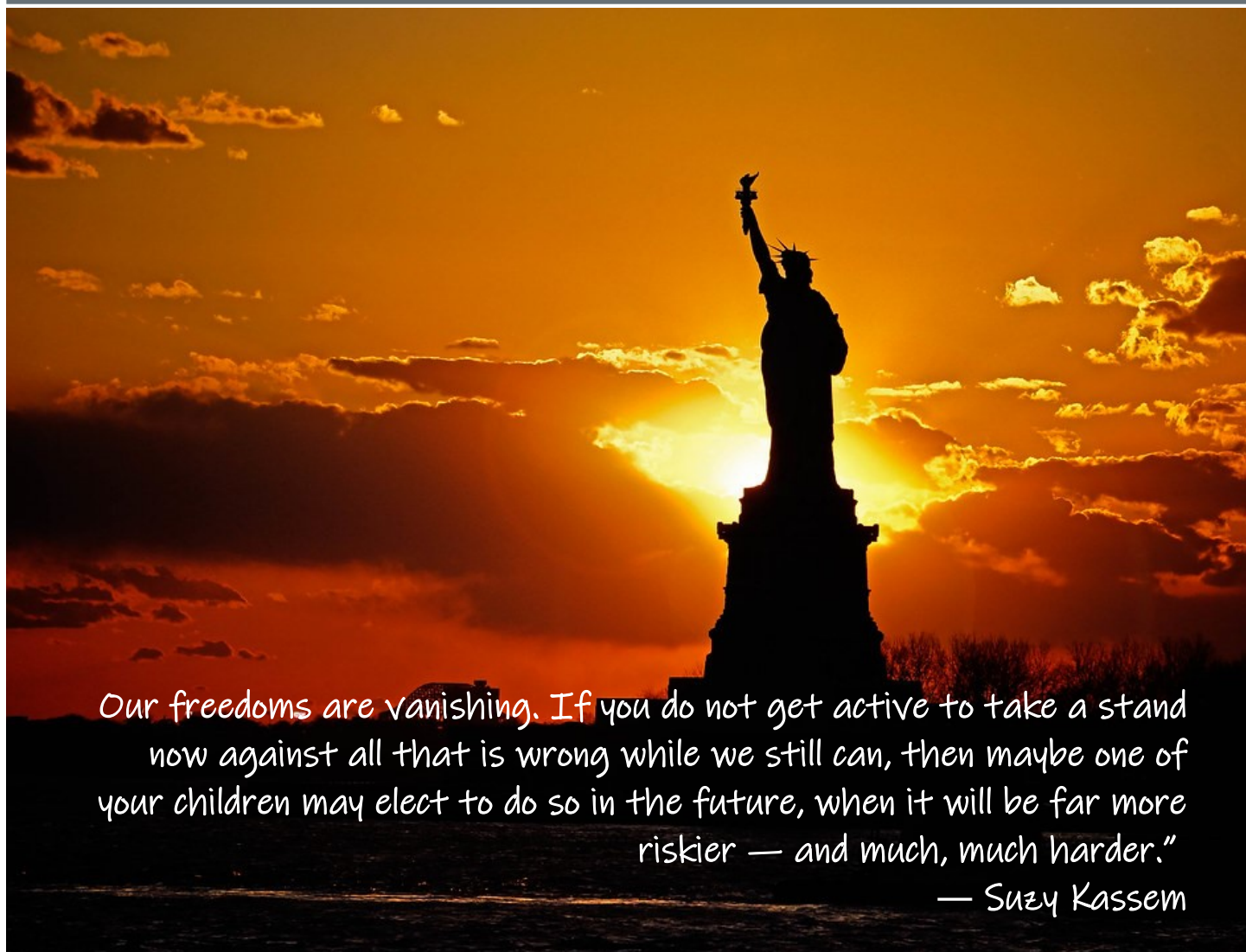


CONNECTIONS

April—June 2019



Our freedoms are vanishing. If you do not get active to take a stand now against all that is wrong while we still can, then maybe one of your children may elect to do so in the future, when it will be far more riskier — and much, much harder.”
— Suzy Kassem

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Michelle Kenefick, LCSW, SEP
President, Connecticut Chapter

Busy Times Leading Up to Summer

Summer has arrived!!! And so much has happened since our last newsletter and much continues to happen here at NASW Connecticut!!! We have been BUSY!!!

The biggest news that hopefully everyone is aware of, is that we secured Title Protection ON OUR FIRST EFFORT!!! This is a HUGE accomplishment and one that we should all be incredibly proud to have achieved. Many, many of our members made calls to legislators and helped us phone bank. This was a real grassroots effort and quintessentially "social work." We are grateful for all your efforts and especially for Steve Wanczyk-Karp's efforts and leadership. There were so many legislators who advocated for us and who co-sponsored the bills. A very special thank you to our legislative co-chairs Maggie Goodwin and Ashley Blanchard for their "boots on the ground" relationship building and relentless efforts. Without our coordinated effort, this would not have happened!!! Kudos!!!

The annual conference was another big success. It was our largest ever and was sold out for the 3rd year in a row! Workshops were diverse and designed to strengthen our skill sets and to better enable us to serve those we work with. We continue to be in awe of the skill and expertise that we see in both presenters and attendees.

We continue to look for creative ways to build our membership activities and networking opportunities. We continue to offer regional meetings on a quarterly basis and have recently added restaurant nights at Buffalo Wild Wings and Pepe's Pizza where

the restaurants offered a percentage of meals purchased to be donated back to NASW CT.

