

CONNECTIONS

October—December 2021



“Prisons do not disappear social problems, they disappear human beings. Homelessness, unemployment, drug addiction, mental illness, and illiteracy are only a few of the problems that disappear from public view when the human beings contending with them are relegated to cages.”

— Angela Davis

President’s Column	2-3	Vote Like Our Lives Depend On It!	11
Meet Our Intern	3	Upcoming Trainings	12-13
Executive Director’s Column	4-5	Latina/o Social Workers Network	15-16
Home Care Regulations Must Be Changed	6	Diversity Committee Update	17
Members in the News	7-8	Equine Assisted Therapy	19
Legislative Alert	9-10	Providing Support for Immigration Concerns	20
Age Discrimination	10	Adoption Awareness Month	21



Shannon Perkins, LMSW
President, Connecticut Chapter

Autumn Leaves

For as long as I can remember, reading has been one of my favorite hobbies, curling up into a book and getting lost in the pages – who can resist? But I hate to admit that between work and personal obligations, I fell away from it in recent years and it's not until I picked up *Where the Crawdads Sing* by Delia Owens that I came back to it. I won't get into the plot except to share that it is a beautifully written coming-of-age story set amongst a celebration of nature. One quote stood out to me while reading... "Autumn leaves don't fall, they fly. They take their time and wander on, this, their only chance to soar."

As we say goodbye to Summer 2021 and hello to another Autumn, I want to encourage you to think of yourselves as the leaves in this quote. We are still going through one of the most difficult times in modern history, so give yourself the space you need to soar. Try not to see a missed opportunity or perceived misstep as a setback but an opportunity to reset, start fresh, and soar into your next success. When we do this, as social workers especially, we can continue fighting the good fight with our heads held high, ready to take on our next challenge with as much excitement as we did the last.

At the start of September, we were pleased to welcome four new members to our Board of Directors: Beth Sharkey (1st Vice President), Pedro Pablo Silva, II (MSW Student Rep), Autumn Church (BSW Student Rep), and Joanna Iurato (Region 3 rep). Please welcome Beth, Pedro, Autumn and Joanne with open arms – we are excited to have them join such an amazing team. I am also pleased to announce Cheryl Wilson as President Elect. I have worked with Cheryl on the Board of Directors for the past several years and I cannot think of anyone better to serve as President next year. Congratulations once again to all of our newly elected and re-elected board members, thank you for all that you do, and I look forward to working with you for the next 9 months.

As we enter the second quarter of this fiscal year, I want to once again encourage all our members to explore, participate in, and even join one of the chapter's many committees. With a total of more than 15 committees to choose from, there is truly something for everyone. A list of all active committees and networks can be found at <http://naswct.org/about/committees-networks/>. Be sure to check them out today

Leaves, continued

and share your expertise in a committee that is important to you. Although it is not a federal election year, it is no time to put politics aside – make sure you mark your calendars for any important municipal elections in your town and be on the lookout for local endorsement by PACE, our Political Action for Candidate Election Committee.

As I close out what is effectively my 7th newsletter column, I want to thank each one of you for continuing your membership (or joining) in this difficult time. Our voice is more

effective when we come together as one and whether you support the chapter as a member, committee member, board member, or otherwise, your voice and your opinion matters. Please be sure that you encourage your friends and colleagues to join as well if they have not already done so – every new member makes a difference. Thank you for all that you do! I wish you and your families a safe and happy holiday season; see you in 2022!



Meet the Chapter's Intern



My name is Breanna Formanski and I am currently in my Senior year at Central Connecticut State University. I will be graduating in the spring with my Bachelor's degree in Social Work, and I plan to go on for my MSW right after; I'll be applying this fall! It is so surreal that the time has gone by so quickly. I am very excited to be with the NASW/CT this year as my field placement because macro work is what I feel destined to do, so I'm eager to be able to have this opportunity to get my hands on some policy work. Honestly, I'm still in a personal debate if I'd like to explore policy work or more of a community organizing track in the near future.

I am currently a student manager at the dining hall on campus and just this year I interviewed to be a mentor to incoming freshmen, which is going really well so far. When I have time away from the busy schedule I enjoy being outside hiking, kayaking, or swimming, and I also love to spend time with my friends and explore all different kinds of music.

Chapter Initiatives Help Expand Opportunities and Other Thoughts

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



Most of my columns have a singular theme. This is not one of them. As the Chapter gears up into the new program year of 2021-2022 there are a variety of initiatives underway that I want you to know about and help us with. There is also more of a miscellaneous nature of thoughts I want to share. For instance, it always amazes me how a quarterly newsletter column deadline comes around so soon! When I first started as Chapter Executive Director it was a monthly newsletter. How did I come up with 12 columns per year?

