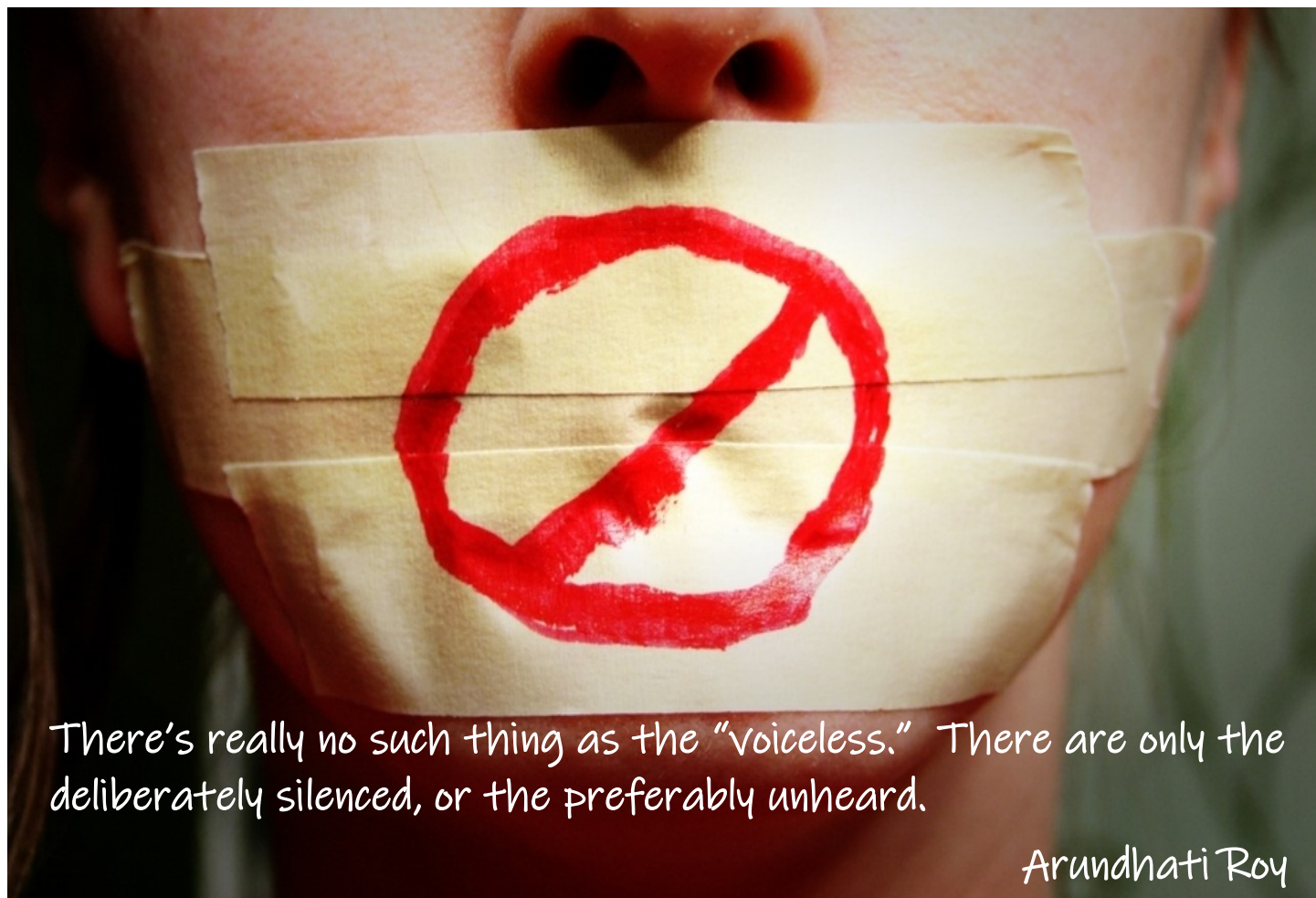


# CONNECTIONS

October—December 2019



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**Michelle Kenefick, LCSW, SEP**  
*President, Connecticut Chapter*

## Changes, Updates and Thanks

Here we are again! I cannot believe that it's October already!!! I love this time of year! I know, I know... Most of you are likely rolling your eyes and dreading winter but I absolutely love this time of year. As I wrote last year, it always seems like an organic time to slow down, reorganize and get grounded again.

Fall at NASW always brings with it a newly elected Board of Director's and I'd like to take this opportunity to thank our outgoing members: Beth Sharkey, Jennifer Bennett, Amy Myers and Priscilla Leon. We are grateful for your leadership, volunteerism and commitment to the Chapter.

And, I'd like to introduce you to your newly elected members: Isabel Logan (2<sup>nd</sup> VP of Budget & Finance), Diane Michaelsen (Secretary), Taylor Endress (BSW Student Representative), Nathan Lipkind (Region 2 Representative) and Cheryl Green (Member At Large). We so look forward to your enthusiasm and vision.

I'd like to also express my gratitude to those members of the Board who are continuing – some in very different roles: Shannon Perkins (newly elected President-Elect), Nancy Hubbard (newly elected First Vice President), Brenda Bryant (returning as your MSW Student Representative), Michael Marshall (Member At Large), Rosaline Brown (Member At Large), Kathleen Gilbert (Member At Large), Karen McLean (Member At Large), Joanne Leon (Region 1 Representative) and Cheryl Wilson (Region 2 Representative).

We have a strong Board of Directors who are dedicated,

enthusiastic and share a common vision to ensure that we have the most responsive Chapter for our Members. I am so grateful for your commitment, your time and your dedication. Thank you to each of you – those who have served, continue to serve and those who have stepped up to be a part of our Board and championing the work we do.

I want to share some of the things that have been happening with the Chapter since the last newsletter. Steve Wanczyk-Karp and I attended the Annual Leadership Meeting in June in Washington, DC where we met with staff from the National NASW Office along with the other Executive Directors and Chapter Presidents. It was a full three days with the highlight of meeting with representatives on the Hill. We were able to meet with staff from both Chris Murphy and Richard Blumenthal's office as well as with John Larson and Joe Courtney. All welcomed us warmly and I was so grateful to be representing the Chapter with our congressional members as we heard from many of our colleagues that they felt discouraged and not supported by their Congress members. Despite the warm welcomes we received, we felt it imperative to raise the following policies and asked for support with the following bills: Improving Access to Mental Health Act, Workplace Violence Prevention for Health Care and Social Service Workers Act (introduced by Joe Courtney), Protecting Social Workers and Human Services Professionals from Workplace Violence Act, and the Social Work Reinvestment Act. We also highlighted the profoundly troubling situation at the Border and implored our

## Updates, continued

members of Congress to take a leadership role in ensuring the safety, dignity and humanity of all seeking asylum in the United States.

Additionally, Connecticut's Attorney General, William Tong has joined several state Attorney's General who have filed a lawsuit against the Trump administration that would forego the Flores settlement's standards for care of migrant children detained by the US. The changes would allow the indefinite detention of migrant children be held with their families. NASW has agreed to participate in an Amicus Brief and NASW CT will be one of the state chapters listed in the brief. We are proud to stand together in this advocacy. The judge has issued a permanent injunction against the Trump administration's plan.