We are focused on our continuing education opportunities bringing highly skilled presenters to various venues in different areas of the state offering trainings to further our professional growth and development. We know that this benefits us as professionals and that growth extends to the people and communities we serve. Stay tuned to your email for upcoming trainings!

We want to acknowledge and extend gratitude and appreciation to those Board members who are completing their terms: Beth Sharkey, Amy Myers, Joanne Leon, Brenda Bryant and Priscilla Leon. Your dedication, commitment and volunteerism to benefit the members of NASW CT and the Chapter itself is unparalleled.

And finally, we are looking forward to new Board members beginning their terms this summer with a new Board Orientation in September. New members always bring renewed enthusiasm and creativity to the table literally and figuratively and that is always welcomed!

Remember that we are always seeking volunteers to become members on our committees. Keep in mind these opportunities are not time intensive but offer incredibly rich opportunities to be meaningfully involved and connected with the Chapter.

And don't forget to register early for the Annual Dinner – that sells out, too!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Have a great summer, safe travels and enjoy some well-deserved time off and rest!

Balancing Work and Private Life



Steve Wanczyk-Karp, LMSW
*Executive Director
Connecticut Chapter*

If you are like me, you know that finding a balance between one's work and private life is not easy. As social workers, our jobs are not just a job, it is a vocation. Taking our work home, literally and emotionally, is an occupational hazard. There are many nights when I have lain awake, thinking about a client (in my direct service days) or a legislative bill stuck in committee or chamber. If left unchecked by us we risk burnout, where we no longer can be effective with our clients because we have not protected ourselves and our private time.

Newer practitioners and interns often will ask me how do you avoid being overwhelmed? I answer by telling them it has taken me many years to get to the point where I actually make sure to reserve down time and private time. And it still remains a struggle not to respond to emails at night when I am home on weekday evenings or over a weekend. To look at a text or see an email come in and say to myself, it can wait until I get back to work hours. Yet I know that if I do not force myself to let work go, I will reach the point where I am not functioning at full capacity. So, I tell those who ask how I do not get burnt out, that your employer, your clients, and yourself deserve the best you can be. That can only happen when you take care of yourself. Social workers are great advocates for clients; we just are not so terrific at advocating for ourselves.

There is another aspect to this need for privacy that is not related to what we choose to do. It is about

what others expect of us. As a macro practitioner in a high visibility position within the profession it is common to see social workers or other advocates, during non-work time, wanting to discuss work. My kids recently told me that when growing up they expected to have someone come over and talk work while we were out having family time. My wife, too, has experienced this and I frankly have not been very good at directing a quick end to the conversation by saying can I get back to you when I am at work. Maybe it is due to our always being a social worker at all times. Or maybe it is because we carry so many devices and ways to be reached that the whole notion of time off from work is rapidly diminishing. Whatever the reasons, we all need to have non-work lives and I am trying really hard to make that a reality. When you see a colleague on "off-hours", saying a quick hello is cool, talking business not so cool. So, start by saying is this an ok time to talk? Give your colleague an easy way to say yes or no.

I recall a number of years ago that the UCONN School of Social Work had an evening forum on the topic of peace and social activism. Being very interested in this topic I arrived in blue jeans and a t-shirt, sat in the back row, and was happily listening until the facilitator turned to me said "Steve, what is NASW's position on this issue". First off, I thought, so much for just being an attendee, and secondly, I had no idea what NASW's position was, or if we even had a policy statement on the matter! In June

Balancing, continued

I went with my wife to her alma mater, Smith College School of Social Work, to hear a speaker. It was a terrific presentation and no one knew who I was. There are times I just want to go to a social work event as a regular attendee. To learn, to enjoy and to have no responsibility for the program!

I had a therapist who told me that if she saw me in public, she will not acknowledge me unless I said hello first. Perhaps many of you say the same to your clients? It is a good rule overall, though perhaps we need not be as stringent when it is a non-client situation. Saying hello to a colleague is fine by me. I saw a member with his family at a fair and we stopped for quick introductions. It was very nice to meet his daughter and parents. I have also had a colleague stop by to discuss the legislative session at a movie. Not as enjoyable.

For me, I enjoy downtime just being with my wife, reading, taking nature walks, doing photography, listening to music, and watching movies. I am a big history buff so love going to historical sites and reading non-fiction historical books. As I close in on 6 months without a vacation and having spent the last five months overseeing the title protection campaign, I am so ready for a break. We all have demanding jobs; it comes with the territory. We all need private time and we all need to remember that our colleagues do too. It reminds me of a social worker who told me, "My family knows not to bother me for the first 45 minutes when I get home, then I am good for the night." That is someone who has found their way to wind down and leave work behind. I hope all of you found ways to take off your professional hat and, if you have not yet done so, that you will find a way to best care for yourself.

Members in the News



Margaret (Peggy) Borelli, MSW has been selected to receive a Fund for Teachers fellowship to visit and study how Victoria and Tasmania Australia schools incorporate social emotional learning into their school day. Joined by a special education teacher, they hope to replicate some of the practices they will observe, to be applied to a self-contained behavior program. Peggy is a member of the steering committee of the CT Alliance of School Social Workers, a Network of NASW/CT.

Amy DiMauro, LCSW has been named the Vice President of Operations for the Root Center for Advanced Recovery. Amy is the current National NASW Board of Directors Representative for the NYC and CT chapters, and a former Chapter President. The Root Center works with teens and adults with 9 locations across the state.

Francis Furmanek, MSW has been accepted as a Research Fellow in the Inaugural Class of Poster-Master's Fellows for the Institute for Justice research and Development, housed at Florida State University's College of Social Work. The Fellowships are designed to prepare the profession of social work to practice and conduct research with criminal justice-involved adults and their families. Francis graduated from Sacred Heart University's Graduate Social Work Program.