As you may remember, the Chapter was heavily involved in supporting the 2020 Police Accountability Act. That bill included Section 18, which required each police department in Connecticut to study and report on the feasibility of utilizing social workers for 911 calls. While not all municipalities appear to have submitted their reports, a goodly amount did and in September I received copies. NASW/CT is reviewing the findings and will issue a report that can be used by policy makers. To my surprise, there was an overall positive recognition of the value of social work responses for mental health and social issues calls now handled by police. At the same time obstacles were cited, most frequently budget constraints, safety concerns, limited number of appropriate calls (small towns) and how to have a 24/7 response. Still, there are more departments than I expected either utilizing social

workers directly or in planning stages to implement a program. Plus, what really stood out was that social workers and police coordination is nothing new. All the reports mentioned the use of crisis intervention teams staffed by social workers. Watch for our report.

The Chapter reinitiated our Municipal Jobs Campaign that was sidelined when the pandemic began. This is a campaign to have municipalities give preference in hiring to MSWs and BSWs for social services related positions. Recently, NASW/CT sent letters to all the human resource directors in each city and town. The letter highlighted the skills and value of hiring professional social workers, including a list of potential practice settings. The mailing generated several inquiries and the City of Stamford gave preference to MSWs in a recent search for a Social Services Director. Future mailings will target library directors and senior & youth services departments.

We continue to advocate on health care issues both statewide and federally. NASW/CT has partnered with our National Office to have our full Congressional delegation become co-sponsors of the *Increasing Access to Mental Health Act* that addresses several obstacles to clinical social work services being fully recognized under Medicare. Grassroots lobbying is being

Initiatives, continued

undertaken to reach out to our U.S. Senators and House Members. If we successfully get our CT delegation as co-sponsors it will become a model for other NASW chapters to use in collaboration with National NASW. Plus, the Chapter has initiated an effort to enlist our CT Congressional delegation to call upon CMS/Medicaid to include behavioral health as a covered service under Medicaid for home care services. Currently, social work services provided by home care agencies are not covered by Medicaid. This strikes me as an astonishing omission and at minimum a violation of the spirit of mental health parity statutes. So, we are trying to light a fire on this issue – from Connecticut to the nation – it affects the entire country.

A group of mental health providers have begun to meet to take action in regards to the myriad of problems providers faces when dealing with health insurers. 175 of you completed a survey we sent out on insurance reimbursement issues (see the article in this newsletter on initial findings). Plans are underway to advocate with legislators, gain media coverage and share concerns with the state's Insurance Commissioner, so that the independent mental health providers voices are heard.

Speaking of health insurers, the Chapter, for the first time, submitted testimony opposing rate hike requests made by five major insurers to the Insurance Department. Our comments focused on the detrimental effect of increased premiums on the ability of small businesses (including private practitioners) to afford coverage. Our comments also dealt with the negative impact on individuals and families of moderate income struggling already in this pandemic to make ends meet. Regretfully, even after bi-partisan opposition to the rate hikes, the Insurance Department issued approval of increases, quietly announced on a late Friday afternoon. This got me thinking about the lunacy of health care

based on private insurance. We have car insurance, property insurance, life insurance, disability insurance, etc. that is all reactive in design. Generally, it works well as a backstop to limit personal costs coming from a covered event, but it's not a preventative measure. Use of insurance coverage can cause increased rates to assure the continuation of the insurer's sizable profits. Amongst the reasons cited by health insurers for needing a rate hike was the pandemic that opened up telehealth, that in turn increased access to care, thus allowing more insured persons to actually acquire the care they are entitled to, and paid for, under their plans coverage. What we need is a national health care system, not health insurance.

The CT Chapter is looking to downsize our physical operations in order to reduce occupancy costs. After being in the same location since 1994 we are going to either reduce the current rented space, if the landlord can offer us an acceptable option, or move to smaller quarters. The pandemic has demonstrated that we can function in a hybrid model of being virtual and in-office. I for one have stopped in the office a few times since the pandemic began. My plan is to continue to work virtually. Two of the staff are in the office once or twice a week and will continue as such. The budgetary savings will allow us to put more of the Chapter's funds into programs, advocacy and staff support.

September 18, 2021 marked my 33rd anniversary as a NASW staff member. I began my employment with the Association as the Political Organizing Director (great title) for the New York State Chapter in 1988. Thank you for joining NASW. Thank you for staying with NASW. As this column has indicated, we still have plenty of important work to get done together.

Home Care Social Work Regulations Under Medicaid Must Be Changed

This year NASW/CT worked with the CT Association for Healthcare At Home to introduce legislation that would mandate Medicaid to cover the costs of social work services delivered by home care agencies. Currently, Medicaid does not cover social work services by these agencies. The bill was given a public hearing where the DSS Commissioner testified that federal Medicaid rules do not include behavioral health counseling as a covered service in home care. Due to this lack of recognition by CMS/Medicaid the State of Connecticut will not add social work services to the covered services in home care as there is no federal match of funds as an allowable service. This lack of federal coverage killed the bill in committee.