Some things to look forward to: Lobby Day at the Capital – October 18<sup>th</sup> from 9 – 12 pm. Please register soon as this is limited to 200 participants. You can receive 3 CE's for **FREE** if you're a Member!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

The Annual Dinner is COMING!!!!!!!!!!!!!! November 14th. This event sold out last year so get your tickets early and bring some cash because we are expanding our **RAFFLE** items this year!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

And, it's not too early to think about the Annual Conference. Perhaps you have a workshop idea or maybe want to participate in the committee who organizes the Conference – we want YOU!!!

Please keep in mind that there are lots of opportunities to engage with the Chapter – so many committees and we are always looking for new membership! Take a look at the NASW CT website and see which one piques your interest. It is a phenomenal way to get more closely connected to the Chapter without a huge time commitment.

Lastly, I want to reiterate something from National that really resonated with me. It's entitled "my promise to myself" and it goes like this:

This membership year, I will:

- Attend a live NASW chapter event in my area
- Introduce myself to colleagues in the online MyNASW member community
- Take a free course on the NASW Code of Ethics, available on demand at the NASW Social Work Online CE Institute
- Listen to the NASW Social Work Talks podcast on self-care, Episode 17: Self Care and Avoiding Burnout
- Start a conversation with co-workers about an article from Social Work Advocates magazine
- Celebrate the difference I am making on the job and in my community during Social Work month (March)
- Keep my NASW Member Account updated with my practice area, work setting, and other professional information to ensure that NASW knows what resources I need

I'd like to add one more thing to that list – recruit a new member to the Chapter – as you know, we depend on membership dollars to do what we do. There is a new NASW Member Referral Campaign underway and it ends in October! Please see the website for more information and please, recruit a new member. Let's do this together!!! I intend to knock each of these off my list and will report out to you in the subsequent newsletters!

Last thing! Please take a moment as I said in the beginning of this column, to slow down, take a breath, and look around. Take a moment to feel the connection with your loved ones, reach out to an old friend and remember what motivated you to become a Social Worker. You are amazing. Thank you for doing what you do!

## We Have Your Back! And You Have Ours!

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



As a social worker you know the profession faces many challenges from health care reforms, other professions that want to expand into social work jobs, to policy makers that need to be educated as to the importance of social work. The social work degree or social work license is not enough to protect your right to practice. That is why you need **"Career Insurance"** and that is what NASW membership provides you.

**Without a strong NASW in Connecticut our profession will lose ground**, taken over by individuals with non-social work degrees because everyone thinks they can do social work. Yes, we have finally achieved Title Protection and preference in hiring of MSWs and BSWs in state agencies, a huge step forward, but not a guarantee of protection of the social work profession. No matter how many years you have been a social worker you still need to have **"Career Insurance"**, which comes with your NASW membership.

What is **"Career Insurance"** you may be asking yourself and why do I need it? **"Career Insurance"** is having a professional association with the vitality to protect the practice of social work. Why is the degree or license not enough? Because the degree or license alone cannot achieve the following – **but NASW/CT has:**

- Negotiated with DPH for a LCSW renewal fee that is \$125 less than MFTs.
- Put into statute confidentiality of social work client records.
- Passed third party reimbursement so that LCSWs can bill insurance, making it feasible for many social workers to have a private practice.
- Put into state statute preference in hiring of MSWs and BSWs for state agencies, such as DCF, DSS, Veterans and Office of Public Defender. This covers approximately 2000 social work jobs where professional social workers will be given hiring preference.
- Passed Social Work Title Protection covering the private sector and municipalities.
- Passed a master level license for new social work graduates.
- Promoted school social work as an essential element in children's mental health services. Includes saving school social work jobs that were to be cut and increasing positions in districts across the state.
- Attained provider status for LCSWs in private practice to serve HUSKY clients.
- Defeated legislation to privatize school social worker services.
- Stopped legislation (multiple times) that would let insurers sell insurance in CT without mental health coverage.



## We Have Your Back, continued

- Had social work included as a “core provider” under the state’s health care innovative model.
- Made sure licensed social workers could create and participate in LLCs, PCs and Multi-disciplinary LLCs.
- Assured that the licensure of art therapists would not restrict licensed social workers from utilizing art within their therapeutic sessions.
- Stopped legislation that would have allowed non-social workers to become LCSWs in certain health care settings. (Yes this was a real bill).
- Forced Medicaid to withdraw a regulation that would have placed stricter supervision requirements on LMSWs in agencies than that of professional counselors or marriage & family therapists.
- **Always there as a vigilant voice for Social Work practice at the State Capitol. Almost every session brings threats and opportunities.**

NASW membership’s **career insurance** is more than our policy work that protects the entire profession, both members and yet to be members. Your membership keeps you informed on key changes in the profession, provides valuable networking opportunities, and gives you access to the only social work sponsored professional liability insurance on the market. Plus, when you have a practice question the responsive NASW/CT staff is just an email or call away.

As I write this column today, I had a call from a social worker who was inquiring how to apply for her LCSW, as she had obtained her 3,000 post graduate hours of experience. What prompted her call was that she just heard of the LMSW and wanted to know how that affected her 3,000 hours that were performed as a MSW, but not a LMSW. It is unpleasant, to say the least, to have to tell a social worker that NONE of her 3,000 hours will count toward the LCSW because she never attained the LMSW, a requirement that has been in place since May 1, 2015. As a NASW member one would have known about the LMSW, because we say it

frequently to our new MSW graduates. **Career insurance** is having the information you need to meet the requirements for practice in Connecticut.

I titled this column “We Have Your Back! And You Have Ours!”. Membership is a two- way street. We fight for policy that protects social work practice. You tell us what those policies are we need to achieve. You tell us what you need as a professional and we do our best to deliver the resources you seek. You tell us what trainings will best benefit you and we offer them if we can. Membership gives you a voice in your professional association and when your voice is combined with other member voice’s, your voice becomes strong, clear and powerful. And the more members we have the more amplified your individual voice becomes. **Stay a member, recruit a colleague, get involved.**

The number one reason I hear from social workers as to why they are not members is that it is too expensive. Is this really true? How much did you spend to get your social work degree(s)? What do you spend to maintain your license? How about your continuing education? You have invested a lot in yourself; financially, personally, ethically. Can you really afford NOT to have **career insurance**?

I look at the list of accomplishments at the top of this column, and sometimes I wonder, is it all taken for granted by those entering the profession? Lawmakers did not just give us these tools for successful practice. We defined our needs, fought for our rights and won today’s practice environment. We still have work to be done, but we have built strong practice rules and regulations that other mental health professions admire.

Remember, with NASW membership you are buying yourself “**Career Insurance**” from the best available source! Your NASW membership assures a strong CT Chapter and a strong CT Chapter assures that you are here to fight for us, and we are here to fight for you!

## Listen Up Trump-Pence: We Won't Be Gagged!

*Gretchen Raffa, MSW  
Director Public Policy, Advocacy & Strategic  
Engagement  
Planned Parenthood of Southern New England  
Planned Parenthood Votes! Connecticut*

Today, Planned Parenthood health center doors are still open, and patients can still get the care they need. But with the Trump-Pence administration's decision to force Planned Parenthood out of Title X — the nation's only program for affordable birth control and reproductive health care — the truth is: for too many, birth control and reproductive health care may now be out of reach. Planned Parenthood's promise to our patients is we provide care, no matter what and that is why we must reverse the Trump-Pence administration's attacks on Title X now as it threatens people's basic human right to health care.

