently have greater health care needs than the non-Medicaid population. It is well known that non-dental health conditions frequently have early warning signs in the mouth and that early detection of possible health problems saves both money and misery. It is recommended for all that oral visits occur twice a year and we encourage DSS to allow for twice a year visits to be covered. This will provide for the recognized standard of care and will aid in early detection of certain diseases both of the mouth and otherwise.

While we recognize that prior authorization is a fallback position for acquiring additional coverage above the \$1,000 cap we are concerned that the requirements for attaining authorization will deter dentists from accepting Medicaid or pursuing authorizations. The staff time and costs of obtaining an authorization may not be worth it given reimbursement rates. Anything that discourages dentists from accepting Medicaid patients is a step backwards in care and we believe the authorization, that results from an insufficient maximum coverage amount, will limit availability of providers.

We urge DSS to rethink and revise its plans on dental coverage for adults under Medicaid.

Latino/a Social Workers Network 2018 Mentoring Program Q&A

What is the Latino/a Social Workers Network Mentoring Program?

The main purpose of the mentoring program is to provide Latino/a social work students with the unique and empowering opportunity to be mentored by senior professional social workers. This culturally attuned program focuses on developing and strengthening relationships between experienced social workers (mentors) and Latino/a social work students (mentees). The Latino/a cultural values of *familismo*, *personalismo*, *confianza*, and *colectivismo* play a vital role in building relationships between mentors and mentees. **The ultimate goal of the program is to help Latino/a social work students more competently and effectively navigate the challenges of practicing in a variety of professional settings.**

What is the format or structure of the Mentoring Program?

The 2018 Mentoring Program is a hybrid of our successful one-on-one mentoring program and innovative community mentoring model. The community mentoring portion of the program will consist of five in-person interactive and discussion-based meetings. These five community meetings will focus on (1) program orientation; (2) social work professionalism; (3) negotiation skills; (4) cultural development; and (5) program evaluation and celebration. Food will be provided at each meeting. There will also be an opportunity to meet as a community at the Mentoring Program's fun annual summer picnic in Summer 2018.

One-on-one relationships between mentors and mentees will be established at the first meeting through "Speed Mentoring." Mentors and mentees will then communicate outside of community meetings and interact with each other via phone, online, and/or in-person to develop one-on-one mentoring relationships. The Mentoring Program liaisons will periodically check in with mentors and mentees on their relationship and help resolve any issues or problems that arise.

Who can participate in the Mentoring Program?

This program is open to all Latino/a MSW students who are NASW members (may join upon starting the program) and in their last two years of graduate education. Potential mentors should identify as Latino/a, possess MSW degrees, be an NASW member (or join upon starting the program), and have at least five years of post-MSW professional experience. With the exception of the first meeting, all past mentors and mentees are welcome to join participants for community meetings.

What is the time commitment needed to participate in the Mentoring Program?

All 2018 Mentoring Program meetings are held on the following Fridays, 6-8pm, at the University of Saint Joseph, Bruyette Athenaeum, Carol Autorino Center Reception Room (2nd Floor): *February 23, April 13, June 1, September 28, and December 7*. The University of Saint Joseph is located on 1678 Asylum Avenue, West Hartford, CT 06117.

Mentors and mentees are expected to attend all five of these meetings.

Please consider your availability on these dates/times before applying for the program.

If you're interested in applying as a mentor or mentee or would like more information, please contact Network Co-chair, Alberto Cifuentes, Jr., LMSW, at LSWCTMentoring@gmail.com.

Join A Chapter Committee for 2018

The work of NASW/CT is largely accomplished through the Chapter's committees and Board of Directors. Committees give you an opportunity to become a Chapter leader, network with members who have similar interests, and advance your professional interests utilizing the resources and support of NASW/CT. As we start the New Year we invite our members to join a Chapter Committee. Most committees meet in-person with call-in capacity, though some meet primarily by conference call and/or web meetings.

Here are our active committees that are open to all members:

- Annual Awards Dinner Planning Committee**
- Annual Conference Planning Committee**
- Clinical Social Workers Network**
- Committee on Aging**
- CT Alliance of School Social Workers**
- Continuing Education Committee**
- Diversity Committee**
- ELAN (Education and Legislative Action Network)**
- Finance Committee**
- Latino/a Social Workers Network**
- Macro Social Workers Network**
- Membership Committee**
- Nominating and Leadership Identification** – requires election or appointment
- PACE (Political Action for Candidate Election)** – requires appointment

If you are interested in learning more about the committees email [in-fo.naswct@socialworkers.org](mailto:info.naswct@socialworkers.org) or call (860) 257-8066. Basic information on each committee can be found at <http://naswct.org/about/committees-networks/>

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Registration details and the brochure describing all the workshops will be available at www.naswct.org the middle of February 2018.

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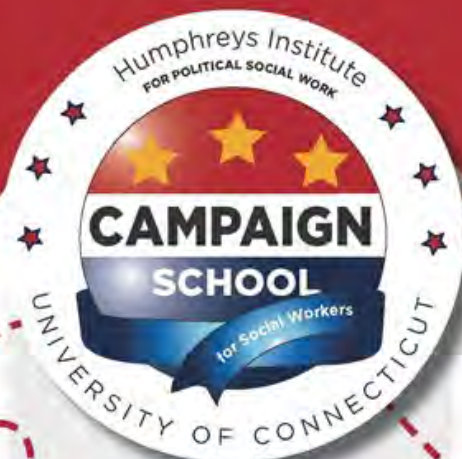
Yes, we would like to join you for this occasion.

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