NASW/CT finds it unbelievable that in 2021, amidst a pandemic that has dramatically increased the need for mental health care that CMS/Medicaid does not include social work services as a covered home care service. The services covered are: (1) nursing services, (2) home health aide services, (3) medical supplies, 3 equipment, and appliances, and (4) physical therapy, occupational therapy, and speech pathology and audiology services. The Chapter

questions whether this is a violation of mental health parity and clearly it is a major omission of necessary care.

Changing the federal regulations require either federal legislation be passed or regulatory change by the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). Either way it is a difficult process, however a needed one. Thus NASW/CT has reached out to our national office, the Kennedy Forum and the Modern Medicaid Alliance in the hope of getting this issue on their radar screen. NASW/CT



will be reaching out to the CT Congressional Delegation asking that they write to HHS requesting addition of social work services to the Medicaid regulations. We also will ask our state social work legislators and supportive state legislators that raised the bill to contact our Congressional delegation.

For those interested in this issue and assisting in efforts to address the problem contact Stephen Wanczyk-Karp at skarp.naswct@socialworkers.org Read the Chapter's testimony at <http://naswct.org/testimony/testimony-on-sb-957-an-act-expanding-access-to-in-home-counseling-2/>

Members in the News



Dayne Bachmann, LCSW has published his first book, *SHE HE ME*, in 2021. It is story of his own struggle with gender identity and transgender transition. Along with his formal education, his personal experience enables him to more compassionately and expertly counsel and support his clients and their families. Mr. Bachmann is a Gender Development Therapist and owner of Twin Peaks Counseling Center, located in Derby, Connecticut. In addition, he leads diversity education and training in gender identity and trans-focal therapy, along with discussions on related ethics for his peers.

Christiana Best, Ph.D., LMSW has been appointed by Matthew Ritter, Speaker of the House, to the newly formed COMMISSION ON THE DISPARATE IMPACT ON COVID-19. Dr. Best is an expert on evaluating disparities in education, housing and human services. Dr. Best is an Assistant Professor in the University of Saint Joseph, Department of Social Work and Equitable Practice.



Kathleen Callahan, MSW is a district candidate for the City of Stratford's Town Council. Kathleen is the chairperson of the Chapter's Education and Legislative Action Committee (ELAN) and a member of CT PACE, the political action committee of NASW/CT. Kathleen has been endorsed by NASW/CT.

Millie Grenough, LCSW had a opinion editorial printed in the New Haven Register on climate change and the costs of military spending as it relates to climate change. To read it click here: <https://www.nhregister.com/opinion/article/Opinion-When-it-comes-to-climate-who-are-we-16535687.php>



Continued, next page

Members in the News, continued



Mary Jane Lundgren, MSW is running for re-election to the New Milford Town Council. Mary Jane is chair of the Town's Democratic Committee and a former chair of both the CT Chapter PACE and National NASW PACE. Mary Jane has been endorsed by NASW/CT.

Shannon Perkins, LMSW has been appointed by NASW President Mildred Joyner, DPS, MSW, LCSW to a national committee to revise the *NASW Standards for Continuing Education and the Social Work Profession*. The standards were last revised in 2003. Shannon is the Director of Education and Training for the Connecticut Women's Consortium, and the NASW/CT Chapter President.



Rose-Ann Wanczyk-Karp, LCSW, BCD, DCSW, ACSW has been appointed by Matthew Ritter, Speaker of the House to the Task Force to Study the Comprehensive Needs of Children in the State. Mrs. Wanczyk-Karp is a senior clinician at the Community Health Center, Inc. School Based Health Center of Roger Sherman Elementary School.

If you have news to be shared send it to info.naswct@socialworkers.org with Members in the News in the subject line.

NASW/CT Legislative Alert

H.R. 2035: Improving Access to Mental Health Act

EMAILS STILL NEEDED TO THREE CT HOUSE MEMBERS

This is a crucial time period for getting bill sponsors for H.R. 2035. Right now, Congress is particularly paying attention to behavioral health care. We need to get our entire Congressional delegation onboard to move the bills forward. If you have not yet acted on our previous alerts NOW is the time to act!

The Improving Access to Mental Health Act will:

Increase Medicare Reimbursement Rates for CSWs: The bill aligns Medicare payment for CSWs with that of other non-physician providers by increasing the reimbursement rate from **75% to 85%** of the physician fee schedule. Social workers deserve pay equity!

Increase Access to Mental Health Services for Residents of Skilled Nursing Facilities (SNF): H.R. 2035 would **rectify** the problems independent LCSWs face who are not employed by the SNF. They have been unable to seek reimbursement under Medicare for providing psychotherapy services to SNF residents receiving care under Medicare. The Improving Access to Mental Health Act will allow LCSWs direct reimbursement under Medicare and by doing so will increase much needed access to mental health treatment for nursing home residents.