Trump-Pence administration's cruel and harmful "gag rule" is devastating in two ways. First, it makes it illegal for health care providers who participate in Title X to tell their patients how and where to access safe, legal abortion. It demands that providers withhold information and mislead their patients about their health care options. Trump's gag rule sets a dangerous precedent by allowing politicians to determine what providers can and can't say to their patients. Politicians do not belong in the exam room interfering in the relationship between a provider and a patient. It is unethical and immoral to require health care providers to withhold important information from patients.



Second, the gag rule dismantles the spirit of the Title X program, which has enjoyed bipartisan support for almost 50 years. By restricting reproductive health care and making birth control and family planning services more difficult to access, the Trump-Pence administration is not only attacking providers like Planned Parenthood but threatening the lives of millions of patients. The gag rule will prevent people from accessing the care they need. This is a direct attack on anyone that can't afford the rising costs of health care—

people with low incomes, immigrants, and people of color. It will have its deepest and most devastating impact on people who are struggling to make ends meet and the people already facing barriers when it comes to accessing care because of racist and discriminatory policies in place.

Planned Parenthood of Southern New England has accepted Title X funds in Connecticut for more than 45 years until we were forced out of the program in August. We proudly have served over 41,00 patients in our state each year who rely on Title X support for birth control and essential, preventive care such as cancer screenings and STD treatment. 88% of the state's Title X patients turn to Planned Parenthood for compassionate care, honest information, and affordable services.

We won't sit back and allow the Trump-Pence Administration to bully health care providers, block access to birth control, and make it impossible for patients to go to Planned Parenthood health centers. We will never stop fighting for our patients and we will NOT gag our health care providers.

## Listen Up, continued

At Planned Parenthood, we believe everyone, regardless of their race, their income, or where they live, deserves the best medical care and information available—we are here for all people. Our right to reproductive health care is not debatable and we won't stop fighting until every person can access the care they need. Although the U.S. Ninth Circuit court denied our appeal for an injunction, we stand proudly with Attorney General William Tong who is leading a coalition of states to continue to oppose the gag rule in court. We won't sit back while the Trump-Pence administration tries to deny people their human right to health care.

If you believe reproductive rights are non-negotiable, we need your help right now. We are counting on our supporters to get a little louder, fight back a little harder as we continue to build our movement and work towards a day when our health and freedoms are not under attack. But we're not there yet, and until we are — we simply have no choice but to keep up the fight.

We are calling on Congress to act. Congress has the power to block the gag rule. The House of Representatives, led by our own Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro has already passed an important spending bill that would protect Title X from the Trump-Pence administration's dangerous gag rule. We need the Senate to finish the job and pass similar legislation in the weeks ahead to protect the health care of millions of people.

Your help is needed. There are three things you can do today.

1. Call you Senator Blumenthal and Murphy and let them know that you expect them to continue to lead the fight in the Senate to protect birth control, Planned Parenthood patients, and the Title X program from the Trump-Pence administration's attacks. Thank them for always standing with us and why we need the to fight even harder: 1-202-601-3441

Share your story- your story makes a difference. With politicians, led by the Trump-Pence administration, determined to take away people's access to quality affordable health care, it's never been more important to share your story and show that Planned Parenthood is a vital organization to your community. <http://bit.ly/ppstory2019>  
Donate to support health care access for all: [www.ppsne.org/donate](http://www.ppsne.org/donate)

No one is free unless they control their own body, and access to sexual and reproductive health care, including abortion, is essential for that freedom. Politicians are trying to control our bodies and lives. We must work for more than equality. We must fight for justice for all people, we must not leave any person behind in our fight to ensure health care is a right everyone has access to. We must organize and show our power and continue our advocacy so that all people have the opportunity to live full and healthy lives.

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

Go to the **CE Institute** on the NASW/CT website at [www.naswct.org](http://www.naswct.org), then click on Continuing Education/CE Institute. There are dozens of classes on dozens of topics at reasonable prices!



## Social Work Jobs Campaign Coming to Municipalities

The Chapter's Board of Directors has approved a campaign to encourage municipalities to hire professional social workers for local social work positions, including initiating and expanding the hiring of social workers in libraries and local law enforcement. The campaign is modeled after the successful campaign to have the State of Connecticut give preference in hiring to BSWs, MSWs and DSWs for the state's social worker classification. As of October 1, 2019, the State preference has become statutory, and is a strong example to bring in discussions with municipalities.

The Chapter understands that this initiative will be a multi-year effort with multiple aspects to the advocacy. Across the nation both local law enforcement and libraries are hiring social workers to work with those in need of services, such as those who interact with local police and those patrons of libraries who will benefit from social work interventions. Our campaign will work to bring these approaches from across the country to the state's municipalities, thus providing expansion of social work services reach and creation of new social work jobs.

As for local social services provided by cities and towns, NASW/CT will work with localities to educate local officials as to the value and benefits of hiring professional social workers. This will be done by one-to-one meetings with local human resources departments and local executive branch policy makers. We recognize

there are cities and towns that predominantly hire professional social workers however this is not the case across the board. Our campaign, if successful, will increase the number of localities that give preference in hiring to professionally trained social workers.

You, our members, can assist in this campaign, first by letting us know who is being hired in your city or town. If your town has a local social services department is it staffed by degreed social workers? If you have connections with your local library or police department let us know who we can speak to. And, with local elections coming up this November, talk to candidates about the importance of employing professional social workers within your local government.



As the campaign is developed, look for updates in this newsletter and if we reach out to you for support and advocacy please offer your help.

There was considerable doubt that we could change the hiring practices of the State of Connecticut, but we did! Now let's take that success and build upon it by taking it to the local level. We believe this is groundbreaking work that has not been tried elsewhere in a systematic manner. Who better than NASW/CT to undertake this campaign?



## Members in the News



**Jack Paul Gesino, DSW, LCSW** has been selected by the Keep the Promise Coalition as the 2019 recipient of the *Older Adult Voice Award*. This award is given annually to an individual who has shown outstanding support on and work to promote older adult mental health. Dr. Gesino is an Associate Professor at SCSU, Department of Social Work, has a private practice and is a consultant in geriatric social work. Jack Paul is also a frequent presenter on Aging for the NASW Annual Conferences and a member of the Chapter's Committee on Aging.

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## Seeking Social Workers Running for Municipal Office

The NASW **CT PACE**, the political action committee of the Chapter, is seeking to identify social workers who are candidates in the fall municipal elections. For municipal elections **CT PACE** endorses social workers who share NASW's values and policy perspective. Membership in NASW is encouraged but not required for endorsement.

Identifying and assisting social workers running for local office is valued by NASW/CT. Local office can be a first step toward running for higher offices, such as state legislator, where one can have an impact on a statewide level. Social workers in local elected positions also bring the values, ethics and understanding of social needs that social workers are trained in, for the betterment of a community.

**CT PACE** can help candidates by: encouraging members in the district/community to vote for our endorsed candidate; finding volunteers to help with the campaign; in some cases, contributing financially to the candidate's race. All candidates will be listed in the January-March edition of this newsletter, and members will be included in Members in the News.