Do you have news for us? Send your information to skarp.naswct@socialworkers.org

2019-2020 Board of Directors

President:	Michelle Kenefick	Member at Large:	Rosaline Brown
President Elect:	Shannon Perkins	Member at Large:	Kathleen Gilbert
1st Vice President:	Nancy Hubbard	Member at Large:	To Be Announced
2nd Vice President for Budget and Finance:	To Be Announced	Member at Large:	Michael Marshall
Secretary:	Diane Michaelsen	Member at Large:	Karen McLean
Region 1 Representative:	Joanne León	MSW Student Representative:	Brenda Bryant
Region 2 Representative:	Nathan Lipkind	BSW Student Representative:	Taylor Andress
Region 3 Representative:	Cheryl Wilson	<i>*Names in bold are newly elected or appointed or re-elected</i>	



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Clinical Social Worker of the Year Announced

The Chapter's Clinical Social Workers Network has announced the 2019 Clinical Social Worker of the Year Award. **Stacey Shaia, LCSW** is a clinical director of the Outpatient Center for North American Family Institute (NAFI CT), working in the Willimantic clinic. Stacey has been with NAFI CT for over four years and was nominated by three colleagues: Project Director, MST Clinical Supervisor, and a Clinician, all from NAFI CT.

Stacey supervises all staff and interns at her clinic, while also carrying a clinical caseload and providing direct services to clients. Stacey expertise includes MST, TF-CBT, MST-PSB, handling clients with problem sexual behaviors, and clinical supervision.

Here is just some of what her nominators had to say:

"Stacey is quick to share her clinical knowledge and expertise. Stacey's passion for healing and the therapeutic process is innate and holistic. Stacey's ability to easily engage even the seemingly most resistant client is evidence of her commitment to motivating change".

"Stacey's ability to engage clients of all ages is remarkable to watch. Stacey has cultivated a reputation that she can have success with even the most challenging of clients."

"I have worked as a Supervisor in the Behavioral Health field for over a decade and I have not come across another Clinical Social Worker that embodies the spirit of the profession more than Stacey Shaia."

"She along with the help of others has started up this program and has made it flourish into one of the most sought-after outpatient clinics in our community."

"Stacey brings smiles and laughter to the office and seems to always have a positive attitude even while under tremendous pressure."



The NASW/CT Clinical Social Workers Network, in collaboration with NAFI, Inc. in Willimantic had a reception for Stacey. Approximately 25 of Stacey's co-workers attended, along with her parents. Her supervisor and co-workers spoke about Stacey's commitment to the job and what a pleasure it is to work with her. Dr. Jo Nol, LCSW, co-chair of the Clinical Social Workers Network spoke about the importance of recognizing clinicians, who unlike macro social workers, perform their work with confidentiality that does not lend itself to public praise. Stephen Wanczyk-Karp, LMSW, the Chapter's Executive Director, presented Stacey with a plaque and spoke of the strong letters of recommendation that were received in her nomination.

The Clinical Social Worker of the Year award is given annually to a clinical social worker who, amongst other criteria, enhances the area of clinical social work; inspires other clinical social workers to deepen their skills; shows a commitment to improving clinical practice; is willing to share her/his work with others for improving others practice; and is a member of NASW in good standing. The award was presented to Stacey Shaia on June 18th at the NAFI CT clinic in Willimantic where Stacey is employed.



TRAUMA INFORMED PRACTICE WITH LATINX IMMIGRANT FAMILIES

DR. LORRAINE MOYA SALAS

**Join us on Wednesday, July 17, 2019
for an engaging, inspiring, educational program
presented by Lorraine Moya Salas, PhD, MSW**

**Western Connecticut State University
43 Lake Avenue Extension
Danbury, CT 06810**

(In the Ballroom on the WCSU Westside Campus Center)

8:30 to 9:00 Registration, Light Breakfast

9:00 to 11:00 Presentation

Many members of oppressed groups are often wounded by individual, community, race-based, historical and/or intergenerational trauma. Immigrants in particular may endure traumatic experiences in their home countries only to encounter harsh and traumatic experiences upon arriving in a host country. Latinx and immigrant community members often do not receive the services and therapy needed to inspire healing and wellness. This workshop will demonstrate how trauma-informed care was utilized in one community center to foster collective healing. In the absence of clinical care, healing was nurtured by building on the cultural assets and traditions of the participants. The care provided was holistic and included civic engagement, peer-to-peer support, and strategies such as storytelling to foster empowerment. Dr. Salas' presentation of a pathway to healing and connection through the creation of an environment that promotes wellness will resonate long after you attend the training!

Dr. Lorraine Moya Salas, PhD, MSW joined the Social Work Department at WCSU in 2017. She has over 30 years of experience working in urban school settings, inpatient facilities, and in community practice with Latino immigrant families.

**Approved for 2 Cultural Competency Continuing Education Hours by NASW/CT
Cost: \$10, Student \$ 30, NASW MEMBER \$ 55, Not a Member Yet**

Register online at www.naswct.org

Call 860 257-8066 if you need more information
Co-sponsored by the WCSU Social Work Department and NASW/CT

Title Protection Campaign a Success

A year ago, the Chapter' Board of Directors approved pursuing social work title protection. Almost 12 months later the CT Legislature passed a bill that protects the title of social worker for most settings. Here's how that all came to be.