Increase Supports for Medicare Beneficiaries Coping with Physical Health Conditions: H.R. 2035 would **broaden** the narrow definition of LCSW services by enabling them to receive Medicare reimbursement for HBAI services, these are: cognitive, behavioral, social and psychophysiological interventions which prevent, treat, and improve physical health and well-being.

What We Need Done Now:

Senators Chris Murphy & Richard Blumenthal are now co-sponsors. So are Congressman John Larson & Joseph Courtney. CT is the first state to have both U.S. Senators onboard thanks to our members advocacy. Now we have three more House members to go!

Continued next page

H.R. 2035: Improving Access, continued

TAKE ACTION NOW – USE THE BELOW LINK TO GO THE NASW ACTION CENTER WHERE YOU CAN EMAIL REPRESENTATIVES HAYES, HIMES AND DeLAURO. IT IS QUICK, EASY AND EFFECTIVE.

<https://www.socialworkers.org/Advocacy/Legislative-Alerts>

Thank you for being a social worker advocate!

Age Discrimination Has No Place in Connecticut



[Age discrimination](#) has been illegal in America for 50 years. But thanks to loopholes in the hiring process, many Americans aged 40 and older still experience illegal age discrimination when applying for jobs.

It's not right. And in Connecticut, AARP, with the support of NASW/CT, fought back and won.

Under a [new state law](#), most employers can no longer ask for age-related information on initial job applications, including graduation and school attendance dates. Now, more applicants will be considered based on their qualifications, not stereotypes or outdated assumptions. This new law levels the playing field for experienced workers.

AARP Connecticut's testimony on this bill is available [here](#), and testimony from our volunteers is available [here](#) and [here](#). NASW/CT testimony is available at <http://naswct.org/testimony/testimony-on-sb-56-an-act-detering-age-discrimination-in-employment-applications/>

For job seeker resources, job postings, advice for experienced workers, and more go to AARP.org/work

Vote Like Our Lives Depend On It!

Voting is a clinical intervention. It is a basic human right and one of the most effective ways to contribute to your community's well-being.

When people vote, especially marginalized and underrepresented communities, they exercise their ability to inform and change practices and policies within their locality that directly impact their physical and mental health.

When social workers in direct practice encourage their clients or patients to register to vote, they are able to engage in non-partisan voting recruitment that ensures funds and social services are being allocated to the most vulnerable populations.

Every year is an election year!

While we don't have any important national elections this year, we still have several important state and municipal elections. It is critical that social workers advocate for their clients by connecting them with Get Out the Vote (GOTV) efforts. Fortunately, social workers have a long track record of success doing voter registration at rates higher than even traditional voter registration groups. For instance, the successful National Social Work Voter Mobilization Campaign (Voting is Social Work) demonstrates that the social work profession has always known that voter registration and voting support a robust democracy, a just society, and an equitable health care system.

Vot-ER (vot-er.org) is an excellent tool for medical providers and social workers to engage in non-partisan voter recruitment and

education. The Vot-ER team has known that for decades, social work has been at the forefront doing the hard work of voter registration in all settings. **Our free Healthy Democracy Kit makes it easier for social workers across the country to do just that!**

Social workers across all specialties can help get their clients registered to vote with our Vot-ER

badge backers. It's as simple as giving your client the QR code and letting them scan it on their phone. We also have temporary badge backers available to download at <https://vot-er.org/temporaryhdk/>.

Order your free Health Democracy Kit and get more voting engagement resources at <https://vot-er.org/sw-vot-er/>! You can also get resources on how to register your clients to vote via remote and digital (Telehealth) platforms at <https://vot-er.org/telehealthsw/>.

Be sure to visit our partners, Voting is Social Work at

<https://votingissocialwork.org/> and TurboVote at <https://turbovote.org/>, for additional voting recruitment and engagement resources.

If you have any questions about the kit or would like to get more involved with Vot-ER, please contact Alberto Cifuentes, Jr., LMSW, at jr_alberto.cifuentes@uconn.edu. **Vote like our health and lives depends on it!**



By Alberto Cifuentes, Jr., LMSW

Upcoming Training

Addressing Inequity in Serious Illness Care: Cultural Competence & the Social Work Code of Ethics

November 12, 2021

via Zoom

A Lunchtime Training from 12 PM to 1:30

with Karen Bullock, PhD, LCSW, APHSW-C, FGSA



NASW/CT is honored to have Dr. Karen Bullock join us on November 12 to offer this essential, insightful presentation. You may remember Dr. Bullock from her time spent in Connecticut as a tenured faculty member at the UCONN School of Social Work and as Vice President and then President of the NASW Chapter Board. Her appointments during her time in Connecticut included those at the University of Connecticut Center on Aging, Hartford Hospital, and the Institute of Living Inpatient and Outpatient Geriatric Services. Presently the Head of the School of Social Work at North Carolina State University, Dr. Bullock is a leading force in advancing social work practice, education, and training in gerontology, mental health, and care at end of life. She is in demand as a speaker both nationally and internationally and we are pleased to welcome her back to our “table” this November. Join us on the 12th during the lunch hour to say hello and participate in this valuable discussion on addressing inequalities in serious illness care.