If you are running in a municipal election, be it school board, town/city council, registrar of voters, constable or other position, or if you know of a social worker running in your community, we want to know! Please forward contact information (or forward this Call to the candidate). Send all information to [skarp.naswct@socialworkers.org](mailto:skarp.naswct@socialworkers.org)

## Meet Our Interns



We are pleased to announce that Mackenzie Baysinger, an advanced MSW student at The University of Connecticut, will be completing her internship here at NASW/CT during the 2019-2020 academic year. Mackenzie is a policy student and therefore will be focusing her efforts on the legislative issues that the Chapter will be working on in the 2020 Legislative Session. Mackenzie brings great experience to this position as she was a session lobbyist for a health care coalition in Nevada where she fought for equal access to care and social justice issues. She is a recent graduate of The University of Nevada, Reno with a degree in social work and a minor in women's studies. Mackenzie grew up in Northern California and loves to travel; she had lived in India and also traveled many European countries. Mackenzie also believes wholeheartedly in creating systemic change and believes that NASW is the perfect fit for her this year. Please join with the staff in welcoming Mackenzie Baysinger.

We are pleased to welcome Meghan Lauer to NASW's Connecticut chapter for her 2019/2020 internship! Meghan is currently in her senior year at Central Connecticut State University (CCSU). She will soon graduate with a Bachelor degree in social work and minor in global studies. On campus, Meghan is the president of the social work club, a resident assistant, and a peer mentor. Previously, she worked as a volunteer in CCSU's offices of Diversity and Equity and Victim Advocacy as well as the YWCA's STRIVE program for middle school aged youth.

Meghan's current objectives include fostering policy initiatives for under-served populations and assisting in the creation and implementation of educational and professional development opportunities for NASW members. Meghan's long-term goal is to provide social work services on the macro level as to create systemic change by challenging outdated and non-existent policies. She hopes that with the experiences she gains she will be able to help create a brighter future for social workers, those they serve, and all populations in need.



## Immigration Policy and Social Well-Being

**Elizabeth A. Roberts, MSW**

*Coordinator of Membership Services*

*Connecticut Chapter*

Today the issue of immigration is exceptionally prominent and includes a number of complex components. Many of the concerns associated with immigration policy are related to economic interests and human rights issues. Immigration policies effect the economy on a local and global level, but also influence the social welfare of our nation.

America has a long and distinct history of immigration, we are a country founded upon the ideas of opportunity and freedom. We acknowledge that these simple, yet profound, beliefs are imbedded in our American history and largely implanted into our present-day social environment. Our basic values contribute to the complexity of immigration policy as we struggle with diverging mindsets in regard to what rights we will continue enforce, and what populations we will enforce them for!

Despite progress made since the 1920's, there seems to be a lingering perception that opportunity and freedom are only for those who are deserving in accordance with a western worldview. There also seems to be an underlying view that only "deserving" individuals become economically prosperous. In turn, our society (or perhaps our elected government) now appears to indicate that opportunity and freedom are attainable by those who are deemed to have the highest chance of proving their worth. Are we bargaining human rights and treating people like investments? Are we only accepting of those who are not a part of underserved populations? Of course, the response of our nation will reflect our American values, and whether or not our values still exist.

NASW, the largest professional organization of social workers, has recently taken a public stand for our fundamental rights and basic values, similar to the values within our Code of Ethics, that social workers employ regularly. NASW is clear on its opposition to discrimination. In a July 29th news release, NASW acknowledged, "NASW and the nation's social workers have long been committed to ending racism in this nation and the societal ills that result from racism..." (2019). Moreover, NASW stands behind a group of Attorney Generals who have just filed a lawsuit against the Trump administration in regard to immigration policy that sets standards for the treatment of detained migrant children, via the Flores settlement agreement.

Therefore, NASW has committed to joining in the Attorney Generals Amicus Brief, and NASW's Connecticut chapter will be listed in the brief with other states who have been invited to sign-on. Amicus briefs provide the chance for third parties to enter in legal documentation for consideration in court cases. These documents provide expertise, information and the overarching public perspective on the impact of a proposed policy change. Connecticut's Attorney General, William Tong, is part of the dynamic group of attorneys who have set the goal to stop the Trump administration from making unethical changes to the Flores settlement, and to prevent the possibly that the Trump administration will end the settlement agreement altogether.

In a nutshell, the Flores settlement agreement institutes quality-of-life rights for detained immigrant children, such as access to food and water. The Agreement also limits the duration in which immigrant children can be held in detention, and "requires the government to release children from immigration detention without unnecessary delay to their parents, other adult relatives or licensed programs... (CNN, 2019).

## Immigration, continued

As the saying goes, history repeats itself. Attempts at restructuring immigration policy are now peaking due to the influx of immigrants in America, particularly over the past several years. Just as concerns regarding immigration escalated in the early 1920's, with the opening of the Ellis Island immigration station, America now has the largest population of immigrants since the 1920's era. We must address negative ideology in regard to immigration in America as this effects our decision-making and social wellbeing. For instance, the argument that immigrants negatively affect the economy is not spot-on. In fact, a few years ago, a White House Report acknowledged that immigrants "increase the size of the population and thus of the labor force and customer base, making an important contribution to economic growth" (2013). The reality is that immigrants should not have to take responsibility for America's economic difficulties.

### References:

Alvres, P. (2019). Lawyers in Flores Case Seek to Block Indefinite Detention of Migrant Families. *Cable News Network (CNN)*. Turner Broadcasting, Inc. Retrieved from: <https://www.cnn.com/2019/08/30/politics/flores-settlement-agreement-brief/index.html>

National Association of Social Workers (2019). NASW Demands President Trump Immediately Stop Racist Tweets and Instead Unite Nation to Address Racism, Violence and Poverty. News Release. NASW. Washington, DC Retrieved from: <https://www.socialworkers.org/News/News-Releases/ID/1974/NASW-demands-President-Trump-immediately-stop-racist-tweets-and-instead-unite-nation-to-address-racism-violence-and-poverty?fbclid=IwAR0rHUVjVITozvF4YmJfddXscNwU4-gOTJnqOg8eHthFptrLbZ8TPDY2Flc>

The White House - President Barack Obama. (2014). The White House. Retrieved from: <http://www.WhiteHouse.gov>

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We, as social workers, can create change by reminding our colleagues and peers that there are alternatives to detaining migrant children and families for indefinite periods of time. For example, we can refocus on simplifying the path to citizenship by implementing a clear process for legalization. We are doing ourselves a disservice by allowing a convoluted legalization process that hinders migrants from attaining citizenship. Americans have the choice to return to developing "a fair, effective and common sense immigration system that lives up to our heritage as a nation of laws and a nation of immigrants" (The White House, 2014). For now, we can find solace in knowing there are champions willing to take a stand to support the Flores settlement agreement and the immediate human rights issues at hand.

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 for the annual conference. 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](mailto: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.



## Frequently Asked Practice Questions

**Frequently Asked Questions** is a new addition to our newsletter. The chapter staff fields many questions from members on a wide range of topics. Many of these questions have to do with practice matters that arise. In this newsletter we answer the question of what to do when a client asks for copies of their client record.