The first step was to research how many other states had full title protection, as legislators often prefer to act on proposed laws when other states have already done it, especially surrounding states. Easier said than done, we had interns look up each state's licensure laws, we asked all the other NASW chapters if they had title protection, and we sought information from the Association of Social Work Boards. Ultimately, we determined that at least 35 states had full title protection, including Massachusetts, Maine, Vermont and New Jersey.

Having identified the states with full title protection, the next step was to analyze each state's law. We looked at which states had exceptions to the statute and what those exceptions were (most commonly public agencies). We looked at which states had penalties and what the penalty was. We also sought common language that we could use.

Next, we looked at CT statutes to determine which professions in CT had title protection and what the language, exceptions and penalties were. Legislators often turn to current statute when drafting bills. We identified 10 professions that had statutory protection of their title, including Psychologists. Having another behavioral health profession covered was helpful in our arguments for our own protection.

Now, speaking of other professions, we sought the support of other related professions. Legislators do not take well to the professions disagreeing with each other. We ultimately had support from psychologists, psychiatrists, marital & family therapists, professional counselors and art therapists. Of these groups only the psychiatrists did not introduce a bill in the legislature this year, and only NASW/CT got a bill passed.

It was necessary to get the consent of the Department of Public Health as the state agencies with cognizance on an issue have tremendous influence in the legislature. Discussions with DPH were successful and DPH agreed with the language in the bill. Negotiations later occurred with DCF and DAS (handles state personnel matters). DCF was very supportive and willing to require all of their new social workers have or attain a social work degree within 10 years of hire. Unfortunately that idea was struck down by DAS, however DAS asked that the current preference in hiring of BSWs and MSWs for the state's social worker classification be put into the bill, which is a huge win for social work.

Given that the original intent of the bill was to cover all work settings we had discussions with the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) union. The union was adamant that the state agencies be exempted in the bill. DAS said the same, due to collective bargaining issues and costs of requiring all state social workers to have a social work degree. The final bill language carved out state agencies and grandfathered in municipal employees, in accordance with collective bargaining agreements, because the bill would have died without these givebacks.

Fact sheets were drafted, reviewed, revised, and submitted to all legislators. Given that many legislators know little about social work as a profession, we had to educate them on who we are, how we are educated, what we do, and why we needed title protection. Likewise, we drafted and redrafted legislative alerts throughout the session, each tailored to specific audiences and/or targeted to specific legislators. In the final days of the session a fact sheet just for the Senate was quickly (within an hour) written, revised and distributed.

We met with all 7 of the social work legislators to get their backing and we asked each of them to introduce bills. The idea was to show wide support

Title Protection continued

so that this did not appear to be a “favor” bill to a constituent that could be ignored. Once session began, we also met with the co-chairs and ranking members of the Public Health Committee and the co-chairs of the Labor Committee, the two committees that the bill would need to go through so that we could get the chairs to support raising the bill for a hearing. To our surprise the Labor Committee co-chairs liked the idea so much they raised a bill in the Labor Committee, even though the Public Health Committee normally has primary cognizance on such matters. Additional meetings with other key legislators also took place throughout the session.

We ended up with public hearings in both the Public Health and Labor Committees which meant organizing people to testify in both committees and having numerous supporters submit written testimony. Plus, the legislative office that drafted the bill language ignored the language we submitted, so we ended up with a bill that would have restricted title protection to licensed social workers. This led to the interesting dynamic of telling people to support the title protection bill but not the bill’s language! Getting the correct language proved challenging for most of the session and was not corrected until the House took up the bill for a vote that included first passing an amendment with the final negotiated language. At the public hearings we had a strong showing from practitioners, schools, and students that led to unanimously passing the bill in Public Health and passing the bill with only 3 no votes in the Labor Committee. Constituent lobbying of committee members occurred just prior to the public hearings and following the hearings.

The bill’s next stop was in the House where it needed to be successfully passed. That vote came in late May, with the House passing the bill 111-25, with all Democrats voting for it and over half of the Republicans voting for it. Prior to the vote NASW/CT coordinated a massive grassroots campaign to get members to contact their legislators. Most, if

not all House members had been lobbied. NASW/CT also sought co-sponsors of the bill and ultimately, we had 30 House members sign on, including 3 Republicans.

The Senate came next and the lobbying process began all over again. In the Senate we got 12 co-sponsors, 9 Democrats and 3 Republicans. Amongst the co-sponsors was the Majority Leader and the Minority Leader, which proved to be critical to getting the bill called. The Senate waited to the last day of the session to take up House bills causing a nerve-racking day. We worked the phones, had members send emails and waited, and waited, and waited for the vote. Our supporters in the Senate worked all day to get the bill called for a vote and by evening with no vote in sight we asked the House social work legislators to lobby their senate colleagues. Finally, at 11:40 PM with 20 minutes left in the session the bill passed the Senate 35-1!

Throughout the session NASW/CT mobilized social workers to contact their legislators. The Chapter’s numerous emails, often followed up by phone calls to members, made it possible to pass title protection on the first try. We thank all of those members and non-members who contacted their legislators, participated in phone banking, submitted testimony, testified in person, spoke with legislators, donated to the cost of the campaign, and encouraged us in our persistence. We also give a special thanks to our contracted lobbyists, Gallo & Robinson who worked so well with us and did a splendid job of advocating for us at the Legislature. This, dear reader, is the **POWER OF SOCIAL WORK**.

The bill will take effect on October 1, 2019. To read the specific provisions of the bill see the article in this newsletter on Provisions of HB 7198: An Act Concerning Social Workers.