Racial inequities have become central in the national conversation about serious illness care during Covid-19. Moreover, the constant exposure to the indelible reality of health disparities across racial groups amplifies the need for cultural competence in social work practice with seriously ill patients and clients. Fortunately, during the 2020 NASW Delegate Assembly, cultural competence was deemed to be a critically important Social Work standard of practice and thus, returned to our Code of Ethics. This presentation will focus on the importance of applying the NASW Code of Ethics to address racial inequities in serious illness care with individuals, families and communities that have been historically marginalized and excluded from equitable access to systems of care. Discussion will identify health inequities in systems of care, ways in which racism affects healthcare outcomes, and offer frameworks for advancing anti-racist practices.

Approved for 1.5 Cultural Competence CECs by NASW/CT

\$25 NASW Members; \$40 for Yet to be Members ~No refunds issued after November 10th

Upon registration you will be sent a link to the ZOOM meeting

CE Certificates sent upon completion of the workshop and submission of Evaluation

[Click here to register.](#)

Announcing!!



Save the Date

April 1, 2022

NASW/CT Annual Conference is BACK! Mystic Marriott

More details available soon, but save the date NOW!

PREFERRED BILLING LLC

Exclusive Mental Health Billing

- We charge monthly **6%** of insurance reimbursement
- No charges on patient payments

888-226-0546
mehdi@preferredbillingllc.com

NASWJOB:INK
THE SOCIAL WORK CAREER CENTER

Whether you're looking for a new job,
or ready to take the next step in your career,
we'll help you find the opportunity
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)

LATINO/A SOCIAL WORKERS NETWORK 2022 MENTORING PROGRAM

SOCIAL. CULTURAL. EDUCATIONAL. *PROFESSIONAL.*



FAMILISIMO. PERSONALISMO. CONFIANZA. COLECTIVISMO.

Mentoring for: Latino/a BSW and MSW Students

A unique opportunity to be mentored by Latino/a senior professional social workers, who volunteer their time to mentor for free!

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO APPLY TO BECOME A MENTEE OR MENTOR, Contact us at LSWCTMentoring@gmail.com



IN CELEBRATION OF HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH, THE LATINO/A SOCIAL WORKERS NETWORK WOULD LIKE TO INVITE THE NEXT GENERATION OF SOCIAL WORKERS TO BE MENTORED BY SEASONED SOCIAL WORKERS FOR FREE!

OUR PROFESSIONAL MENTORS VOLUNTEER THEIR TIME TO EDUCATE, EMPOWER, AND MENTOR BSW & MSW STUDENTS!

TOPICS ARE FOCUSED ON HOW TO SUCCEED AS A SOCIAL WORKERS, SELF CARE, HOW TO NEGOTIATE SALARY, HOW TO GET LICENCED, RELEVANT RESOURCES AND MUCH MORE!

THE 2022 PROGRAM STARTS IN LATE JANUARY AND GOES UNTIL END OF APRIL.

THERE ARE FOUR FORMAL MEETINGS (THE FIRST THREE ARE VIRTUAL), BUT ACCESS TO MENTORS ARE ONGOING AS NEEDED!

PLEASE EMAIL us at LSWCTMentoring@gmail.com FOR MORE INFORMATION

NASW/CT Latino/a Social Workers Network

2022 Mentoring Program Q & A

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

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

What is the format or structure of the Mentoring Program?

The 2022 Mentoring Program is a hybrid of our successful one-on-one mentoring program and innovative community mentoring model. The community mentoring portion of the program will consist of four (January-April) virtual, interactive, and discussion-based meetings. These four community meetings will focus on topics such as program orientation, social work professionalism, negotiation skills, cultural development, and program evaluation/celebration. There will also be an opportunity to meet in-person as a community at an outdoor event in April (subject to change due to COVID limitations and regulations).

One-on-one relationships between mentors and mentees will be identified and established early during the program. Mentors and mentees will then communicate outside of community meetings and interact with each other via

phone, online, and/or in-person to develop one-on-one mentoring relationships. The Mentoring Program liaisons will periodically check in with mentors and mentees on their relationship and help resolve any issues or problems that may arise.

Who can participate in the Mentoring Program?

This program is open to all Latino/a BSW and MSW students who are or will become NASW members (may join upon starting the program). Potential mentors should identify as Latino/a, possess MSW degrees, be an NASW member (or join upon starting the program), and have at least five years of post-MSW professional experience. *With the exception of the first meeting*, all past mentors and mentees are welcome to join participants for community meetings. For information on NASW membership, please go to www.socialworkers.org/Join.