**Q:** Do clients have a right to their client record?

**A:** Yes. In most cases clients have a right to have a copy of their client record. A copy of the record can be refused if the practitioner believes providing the client such copy will be injurious to the client. Note in such cases clients can pursue a court order for the record. Summary of the record may be offered as an alternative option however clients can decline a summary if they choose to have the full record.

**Q:** Can I withhold private clinical notes?

**A:** Under HIPPA private psychotherapy notes that are kept separate from the remainder of the medical records do not have to be disclosed.

**Q:** Can I charge a fee for copying the record and time spent doing so?

**A:** You can charge no more than sixty-five cents per page and the cost of first-class postage, if applicable. You cannot bill for your time. A client can request an electronic copy instead of, or along with, a paper copy.

**Q:** Are there other state rules I should know about regarding client records?

**A:** Yes. The State of Connecticut has regulations governing medical records. To learn about the regulations and other aspects of medical records go to the NASW/CT website page <http://naswct.org/professional-information/legal/guide-record-keeping/>

*If you have questions you would like to see covered in this new section send them to [skarp.naswct@socialworkers.org](mailto:skarp.naswct@socialworkers.org) We will do our best to include your question in an upcoming edition, as well as answer you directly or direct you to a source for response.*

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## Research Project

Looking for a Research Project? Here is a great one for you:

Basic Research on the Effectiveness of the *Oasis in the Overwhelm* Method.

For over twenty years, the *Oasis Method* has been beneficial to thousands of people - but we have no research to back it up. *Oasis* is recognized as a practical, science-based, powerful method to:

- Lessen negative stress and increase positive energy
- Teach *60-second Strategies* to accomplish the above
- Increase clarity and sense of well-being in challenging times

If this speaks to you, contact Millie Grenough, CISW at [millie@milliegrenough.com](mailto:millie@milliegrenough.com) or 203-789-2191. More info at [www.milliegrenough.com](http://www.milliegrenough.com) & [www.oasisintheoverwhelm.com](http://www.oasisintheoverwhelm.com)

## Title Protection Bill Now Law

It has been sought after for decades by Connecticut's social workers, a law governing that only persons with a CSWE accredited degree can call themselves a social worker. Well the wait is over! As of October 1, 2020, the social work title protection statute goes into effect. The law, that is as comprehensive as one can accomplish in a state with strong state employee unions, covers all employees except those employed by the state. Individuals and agencies covered under the law may only use the title of social worker if the person is a bona fide, professionally trained social worker who has attained a BSW, MSW or DSW.

Here are the provisions of the law:

- 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. This part of the law took effect on 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. Adds DSW to the hiring preference. 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.

If you believe that a person without a social work degree is using the title of social worker, please share the person's name and place of employment with NASW/CT. The Chapter will in turn request the Department of Public Health to investigate and if need be issue a cease & desist order.



Whether you're looking for a new job,  
or ready to take the next step in your career,  
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that's right for you.

Visit <http://careers.socialworkers.org/>

[Offices/jobs \(860\) 447-2047: PsychologyCT.com](mailto:Offices/jobs (860) 447-2047: PsychologyCT.com)

## Welcome New Members!

Leah Abrahamson	Christina Emanuel	Genise Jones	Elizabeth Rodriguez
Yasmin Ahmed	Taylor Endress	Kristyn Kalman	Nadine Ruff
Amanda Bachman	Crystin Engram	Sharlene Kereleja	Martine Saintilus
Alie Bates	Jennifer Faith	Amanda Kice	Venessa Samuel-Steinmetz
Talena Bell	Mallory Fergione	Rachel Lalanne	Timothy Schlehofer
Cameron Bell	Sheila Figueroa	Kelsey Laudano	Colleen Schmelter
Jessica Bialecki	Amanda Finn	Meghan Lauer	Stacey Shaia
Emily Breno	Josh Flaherty	Danielle Leblanc	Melissa Simone
Jennifer Budkofsky	Kerin Foley	Jay Lee	Hannah Singer
Bonita Byars	Rachel Forbes	Marisa Lindsey	Ashley Smith
Diane Carneiro	Emma Fuini	Margaret Luke	Carlton Smith
Damien Carson	Jeff Gagliardi	Walter Mabe	Joelle Smorada
Medina Cecunjanin	Ashley Galica	Ian MacDonald	Elsy Soberal
Jason Cerbone	Polly Gardiner	Babette Mantilla	Loraine Stokes
Michael Champlin	Meghan Geary-Strenk	Erica Massimino	Kathleen Svedarsky
Jennifer Ciaralli	Famatta Gibson	Theresa Mazzuca	Lauren Szalkiewicz
Marie Clyne	Charlotte Glovin	Carrie McLaughlin	Meghan Tatum
Jamie Corrone	Maureen Grant	Molly Micley	Alicia Thompkins
Carrie-Lee Courts	Jasmine Hall	Ashley Monck	Jaime Thorne
Gabrielle Cyr	Terrah Harris	Loria Morrison	Sara Tinnesz
Dawn Debiase	Felicia Harvey-Clarke	Leah Moskowitz	Jane-Marie Torlai
Taylor DeNatale	Trinity Haswell	Rayneshia Myers	Rodrigo Villegas
Denika Desert	James Hexter	Anuja Oak-Mathur	Sarah Walewski
Linda Dewey	Brittany Hill	Lisa Oren	Janis Wearing
Jennifer DiBella	Brandon Holley	Lilian Pagan-Montanez	Rachael Weir
Cara Donahue	Courtney Hollingworth	Melissa Paternoster	Liana Wilson
Molly Donovan	Mokia Hull	Paula Patton	Jessica Wisnieski
Kayla Doucette	Sara Hungerford	Taryn Petrillo	Michaela Woods
Melody Drinan	Jennifer Iannuzzi	Chelsea Poloski	Sharoda Worby-Selim
Sarah Dzimian	Vanessa Irizarry	Nicole Pradella	Melissa Zagaroli
Brittany Dzwonchyk	Skylar Jayes	Jacqueline Purcell	Christine Zangrillo
Jacie Edwards	Berthine Jean-Baptiste	Luisa Rivera	
Alivia Elovich		Lisette Rodriguez	

## Key Federal Health Care Proposals

As the presidential race heats up with health care proposals for Federal Health Care Reform becoming a major topic, we thought it would be helpful to have some basic information on how the various proposals address the need for health insurance coverage (proposals fall into 4 major categories). In most cases, the proposals have “Medicare” in their name but make significant changes from the existing Medicare program to make the health care provided more affordable and comprehensive. Where members of Connecticut’s congressional delegation have advocated for an approach their names are highlighted.

1. **Single Payer – “Medicare For All”** – Single federal program with comprehensive benefits for all US residents. Eliminates employer-sponsored insurance. Usually includes coverage of services beyond what Medicare covers and elimination of premiums. (Rep. Jayapal bill in the House; Sen. Sanders bill in the Senate “Medicare for All”. **Rep. Hayes** has signed onto Rep. Jayapal’s bill; **Sen. Blumenthal** has signed onto Sen. Sanders bill.)
2. **Public Program with Opt-Out – “Medicare for more/Medicare for most”** – Federal public program with comprehensive benefits for all US

residents. Individuals can opt out for qualified employer-sponsored health plans and certain other coverage. (**Rep. DeLauro** and Schakowsky bill “Medicare for America” in House)

3. **Public Plan Option – “Medicare Buy-in”** - Federal public plan option offered to individuals eligible to participate in ACA marketplace; in some cases, also available to large and small employers; in some cases, marketplace subsidies increased. (Various bills, notably **Sen. Murphy** and Merkley bill “Choose Medicare Act” in Senate.)
4. **Medicare Buy-in for Older Adults** – Option for individuals 50 and over to buy into Medicare. Marketplace subsidies available and in some cases enhanced. (Rep. Higgins bill in the House; Sen. Stabenow bill in the Senate. **Rep. Courtney and Larson** have signed onto Rep. Higgins’ bill.)