NASW/CT Report on Key Bills in 2019 Legislative Session

The chapter submitted 36 pieces of testimony, far exceeding any previous year. Here are the outcomes on key bills that were lobbied during the session. We thank all of our members who took action on many of these bills. Despite the passed list being quite a bit smaller than the list of bills that died, it was in many ways a successful session, with the bills that did pass being quite significant. The area of greatest disappointment was in health care where little progress was made, though there was a small expansion in eligibility for HUSKY A Parents. Included in the budget.

Bills Passed

Social Work Title Protection: Makes CT at least the 36th state to have generic title protection. Codifies preference in hiring of BSWs & MSWs for state social worker series.

Paid Family & Medical Leave: The chapter has been an active member of a coalition that has worked on this for at least 4 years.

Minimum Wage: This bill raises the minimum wage over several years to \$15.00 per hour and then indexes annual increases.

Mental Health Parity: The bill adds increased transparency and reporting to assure that insurers are following parity law.

Minority Teacher Recruitment: Creates systems to encourage minority candidates to attain teaching degrees.

Early Voting: Calls for a vote to amend the CT Constitution to allow for early voting. Needs to be passed again in 2020 and if passed again goes on the ballot for voters to decide in 2022.

LMFT & LPC Licensure and Art Therapist Licensure: Created multi-level licensing for MFTs and PCs; new licensing program for Art Therapists. Both passed in the House and died in the Senate. However, the language of the bills was inserted in the Implementer Bill (a massive bill that implements the budget and often has other items inserted) and were passed thru the Implementer bill.

Bills Died

Public Option: Would have created a public option for medical insurance for small businesses and

individuals. Passed House but died in Senate.

Importation of Prescription Drugs: Called for CT to seek federal permission to import prescription drugs from Canada. Originally in public option bill than own bill. Died.

Original Birth Certificate for Adoptees: Passed Senate but died in House. NASW has been part of coalition working on this for years.

Threatening a Protective Services Worker: Increased penalty for threatening a protective services worker. Died in the Senate.

Medicaid Coverage for Clinical Social Work Services in Home Care: Would have required Medicaid to pay for clinical social work services provided by home care agencies. Died in Committee due to increase in cost to Medicaid.

Aid in Death & Dying: Would have allowed for terminally ill persons to be aided in dying. Died in Committee.

Prescriptive Rights for Psychologists: Allow psychologists with added special training to prescribe behavioral health medications. Died in Committee.

LGBTQ Health and Human Services Network: Creates a board to establish better systems of care for LGBTQ individuals. Passed House but died in Senate.

Election Day as a Holiday: To have Election Day declared a state holiday. Died in Senate.

Insurance Examinations to be Offered in Spanish: To have certain exams for being able to sell

Report on Key Bills continued

insurance be offered in Spanish. Died in Committee.

Non-discrimination Based on Gender in Workplace and Schools: Added protections against gender discrimination. Passed Senate but died in House.

Solitary Confinement: To abolish solitary confinement. Died in Senate.

Adjusting Occupational License Fees: Would have reduced the application fee for certain

occupational licenses and paid for it by raising the fee for renewing said licenses. NASW opposed this bill. Died in committee.

Adjusting Occupational License Fees: Would have reduced the application fee for certain occupational licenses and paid for it by raising the fee for renewing said licenses. NASW opposed this bill. Died in committee.

Co-Sponsors of HB 7198: An Act Concerning Social Workers (Title Protection)

NASW/CT thanks the following 42 legislators who co-sponsored the social work title protection bill. If you see your senator or representative on the list, please send them a thank you email.

The list is in order of when legislators put their name on the bill.

[Rep. David Michel, 146th Dist.](#)
[Sen. Steve Cassano, 4th Dist.](#)
[Rep. Josh Elliott, 88th Dist.](#)
[Rep. Jillian Gilchrest, 18th Dist.](#)
[Rep. Cristin McCarthy Vahey, 133rd Dist.](#)
[Rep. Robin E. Comey, 102nd Dist.](#)
[Rep. Peter A. Tercyak, 26th Dist.](#)
[Rep. Jeff Currey, 11th Dist.](#)
[Sen. Gary A. Winfield, 10th Dist.](#)
[Rep. Quentin W. Phipps, 100th Dist.](#)
[Rep. Anne Meiman Hughes, 135th Dist.](#)
[Rep. Michelle L. Cook, 65th Dist.](#)
[Rep. Jason Doucette, 13th Dist.](#)
[Rep. Jill Barry, 31st Dist.](#)
[Rep. Kevin Ryan, 139th Dist.](#)
[Sen. Mary Daugherty Abrams, 13th Dist.](#)
[Rep. Rick Lopes, 24th Dist.](#)
[Sen. James J. Maroney, 14th Dist.](#)
[Rep. Gary A. Turco, 27th Dist.](#)
[Rep. Mary M. Mushinsky, 85th Dist.](#)
[Rep. Dorinda Borer, 115th Dist.](#)

[Rep. Pat Wilson Pheanious, 53rd Dist.](#)
[Rep. Catherine F. Abercrombie, 83rd Dist.](#)
[Rep. Matthew Ritter, 1st Dist.](#)
[Rep. Geraldo C. Reyes, 75th Dist.](#)
[Rep. Tom Arnone, 58th Dist.](#)
[Sen. George S. Logan, 17th Dist.](#)
[Sen. Julie Kushner, 24th Dist.](#)
[Rep. Lucy Dathan, 142nd Dist.](#)
[Rep. Brenda L. Kupchick, 132nd Dist.](#)
[Sen. Matthew L. Lesser, 9th Dist.](#)
[Rep. Philip L. Young, 120th Dist.](#)
[Rep. Hilda E. Santiago, 84th Dist.](#)
[Rep. Gregory Haddad, 54th Dist.](#)
[Sen. Catherine A. Osten, 19th Dist.](#)
[Rep. Robin Green, 55th Dist.](#)
[Sen. Bob Duff, 25th Dist.](#)
[Sen. Saud Anwar, 3rd Dist.](#)
[Rep. Jason Perillo, 113th Dist.](#)
[Sen. Kevin D. Witkos, 8th Dist.](#)
[Rep. Toni E. Walker, 93rd Dist.](#)
[Sen. Heather S. Somers, 18th Dist.](#)