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

With the exception of the meeting in April, which will be held at a TBD location, all 2022 Mentoring Program community meetings are held via Zoom on the following Fridays, 6-8pm: **Jan. 28, Feb. 25, Mar. 25, and Apr. 29.** Mentors and mentees are expected to attend all four of these meetings. **Please consider your availability on these dates/times before applying for the program.**

If you're interested in applying as a mentor or mentee or would like more information, please contact

Network Co-chairs, Alberto Cifuentes, Jr., LMSW, and Celaura Estrada, LCSW, at LSWCTMentoring@gmail.com.

NASW/CT Diversity Committee Update

As a committee, one of the things we are committed to is educating our members on diversity issues and inviting dialogue and discussion. With the recent events in Afghanistan and on our borders we will be welcoming refugees and immigrants into our communities. We find ourselves wondering what we can do to help. In addition to being able to make referrals to these agencies, social workers and other employees may support any of these local refugee resettlement organizations in their mission to assist people in our communities who have left their home country due to persecution or fear of persecution based on race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group or political opinion.

Below is a list of local agencies for resettlement along with contact information for volunteering or making donations. In addition all these agencies have websites where you can get more information including contact information, making referrals and services offered.

- **Integrated Refugee & Immigrant Services (IRIS)** is a New Haven-based non-profit whose mission is to help refugees and other displaced people establish new lives, strengthen hope, become self-efficient and contribute to the vitality of Connecticut's communities. They are opening an additional site in the Hartford/ Wethersfield area and will be hiring case managers and a health care coordinator. Iris is expecting to help resettle over 700 refugees and immigrants in CT in the next 3-6 months. They will be providing services for a 300 refugees from Afghanistan, 100 a month starting in October in addition to helping to resettle families from other countries. They offer the following 6 services: Legal, Educational, Housing, Employment, Case management including counseling, and Health. Their phone number is (203) 562-2095 and for all information and applications go on their website at www.irisct.org.

Although they are currently located in New Haven, they are in the process of adding an additional service facility in the Hartford/ Wethersfield area and will be looking for case

managers, a health care coordination and other positions as well as volunteers to greet the new refugees and immigrants. To volunteer your time or apply for positions, go onto the IRIS website and apply. Someone from their team will contact you. In addition, they could also use help with gathering donations of items such as toiletries, female personal care items, socks, underwear and first aid kits. All items must be new and in their original packages

JCARR, Jewish Community Alliance for Refugee Resettlement is a co-sponsor of IRIS. They were formed in 2015 by 5 local synagogues. Their phone number is 203 387-2427. Their coordinators email is jsilk@jewishnewhaven. They have helped to resettle some of the IRIS families.

- **Connecticut Institute for Refugees and Immigrants (CIRI)** is a statewide non-profit that assists refugees and immigrants with addressing legal, economic, linguistic and social barriers so that they become self-sufficient, integrated and contributing members of the community.
- **Start Fresh**, a non-profit that was created and is operated by volunteers, works to resettle refugees and other displaced people in New London, CT.

There are three ways to give to each organization:

Purchase items from their Amazon Wishlists

[IRIS Amazon Wish List](#)
[CIRI Amazon Wish List](#)
[Start Fresh Amazon Wish List](#)

Make a monetary or in-kind donation

irisct.org/donate
cirict.org/donate
startfreshct.org/donate

Donate your time by volunteering

irisct.org/volunteer
cirict.org/get-involved
startfreshct.org/volunteer



RECRUITMENT CENTER

A Service of Bi-State Primary Care Association

Matching Clinicians with Employment
Opportunities Since 1994

Current BH/SUD Career Opportunities

Psychiatrists ▪ Psychiatric Nurse Practitioners

LCSWs ▪ LPCs ▪ LADCs

Masters Prepared Social Workers & Counselors

Clinical Psychologists

Do You Have Student Loans to Pay?

We can help you identify job opportunities that may qualify for state and/or federal student loan repayment programs.



Looking to make a move?

New Hampshire consistently ranks at the top for best state to live, based on cost of living, crime, safety, health and quality of life. For more information on job opportunities:

www.BistateRecruitmentCenter.org

Contact Claire Hodgman at chodgman@bistatepca.org

The only non-profit recruitment center working exclusively in New Hampshire and Vermont.

The preparation of these materials was financed under a Contract with the State of New Hampshire, Department of Health and Human Services, with funds provided in part by the State of NH and/or such other funding sources as were available or required, e.g., the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Wondering how to get 10 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,

then click on Continuing Education/CE Institute. There are dozens of classes on dozens of topics at reasonable prices!



Donna B. Saponaro
Manager

DBWS Professional Medical Billing LLC

Medical Billing/Account Management
Specializing in Behavioral Health

74 Arrowhead Drive
Griswold, CT 06351

Phone: (860) 376-6878

Fax: (860) 376-5878

E-mail: dbws@sbcglobal.net

"Your office away from
the office specializing
in Behavioral Health"

Equine Assisted Therapy



A beautiful fall morning found a group of twenty social workers at the barns of Ebony Horsewomen Equestrian & Therapeutic Center on the edge of Hartford's Keney Park. Covid



had prevented us from holding this workshop since the first collaboration between NASW/CT and Ebony Horsewomen back in September of 2019 but with masks and social distancing under a tent outside we took the plunge.