Much of this information comes from a very comprehensive review of proposals to expand the role of public programs in health care on the Kaiser Family Foundation website: <https://www.kff.org/interactive/compare-medicare-for-all-public-plan-proposals/> The above summaries are from [Protect Our Care Connecticut](#).

### [NASW to Publish 65th Anniversary Membership Directory with Partner PCI Inc.](#)

*Contact PCI to Update Your Member Record and Order Your Commemorative Directory; Look for Postcards and Email with Your Call-In Information this Fall*

Working with our partner, Publishing Concepts Inc. (PCI), NASW will print a membership directory album for the association’s 65th anniversary next October. **The first step is a comprehensive member record update.** Up-to-date member profiles help us provide relevant resources based on your social work practice interests, and help us represent you better as we advocate on your behalf at the national, state, and local levels. If you choose to, you can be listed in the printed member directory, and you can submit a photo and/or a short essay about yourself. There’s no cost to be in the directory, or to update your member record through PCI. If you choose to purchase the album, you can reserve your copy when you update your data. When NASW last published a commemorative directory in 2015, thousands of members submitted essays celebrating their social work history and experiences. **Contact PCI at the toll-free number in the postcards and emails PCI sends to you this fall, or call the directory records team at 1.866.621.1951 to update your member data, to be included in the directory or to order a copy.** Questions? Contact NASW Member Services at [membership@socialworkers.org](mailto:membership@socialworkers.org) or 800.742.4089, Monday-Friday, 9 a.m. – 9 p.m. ET.



# **Social Workers Rollin' on the River**



**SAVE THE DATE!**  
**Annual Awards Dinner**  
**November 14, 2019**

**Inn at Middletown**  
**70 Main Street**  
**Middletown, CT 06457**

**Always an inspiring evening!**  
**You'll be happy you attended.**  
**Invitation & Registration will be online at**  
**[www.naswct.org](http://www.naswct.org)**

## SAVE THE DATE!



# NASW/CT's 35th Annual Conference May 8, 2020

Red Lion Hotel, Cromwell, CT

Join your colleagues for an amazing day of varied workshops, exhibitors with resources, networking, a student poster session, a wine and cheese reception, and great camaraderie with other social workers and those in allied mental health professions.

This is the only conference of its kind in Connecticut—eclectic in its topics but focused on the mission of social work and social work education\*.

## Earn 6 CECs for the day!

\*With workshops that will satisfy requirements for Cultural Competency and Veterans Services.

*Registration details and the brochure describing all the workshops will be available at [www.naswct.org](http://www.naswct.org) the middle of February 2020.*

## National Academies Study Recognizes Social Workers as Specialists in Social Care

**WASHINGTON, D.C.** - The National Association of Social Workers (NASW) applauds a study released today by the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine - [Integrating Social Care into the Delivery of Health Care: Moving Upstream to Improve the Nation's Health](#).

Professional social workers for more than a century have been indispensable in advancing the nation's health, providing much-needed services both within and outside health care settings. Moreover, social workers have been leaders in addressing the social determinants of health: economic stability, education, social community context, health care access and environmental factors. NASW is pleased that the profession's valuable contributions in providing social care, especially in promoting health equity and access, are recognized in this major national study.

"The social determinants of health account for more than 50 percent of health outcomes. It is therefore important to acknowledge the valuable role of social workers in improving the nation's health. As the study notes, social workers are specialists in providing social care," said NASW Chief Executive Officer Angelo McClain, PhD, LICSW.

The study defines social care as "activities that address health-related social risk factors and social needs," and outlines five goals to advance the effort to better integrate social care into health care delivery, including:

1. Designing health care delivery to integrate social care into health care
2. Building a workforce to integrate social care into health care delivery
3. Developing a digital infrastructure that is interoperable between health care and social care organizations
4. Financing the integration of health care and social care
5. Funding, conducting and translating research and evaluation on the effectiveness and implementation of social care practices in health care settings.

The study further outlines numerous recommendations for how these goals can be achieved.

Study Committee member Robyn Golden, LCSW, associate vice president of Population Health and Aging at Rush University Medical Center, said "It was truly gratifying to participate in this

consensus report and work with prominent, nationally-recognized professionals from across the health care spectrum. As the study articulates, social workers are essential in this arena, and in creating partnerships between the medical and social service worlds."

One of the study's key recommendations is that social workers be adequately paid for providing social care. NASW agrees with this recommendation.

We therefore urge Congress to pass the *Improving Access to Mental Health Act* (S. 782/H.R. 1533). This much-needed legislation, co-sponsored by Senators Debbie Stabenow, MSW (D-MI) and John Barrasso, MD (R-WY), and Rep. Barbara Lee, MSW (D-CA), will enable clinical social workers to receive Medicare Part B reimbursement for providing Health and Behavior Assessment and Intervention (HBAI) services, which are within the clinical social work scope of practice.

This much-needed legislation will also enable clinical social workers to receive Medicare Part B reimbursement for services provided to skilled nursing facility residents, many of whom experience anxiety, depression, and other mental health challenges.

In addition, NASW implores the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) not to implement its proposed payment cuts to clinical social workers participating in Medicare Part B. Clinical social workers are currently reimbursed at only 75 percent of the physician fee schedule, the lowest payment rate of any mental health clinician in this major federal program, despite providing equivalent services.

The *Improving Access to Mental Health Act*, which Congress should enact as soon as possible, would increase this rate to 85 percent. To ensure a sufficient workforce to meet the social and clinical care needs of older Americans, CMS needs to increase, not decrease, these reimbursement rates.

Finally, NASW urges regulators and other policymakers to adopt the study's recommendation to enlarge the scope of practice for the nation's 700,000 social workers to include social care.

"This is a very significant study to which policymakers on the local, state and federal level should pay careful attention," McClain said. "We look forward to continuing to partner with these and other key stakeholders to ensure that the study's recommendations are realized, for the benefit of people from all walks of life."

## NASW/CT's 35th Annual Conference



May 8, 2020

Red Lion Hotel, Cromwell, CT

### Conference Brochure Ad Form

Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

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Please mail form and BLACK AND WHITE camera ready artwork—in JPEG please—to:

NASW/CT Conference Brochure Book  
2139 Silas Deane Hwy., Suite 205  
Rocky Hill, CT 06067

This form is available  
online at  
[www.naswct.org](http://www.naswct.org)

Email your ad to: [info.naswct@socialworkers.org](mailto:info.naswct@socialworkers.org) by February 14, 2020

For questions please call 860-257-8066 or email us at [info.naswct@socialworkers.org](mailto:info.naswct@socialworkers.org)

**Our conference brochure will be distributed to over 2000 Social Workers!**



## Sponsor & Exhibitor Invitation

NASW/CT's 35th Annual Conference



### May 8, 2020

Red Lion Hotel, Cromwell, CT

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

*Please sign us up!*

Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

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This form is available  
online at  
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Please make checks payable to: National Association of Social Workers, CT Chapter,  
2139 Silas Deane Highway, Ste. 205, Rocky Hill, CT 06067.