Provisions of HB 7198: An Act Concerning Social Workers

The social work title protection law will take effect on October 1, 2019. Most bills take effect either July 1 or October 1. This bill is October 1 so that employers can be informed and have time to change job titles as needed.

Here it what the title protection law will do:

- Reserves the title of Social Worker to those individuals who hold a baccalaureate or master degree in social work from a Council on Social Work Education accredited program or a doctoral degree in social work. Only those with such a degree can call themselves a social worker or use the title of social worker.
- Restricts advertising of “social work services” to those individuals who hold a social work degree, as defined in the above bullet point.
- Grandfathers in municipal employees who have the job title of social worker but not the degree in social work. Such individuals can only use the title of social worker within their current municipal employment and must have been employed with the job title of social worker prior to July 1, 2019.
- Exempts state agencies from title protection.
- Puts into CT statute the current practice of giving preference in hiring to BSWs and MSWs for the position of social worker within the state social worker job classification. The state has given preference in hiring to applicants with social work degrees since 2014. This assures that a new administration cannot unilaterally eliminate the preference, as it is now statutorily required.



State Representatives who supported and worked for social work title protection from left to right: Toni Walker, Rick Lopes, Pat Wilson Pheanious, Cristin McCarthy Vahey, Jillian Gilchrest, Jonathan Steinberg, and Anne Hughes. All but Representative Steinberg are social workers.

Celebrating Title Protection

Given the importance of this achievement and the effort expended by the chapter office, the PACE and ELAN committees, our lobbyists, those who made the phone calls, and the State Representatives who signed on to sponsor the bill, PACE and ELAN decided to CELEBRATE! On June 21 a reception for committee members, the lobbying firm of Gallo & Robinson, board members, and—in particular—our director, driver, motivator, and galvanizing agent Steve Wanczyk-Karp was held at On the Border in Rocky Hill to mark the occasion.

Beth Sharkey,
Board Secretary (left),
Sharon Cutts,
phone banker (right)
with Steve (center)



Steve Wanczyk-Karp
Title Protector



Bill Welz (left) and Joe
Grabarz (right) lobbyists
with Steve (center)



Steve with his son,
Jeremy Karp



Thanks to all who helped make this possible!

Professional Development



The *Salary Negotiation Professional Development and Networking* event was recently held by National Association of Social Workers/CT in collaboration with the University of Connecticut School of Social Work and UConn Foundation. The event was held at the Still Hill Brewery in Rocky Hill and received a good turnout. Panelists included Nelson Bayron, LCSW, who is currently a private practice therapist; Jeannette Perez, Human Resource Director of the Department of Children and Families; and, Susan Walkama, LCSW, President and Chief Executive Officer of Wheeler Clinic. Nina Heller, Dean of UConn School of Social Work also attended the event.

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A Most Excellent 2019 Annual Conference!

Thank you to all who attended the 2019 Annual Conference and participated in creating landmark attendance numbers. This year's Keynote Speaker, Darrell Wheeler, PhD, MPH, ACSW, provost and senior vice president for academic affairs at Iona College in New Rochelle, NY started off the day with a well-received presentation entitled "What Really Drives the state of dis-equity in the US Today: Elevating by going beyond our professional and personal comfort zones". Dr. Wheeler's career reflects a deep commitment to social work practice and the social work community and his call to action on May 3rd was inspiring. Social workers are in a unique position to make meaningful change. They own the tools to make a difference and he called on everyone present to harness our power to improve our world.



Once again, we pushed the limits of the hotel space with our largest conference ever. We realize we are taxing the dimensions of the rooms but the hotel's location right in the middle of the state, the free parking, the easy highway on/off without commuter tie ups, the number of breakout rooms, and the helpfulness of hotel staff are hard assets to duplicate in another place. While there are always minor misses here and there, overall the day was extremely successful.



The day's workshops numbered 34 and, from *The Future of Dementia Care* to *Nerd Out: Practical applications of research in social work*, we covered micro, mezzo, and macro topics including aging, school social work, veterans' services, cultural humility, addictions, trauma, lobbying skills, preventing burnout, music therapy, surviving as a new social worker, grief counseling, social justice, sexual assault prevention, transgender youth, eating disorders, and mindfulness. We are ever impressed with the expertise and talents of our presenters and thank them for their gift of time, knowledge, and energy.



Connecticut's 34th Annual Conference was also our 5th Student Poster Session. 12 Posters were submitted, the work of 37 students from Quinnipiac University, Eastern CT State University, Western CT State University, and the University of Connecticut School of Social Work.



On the left, Meredith Brennan from UCONN earned First Place for her information and advocacy poster regarding eastern European adoptions and the effects on children who were institutionalized. On the right, Eastern CT State University students, Travis Walls (Knowledge of Opioid Use and Treatment Among Willimantic Residents), Brittney Acevedo (Why Don't You Call? Barrier to Child Maltreatment Reporting in a Financially-Disadvantaged Town), and Alexandra Caruso (Shake It Off: The Effect of Physical Activities on College Students 'Stress') display ribbons for Honorable Mention, 4th Place, and 2nd Place.