Patricia Kelly, Founder, President and CEO introduced her intern, Alana Farnsworth from the UCONN School of Social Work, and her presenters, Certified EAP Therapist Melita Arms, Dr. Bettina Viereck, Psychologist, Kelvin Lovejoy, and Dr. Regina Wilson, Psychologist. For the past 37 years, programs created by Ebony Horsewomen have effected positive change in adults, children, families, and veterans using equine-assisted psychotherapy, equine-based programming, and therapeutic riding. Using

solution-oriented therapy, rational-emotive theories, and components of the psychological foundations of EAP, those who perhaps do not respond well to talk therapy have been successful in addressing and altering maladaptive coping strategies and behaviors. All the speakers spoke to the healing of trauma and how horses, powerful, nonjudgmental, and responsive, seem to be able to form healing bonds with humans that lead to change in behaviors and feelings.

The response of the attendees was very enthusiastic and the emphasis on the cultural competence piece was well received and meaningful. It is hoped that this collaboration continues to engage social workers interested in this therapeutic process and we are able to offer the workshop at least once a year!



Providing Support for Clients and Families with Immigration Concerns

In June of 2021, Attorney Meghann E. LaFountain of LaFountain Immigration Law, LLC in Middletown presented a workshop that provided education around the risks faced by immigrants and those with various documentation statuses. It was a robust presentation that presented the benefits and challenges of the different statuses along with information about how we, as social workers, can best support immigrants who have concern for their safety and the safety of their families.

A group of attendees expressed interest in volunteering to conduct immigration applicant evaluations and on September 30th this smaller group met to talk about getting involved in this task. At this meeting Trish Dayan, LCSW, who has worked with Attorney LaFountain providing asylum evaluations, discussed her experiences doing this work and offered some

thoughts on how to interact with the clients and how an evaluation for the court might look. An ensuing discussion raised many specific issues, some certainly more complicated than others.

There is an ongoing need for these evaluations to be written with insight and understanding. Both Attorney LaFountain and Trish Dayan are available to discuss the process in greater detail with any social worker who might be interested. If you think this is something you might wish to do, please contact Attorney LaFountain at MEL@LaFountainLaw.com or Trish Dayan at tdayan@aol.com. If you have other questions about this workshop, please feel free to contact me at phartman.naswct@socialworkers.org

Pat Hartman

Recorded Trainings Now Available

Some of the trainings we have been doing via Zoom were recorded and are now available on the **CE Institute**. These would count towards the 6 CECs you can have via web based (pre-recorded) media and because they are approved by NASW/CT, they are accepted in Connecticut. Thanks again to the presenters who helped make this possible!

["Mindfulness for Social Workers" by Dana Schneider, PhD, LCSW, ACC, CMT-P, RYT 200](#)

["Zooming into Mindfulness: Telehealth with Children" by Rose-Ann Wanczyk-Karp, LCSW, BCD, DCSW, ACSW](#)

["Screening, Assessment, Support, and Intervention for Victims & Survivors of Domestic Violence During the COVID-19 Pandemic" with Kai Belton, LCSW, Linda Blozie, and Sharlene Kerelejza, LMSW](#)

November is National Adoption Awareness Month: *Adoption Competency Matters*



Do you have clients who are adopted or a client who is parenting children they adopted? Perhaps you are working with a family that is fostering children or who are providing a home and family for young relatives and the family system is in disarray, struggling with behavioral issues that may stem from the earlier experiences of the child. While many parenting ups and downs are common to most families, there are some difficulties and issues that are unique to adoption and foster care. Infusing adoption competency in the provision of clinical practice to these families is essential to keeping these families strong and intact.

Here is an amazing opportunity to hone your skills in adoption competence matters and become a valuable resource for families, a therapist who truly understands the issues and experiences relevant to adoption:

The National Adoption Competency Mental Health Training Initiative (NTI) has developed two state-of-the-art, standardized, web-based trainings to build the capacity of child welfare and mental health professionals in all states, tribes, and territories to effectively support children, youth, and their foster, adoptive, and



guardianship families. **These trainings are FREE and Continuing Education credits are available.** This is a \$9 million dollar initiative led by The Center for Adoption Support and Education (C.A.S.E.) funded through the Department of Health and Human Services designed to provide the skills, strategies, and tools needed to:

- Support children to heal from trauma and loss.
- Provide parents with skills to parent more effectively.
- Collaborate effectively with child welfare and mental health professionals.
- Improve Outcomes for permanency, child well-being, and family well-being and stability.