OR call the office (860) 257-8066 to pay by credit card or pay online at [www.naswct.org](http://www.naswct.org)

## NASW/CT 35th Annual Statewide Conference

May 8, 2020  
Radisson Cromwell, Cromwell, CT

### Call For Proposals

NASW/CT is now accepting papers for its 35th Annual Statewide Conference to be held on May 8, 2020 at the Radisson Cromwell Hotel in Cromwell, CT.

In this unique profession of ours, we strive to help people in all stages and walks of life. The professional social worker needs to acquire knowledge in numerous arenas including prevention, treatment, direct service, private practice, social policy, cultural competency, administration, community organization, and legislation.

The conference committee is seeking proposals that explore topics in varying fields of social work practice and at all levels (micro, mezzo, or macro).

The workshop presentations should appeal to experienced social workers and others in allied fields.

### Guidelines for Proposals

The committee recommends that one of the presenters has a BSW or MSW degree or be a social work student but this is not required for a proposal to be accepted.

To make the presentation informative and rewarding for the Conference audience, the committee suggests that presenters plan to address their remarks to professionals with **intermediate** or **advanced** levels of experience and knowledge. Social Workers appreciate specific "how to" comments and relevant examples. Please do not plan to read a power point or only lecture as our participants prefer interactive programs.

Submit a copy of the Proposal which includes a description of your professional experience, the Abstract, and the Brief Summary Abstract by **December 13, 2019**. We request that you include your objectives in the Abstract as well as a few sentences regarding how the presentation incorporates social work values.

**NOTE: No Personal Identification should appear in the Abstract to provide anonymity in the decision making process.**

***The Proposal form can be obtained from the NASW office or the form can be down loaded from the website at [www.naswct.org](http://www.naswct.org)***

***Presenters attend the Annual Conference at no charge but they are asked to pay \$40 if they are joining us for lunch.***

No additional presenters may be added after the Proposal is accepted. We ask that you limit your presenters to 5 should you be planning a panel.

Conference Committee decisions and notifications will be sent mid-January 2020.

***Send Proposals to NASW/CT Annual Conference Committee  
2139 Silas Deane Highway, Suite 205, Rocky Hill, CT 06067***

***Or Fax to (860)257-8074 or Email to [phartman.naswct@socialworkers.org](mailto:phartman.naswct@socialworkers.org)***

***Any questions, please call Pat Hartman at (860) 257-8066***

## Thanks to this Year's Regional Network Meeting Presenters

### **Shelley Berman, LCSW**

Presented: "Love: Personal, Political and Practice Considerations" and "Trans Rights and Wrongs: One Couple's Perspectives"



Shelley earned her Master's from Yeshiva University in New York. She has robust experience as a director of social services, behavioral healthcare manager, outreach coordinator and program director. Shelley is now a private practitioner and psychotherapist in Stamford, Connecticut. Shelley is also a former NASW/CT Board member. Shelley has advocated to establish additional continuing education opportunities. She was one of the first Regional Meeting presenters and has been a part of professionals providing development to CT social workers!

### **Amber Borges, LCSW, ACHP-SW**

Presented: "Having a Conversation that Matters"

Amber has been a social worker for over a decade. Her true passion is working in hospice and palliative care. Currently, Amber is works at Seasons Hospice & Palliative Care as the Director of Patient Experience. Her specialties include working with diverse populations, palliative care, access to care, and presenting on advance directives along with having conversations with patients about their individualized goals of care.



### **Elaine Allen Daignault, M.A., N.C.C.**

Presented: "Navigating Social Supports"



Elaine is the Director of Westport's Department of Human Services. She received her B.S. at Colorado State University; M.A. in Counseling at Fairfield University, a certificate in Nonprofit Leadership from the University of Wisconsin and has several certifications in evidence-based prevention programs. Elaine has worked in clinical prevention programs and with clinical non-profit agencies specializing in substance abuse, domestic violence and individuals with varying abilities and disabilities.

### **Kate C. Farrar, MPA**

Presented: "Gender Equity and Closing the Justice Gap"

Kate is the Executive Director of Connecticut Women's Education and Legal Fund (CWELF). Kate is passionate and dedicated to the advancement of women's rights and opportunities. Kate continues to institute social justice for underserved and under-represented populations.

### **Victoria Ferrara, JD**

Presented: "The Who, What, Where and Why of Having Children through Surrogacy"

Victoria earned her Juris Doctorate from St. John's University School of Law and is admitted to practice in Connecticut and New York. She currently provides a variety of supports, including legal services, at The Ferrara Law Group, P.C., and Worldwide Surrogacy Specialists, LLC.

## Thanks to this Year's Regional Network Meeting Presenters

**Lorraine Lazarus-Morley, LCSW**

Presented: "Understanding the Emotional Perspectives of Special Needs Parents and Caregivers"

Lorraine is a private practitioner in Ridgefield, Connecticut. She has extensive experience delivering psychotherapy through outpatient mental health in individual and group practice.

**Heather Monaghan Simon, MS**

Presented: "How Attachment Mediates Depression in Young Adults"

Heather has earned a Master of Arts degree in Health Psychology from Central Connecticut State University and previously earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology. Heather is now a Research Assistant at Yale University School of Medicine, Child Study Center.

**Stephanie R. Paulmeno, DNP, MS, RN, NHA, CPH, CDP,**

Presented: "Understanding Suicide in the Elderly in America"

Stephanie is a doctorate-prepared Registered Nurse and licensed Nursing Home Administrator with two degrees in gerontology. She is board-certified in public health, a case manager and a dementia specialist. Stephanie has owned and operated the public health consulting firm of Global Health System since 2009. She is also president of the Connecticut Nurses Association.



**Johanna Rayman, LCSW**

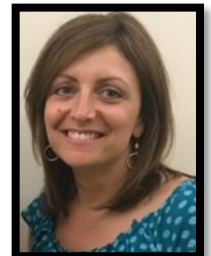
Presented: "Couples Therapy using Image Therapy"

Johanna has been in practice since 1982, and private practice since 1996. She is trained Imago therapist and enjoys working with couples and individuals dealing with a range of issues including LGBTQ, substance abuse, anxiety and depression, and grief and loss. Joanne is proud to be a clinical social worker and member of NASW.

**Leah Smith, LCSW**

Presented: "Forensic Interviewing and Team Coordination"

Leah is a licensed clinical social worker who earned her Master's in Social Work from Columbia University. She has been a forensic interviewer since 2002 and has conducted over 2,000 interviews for several Child Advocacy Centers and Multidisciplinary Teams throughout Connecticut. Leah is currently employed at the Yale-New Haven Hospital Child Abuse Clinic.