Quinnipiac University students, on the left, contributed a total of 5 submissions and the one entitled “Can You Hear Me Now: The Impact of Language Barriers on Healthcare Communication and Literacy?”, compiled by Ariana Lewis, Sandy Matosz, Jessica Rodriguez, and Rodrigo Villegas, was awarded the 3rd place ribbon.

And, finally, a huge thank you to our 38 loyal, supportive, generous exhibitors. We could not do this conference without them. Thank you to High Watch for being the conference’s Partnering Sponsor for a second year! This contribution allows us to have a larger conference with extra workshops. We especially thank Jerry Schwab, President and CEO of High Watch, for his remarks at lunch where he acknowledged the difficult work social workers engage in and personally vouched for their commitment to improving lives.

Pat Hartman

Coordinator of Professional Development

In the interest of environmental justice and creating less waste, we would like to give you the option of opting out of receiving next year’s paper brochure mailing. If you only look at the online version of the brochure and do not want to receive a hard copy in the mail, please let us know by sending an email to info.naswct@socialworkers.org with “Opt Out” in the subject line and your full name in the body of the email. You will still receive an email alert letting you know the brochure is available with a link, this will only take you out of the list we give the printer. If you have any questions, please give us a call at 860-257-8066.

If you’ve ever considered presenting at this conference, now is the time to start thinking about it, because be assured, we are! The opportunity to submit Workshop Proposals for the 2020 conference will be available in October of 2019 when we post the Call for Proposals on the NASW website. We know you’ve got expertise to share, so start polishing that presentation and show us what you’ve got!

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NASW/CT's 34th Annual Statewide Conference, May 3, 2019

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Social Workers Rollin' on the River



SAVE THE DATE!

Annual Awards Dinner

November 14, 2019

Inn at Middletown

70 Main Street

Middletown, CT 06457

Submit Your Nominations by 10/1/19

It's not too early to consider your educators, your mentors, your colleagues, and those in the community who are making a difference in the lives of others and nominate them for an award this year. You'll find the Call for Nominations in this issue of the newsletter. We are seeking nominations for a BSW Student, a MSW Student, a Social Work Educator, and a Public Citizen, as well as a Social Worker of the Year and a person to receive the 2018 Lifetime Achievement Award. Students may include those who graduated in 2018. Nominees, with the exception of Public Citizen, must be NASW/CT members in good standing who have contributed to the social work profession and exemplify the commitment, spirit, advocacy, and integrity of a social worker. We ask that you submit your nominations by October 1, 2019 to NASW/CT, 2139 Silas Deane Highway, Suite 205, Rocky Hill, CT 06067.

Association Leadership Meeting in Held in D.C.



Every other year NASW holds an Association Leadership Meeting (ALM) for all chapter executive directors, chapter presidents or president elects, national board of director members and key management at the national office. This year Michelle Kenefick, President and Steve Wanczyk-Karp, Executive Director, attended the meeting.

Much of the ALM is focused on training relevant to operations of chapters. Plenary sessions and workshops this year included financial training, continuing education, technology, board and executive director relations, legislative models, and immigration. Additionally, there is time for networking with colleagues from around the country, that is amongst the most beneficial parts of the ALM.



The three chapter executive directors with the longest tenure. L to R: Jim Akin, Florida, 28 years; Sam Hickman, West Virginia, 35 years; Steve Wanczyk-Karp, Connecticut, 31 years

Leadership Meeting continued

This year PACE held a special reception honoring the memory of Nancy A. Humphreys, a past national president and PACE Chair. The reception included a presentation by Congresswoman Barbara Lee's staff, Nancy's wife, Dr. Jo Nol, NASW CEO, Angelo McClain and Tanya Rhodes Smith, Director of the Nancy A. Humphreys Institute for the Advancement of Political Social Work.

ALM is also a time for advocacy. All of the states went to Capitol Hill to lobby members of Congress. The CT chapter delegation of Michelle Kenefick, Amy DiMauro, Rose-Ann Wanczyk-Karp and Stephen Wanczyk-Karp met with staff of Senators Richard Blumenthal and Chris Murphy, plus Representatives of Joe Courtney and John Larson. We focused on social work safety, mental health delivery by social workers and immigration. We had the pleasure of seeing Representative Courtney in person, and thanking him for sponsoring a bill on safety for social services and health care workers that has at least 190 co-sponsors.

The Connecticut Annual Leadership Meeting delegation met with U.S. Representative Joe Courtney



The Connecticut delegation rode the Senate subway between the Senate and House buildings. Normally reserved for members of Congress and their staff, Senator Chris Murphy's staff got us onboard.

Summer and Fall Events with NASW/CT

July 17

Western CT State University

Trauma Informed Practice with Latinx Immigrant Families

2 Cultural Competency CECs

Lorraine Moya Salas, PhD, MSW

August 8

Central CT State University

"Say it soft and it is almost like praying":

Understanding the Traumatic Experiences of Puerto Ricans in Colonial Context

3 Cultural Competency CECs

F. Taina Amaro, LCSW, Anthony De Jesús, EdD, MSW & Reinaldo Rojas, PhD, MSW

September 20

The Lyceum, Hartford

Everything You Ever Wanted to Know About Legal & Ethical Issues for Clinical Practice

5 CECs

Robert Madden, JD, LCSW

October 19

Southern CT State University

Managing Your Private Practice

3 CECs

Patricia Carl-Stannard, LCSW

November 14

Inn at Middletown

Annual Awards Dinner

November 22

Whitney Center, Hamden

Fulfill 2 requirements for the price of 1!