## Thanks to this Year's Regional Network Meeting Presenters



**Nadja Streiter, LMSW**

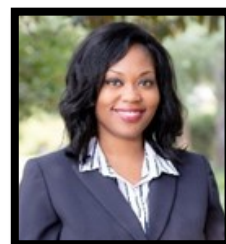
Presented: "Understanding Internet Technology and Addiction"

Nadja is a psychotherapist, activist, speaker and parent coach in Westport, CT. She treats a wide range of disorders but her area of expertise is in the area of problematic technology use and addiction to smartphones, gaming, social media, porn and other internet-based activities. Nadja received her Master's in Social Work from Fordham University and has received specialized training in CBT, EMDR, Motivational Interviewing, Mindfulness and Process Addictions.

**Yvette Tyndale, LCSW, ACSW**

Presented: "The Four Agreements and Social Work"

Yvette Tyndale (formerly Yvette Odom) is an active member of NASW CT chapter. She works as an outpatient clinician providing therapeutic services to children and families at Yale Outpatient Clinic. Yvette enjoys reading, being outdoors, and spending time with family and friends. Yvette's workshop received rave reviews and she incorporates her creativity and innovative ideas and knowledge into her presentations and social work practice.



**Vicki Volper, JD**

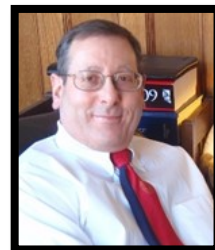
Presented: "Non-Adversarial Divorce Options: How to Choose"

Vicki received her law degree from Boston University's School of Law, cum laude, and a Masters of Law from the New York University Law School. Vicki is a mediator and collaborative lawyer. She has devoted her career to helping couples through divorce in a manner that maintains their dignity, preserves their assets and protects their children. Vicki also practices in the areas of divorce mediation, pre-marital and post-marital mediation, legal coaching and family mediation.

**Steve Weisblatt, MD**

Presented: "Myths & Facts About Rational Psychopharmacology"

Dr. Weisblatt has over three decades of experience evaluating the accuracy of diagnosis and effectiveness of pharmacological. He has served as an expert consultant to the Attorney General of N.Y. State, the U.S. Dept. of Justice and the Canadian Health Ministry. He has spoken widely and written extensively on the topic of accurate diagnosis and effective treatments especially in complicated patients with mood disorders. Dr. Weisblatt received his medical degree from SUNY Downstate Medical Center and completed his residency in Psychiatry at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine. He served for fifteen years on the psychiatric teaching faculty at Einstein and for eight years on the faculty at SUNY Downstate. He is board certified in General and board eligible in Geriatric Psychiatry, maintains offices in Stamford, CT, and serves patients in New York, Connecticut, Maine, Pennsylvania and Florida.



*Thank you to those who presented during the past year!*

## Fall Events with NASW/CT

**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](http://www.naswct.org), and EBLASTS will be sent to members as locations and fees are finalized. Stay tuned!

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## A Horse of a Different Color

On a beautiful, sunny, fall day over 50 social workers and students met for a workshop at the Ebony Horsewomen Equestrian and Agricultural Center in Hartford for a presentation on Equine Therapy. Powerful, nonjudgmental, and responsive living beings, horses seem to be able to form healing bonds with humans that lead to self-realization and changes in behavior and feelings. Led by Patricia Kelly, President and CEO of Ebony Horsewomen, and her staff, the group learned how the agency has effected positive change in children, adults, and families since 1984.



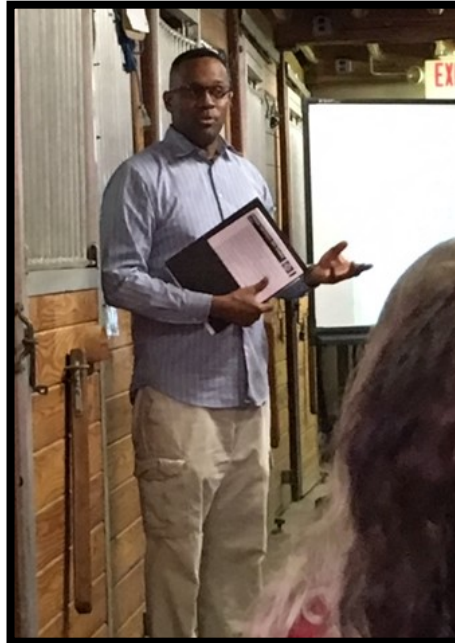
Liz Piacentini, a rider and owner of Between Our Ears, presented first on The Story of the Canadian Horse, providing an historical look at the horse in human culture. This led to a presentation on Cultivating Positive Self-Talk and how we can learn to control our thoughts and actions, maintain focus, and develop a mindset that will improve our personal growth. This discussion offered ideas and tips to help ourselves and others who might have doubts about our abilities to move forward.

Patricia Kelly then spoke about Equine Assisted Therapy (EAT) and Equine Assisted Psychotherapy (EAP) and delineated their differences. She gave an overview of the Equine Center, its mission, and their work with kids as well as adults and the various programs that are run at the Center. She spoke at length about the use of horses to effect change and offered examples of some of the young struggling kids who found their way to her stables and whose lives were changed—not only by the staff there but by the horses who do not require any “talking”.





## A Horse of a Different Color, continued



This non-traditional approach has proved to be effective with at-risk adolescents and the next presenter, Andrew Woods, MSW spoke to a program he initiated in Hartford in 1998 called Hartford Communities That Care, Inc. (HCTC). As its Executive Director, Andrew described how HCTC is committed to creating and supporting non-violent and drug-free communities. Noteworthy among their achievements is the creation of a crisis response team that works to support youth and families adversely affected by homicides, domestic violence, non-fatal shootings, and other violent crime. He has referred many of these kids to Patricia Kelly and her program and has seen the very positive changes that result when the horse and an at-risk teenager connect. These changes have also been seen in the use of Equine Therapy with Veterans and a short film was shared about a vet who found riding and horses to be the solution to easing his crippling depression.

Bettina Viereck, PhD and level 3 Dressage Rider, spoke next and defined and described EAP, a module that requires a Client, and Equine Expert, and a Licensed Psychotherapist. This experiential therapy utilizes horses to facilitate personal exploration and provides a context within which the therapist and the client can interpret the nature and meaning of the client's difficulties. The horse provides feedback regarding subtle changes in mood, serving as a "large biofeedback machine". This therapeutic method has been successful with children with autism and those who have experienced significant trauma as it relies more heavily on non-verbal feedback. While more research is needed, the results to date are promising and hopeful.

The final speaker was Fred Wright, Barn Manager at Ebony Horsewomen Center. He told about how he was a bit unruly as a kid, was not doing well in school, and experienced a serious accident on a motor bike on the streets of Hartford. He found his way to the Center and got hooked! With Pat's guidance and support and the support of the horses who relied on him and who "spoke" to him, he found his way to Cornell where he became a certified farrier. Now the Center's Barn Manager, Fred is one of many kids whose lives were turned around by the strong connection they made with a horse.

The final component of the workshop brought us all out into the paddocks where we mingled with some of the Ebony Center's 14 horses. Staff and volunteers provided insights and information about working with the horses. This hands-on part of the morning was highly anticipated and it did not disappoint. It is anticipated that NASW/CT and the Ebony Horsewomen Center will collaborate on workshops in the future. If this piques your interest, stay tuned!

Pat Hartman

National Association of Social Workers

~Connecticut Chapter~

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