New Rules for Veterans Benefits and Medicaid Planning for Special Needs

2 Veterans Services CECs and 1 Cultural Competence CEC

Steven L. Rubin, Certified Elder Law Attorney

Details and Registration for Programs will be posted on the website, www.naswct.org, and EBLASTS will be sent to members as locations and fees are finalized. Stay tuned!

*Follow your Regional Network workshop opportunities on the web site under
Calendar for Chapter Events*

Call For Nominations

NASW/CT ANNUAL AWARDS 2019

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 2019 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 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 or 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
or email to phartman.naswct@socialworkers.org

ALL NOMINATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED by 10/01/19 *** Dinner will be held on 11/14/19**

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.

Somatic Healing for Trauma Resolution

Are you a helping professional interested in learning how to effectively address and transform the symptoms of toxic stress and trauma?

NASW CT and Sound Counseling Center, LLC
are pleased to offer 2 training opportunities!

An Overview of Somatic Healing Thursday, July 18th

6 pm - 8 pm (5:30 registration)
\$35 for NASW members
\$55 for non-members / public
2 CE's (LM/CSW's, LMFT's, LPC's, Psychologists)

Fundamentals of Somatic Healing Friday, July 19th

9 am - 4:30 pm (8 am registration)
\$125 for NASW members
\$160 for non-members / public
6 CE's (LM/CSW's, LMFT's, LPC's, Psychologists)

Inn at Middletown
70 Main Street
Middletown, Connecticut

To register: www.naswct.org

Space is limited!!! Register soon!!!!

This Somatic Healing workshop is designed for professionals who work with the effects of trauma: social workers, mental and medical health professionals, body workers, first responders, educators, clergy, and other professionals in the healing arts. Participants will learn about the basic principles and theory of Somatic Healing and about the Somatic Experiencing Professional Training. Somatic Experiencing® (SE™) was developed by Peter Levine, PhD, author of the bestseller: Waking the Tiger: Healing Trauma, In An Unspoken Voice and Trauma and Memory: Brain and Body in a Search for the Living Past.



SE is a potent approach to resolving the symptoms of trauma and chronic stress. The SE approach offers a framework to assess where your client is "stuck" in the fight, flight, or freeze responses and provides clinical tools to resolve these fixated physiological states that underlie many trauma symptoms. Both workshops will offer theoretical and experiential opportunities to learn effective strategies for restoring nervous system regulation and resolving trauma that can be immediately integrated into your professional practice.

The three-year SE™ Professional Training is a continuing education program that will help you make an even greater impact with your clients who suffer with symptoms of trauma. Information will be available for regional upcoming trainings.



RUSSELL IRA JONES is Advanced Level faculty of the SE Trauma Institute and the Brazilian Trauma Association. He teaches SE in North and South America, Europe, and Japan. Together with Lael Keen, he operates a training center on the south coast of Brazil and is a founding member of the Brazilian Trauma Association. Russell has a BA in psychology, is trained in meditation and is a Matrixworks (group dynamics) trainer. He has studied Ki-Aikido, and Shin Shin Toitsu Do, the Japanese art of mind and body coordination, for over 40 years and is an internationally recognized lecturer. Russell has a private practice in Brazil, and continues to work intensively with trauma, and its effects, and enjoys experimenting with others to expand awareness and perception of boundaries in order to restore the natural self-regulation of our nervous systems.



“Say it soft and it’s almost like praying”

Understanding the Traumatic Experiences of Puerto Ricans in Colonial Context

August 8, 2019

Central Connecticut State University, Vance Academic Center, Room 105

9:00 to 9:30 Registration and Coffee

9:30 to 12:00 Panel Presentation & Discussion

This workshop combines research on trauma, resilience, and practice wisdom with findings from an ongoing community based participatory research project with Puerto Ricans who migrated to Connecticut after Hurricane Maria in October of 2017. The presentation’s title references the music and lyrics of Lin-Manuel Miranda’s song “Almost Like Praying” reflecting the spirit of Puerto Rico and the hope, strength, and spirit of unity offered to those affected by the tragedy. The incorporation of research on the effects of intergenerational and historical trauma and reactions to natural and socio-political conditions that compel migration with a study examining the relocation experiences of Puerto Rican families to Connecticut provides a unique and compelling learning experience for practitioners working with the Puerto Rican/Latinx community.

Anthony De Jesus, EdD, MSW, an Associate Professor of Social Work and Equitable Community Practice at the University of Saint Joseph, will serve as leader and moderator for the workshop. *F. Taina Amaro, LCSW*, the owner of Harmony Health, LLC and an Adjunct Professor in the MSW Program at the University of Saint Joseph, will present on specific adverse childhood experiences and reactions to natural disasters and political conditions that spur migration causing individuals to confront a new set of adverse experiences in a new and often unwelcoming environment with economic challenges and linguistic and institutional racism. *Reinaldo Rojas, PhD, MSW*, Assistant Professor of Social Work at Central Connecticut State University, will follow with the preliminary findings of an inquiry with Puerto Rican families who relocated to Connecticut including how they experienced their reception in Connecticut, the barriers they confronted, the resources that aided them, and the recommendations they offer to improve the process. Implications for clinical practice with Puerto Ricans and other survivors of trauma will be addressed with opportunities for questions and discussion.

Approved for 2.5 Cultural Competency CECs

Costs: \$10, students; \$30, NASW Members; \$55, Not yet Members

[Click here to register](#)



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