Follow this link to learn more

<https://adoptionsupport.org/nti>

Or, if your agency or practice is interested in participating in the training, contact Susan Myers, President of the Connecticut Council on Adoption at SMyers@fcagency.org or Lynn Gabbard, Practice Chair at CCA at lggabbard@aol.com to learn more about the Council's effort to disseminate this educational opportunity to organizations in Connecticut.

Upcoming SWES Exam Prep Courses Now Online Via Zoom!

Due to circumstances around COVID-19, and the closure of venues, SWES has migrated its upcoming exam prep classes to Zoom! Please see the attached flyer for details. Register in advance to receive your Comprehensive Study Guide, included with registration, by mail. www.swes.net or by calling 800-933-8802.



2021 LICENSE EXAM PREP COURSE SCHEDULE ALL COURSES ONLINE VIA ZOOM!

- February 6 - 7 — Two-day Course
- March 20 — One-day Intensive
- May 1 - 2 — Two-day Course
- June 5 - 6 — Two-day Course
- October 16 — One-day Intensive
- November 13 - 14 — Two-day Course

Courses taught synchronously in **interactive classroom format with live instructors.**

Prepares you for the ASWB Licensure Exam in **ALL states.**

SWES Comprehensive Study Guide included in registration.

Includes 1600 practice questions and reviews of major content areas, and is designed for ASWB Masters and Clinical Level Exams.

Courses have been approved for CEC Hours (9/two-day, 5/one-day) by the NASW/CT and meet the continuing education criteria for Connecticut Social Work Licensure renewal.



*All courses taught
in connection with –*

- Sacred Heart University,
School of Social Work
- Quinnipiac University,
Social Work Department
- Springfield College,
School of Social Work
- Connecticut Women's
Consortium
- NASW Vermont
- NASW New Hampshire
- NASW Maine

REGISTER ONLINE AT WWW.SWES.NET OR CALL 800.933.8802

“valuable and meaningful test-taking preparation”

“a tremendous help”

“lessened my anxiety and bolstered my confidence”

“worth every penny”

“easy to use study guides and practice tests”

■ EXAM PREP COURSE TUITION

Includes 3-volume Comprehensive Study Guide
\$350 two-day or **\$210** one-day + S&H

■ ONLINE PRACTICE EXAMS

90-day subscription includes two 170-question,
timed practice exams **\$85**

■ 3-VOLUME COMPREHENSIVE STUDY GUIDE

\$149 + S&H *included with registration

YOUR TRUSTED SOURCE FOR SOCIAL WORK LICENSE EXAM PREP SINCE 1983

www.swes.net

800.933.8802

info@swes.net

“The zoom format was great. Comfort of your own home and helpful...”

“Very beneficial and interactive...”

Reminders: On Our Website

Seeking Online Education for LCSW Renewal?

Visit the NASW/CT website www.naswct.org and click on the CE INSTITUTE. Here you will find a wide range of online classes and webinars all with continuing education credits. Remember CT LCSW renew allows up to 10 hours of home study including online education. Live webinars count the same as in-person programs.

No matter what practice field you are seeking education on you will find it at the NASW CE INSTITUTE @ <http://naswwa.inreachce.com/>

Seeking LCSW Supervision?

If you are a LMSW seeking supervision for LCSW eligibility check out the **NASW/CT Supervisors Registry**. Here you will find supervisors that have met the criteria of NASW/CT to offer supervision. Under state law any LCSW can offer clinical LCSW supervision. NASW/CT has a higher standard that we apply to the LCSWs on the **Supervisor's Registry**. Go to <http://naswct.org/supervisors-registry/> to see the full list of available supervisors.

Are you an LCSW seeking to offer supervision? Consider being on the **Supervisors Registry**. For details on qualifications, cost and an online application go to <http://naswct.org/add-new-supervisor-listing/>

Advertising Your Classified Ad on the Web

NASW/CT ACCEPTS EMPLOYMENT AND CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING ON OUR WEB PAGE

IT'S OUR 30 – 30 - 30 PROGRAM

30 WORDS FOR 30 DAYS AT \$30.00

Web Advertising Is EFFECTIVE AND INEXPENSIVE! We'll post your ad of up to 30 words for 30 days for only \$30.00. For larger ads, there is a range. Ads 31 to 50 words are \$50.00, 51 to 75 words are \$75.00 and so on, but that's not necessary; there is a field to link to an online employment listing, whether on your website, or elsewhere. Submit your ad with payment to NASW/CT. For more information or to discuss this service contact us at 860/257-8066. To submit an ad go to <http://naswct.org/place-classified-ad/>

Value added feature for advertisers. We will forward your ad to our members who have signed up for our Job Seekers list at no additional cost to you.

Contact Information

2139 Silas Deane Highway, Suite 205
Rocky Hill, CT 06067

(860) 257-8066
Fax: (860) 257-8074

naswct.naswct@socialworkers.org
www.naswct.org

Change Membership Data
National Office, DC
*Members can make changes online

800-742-4089*
www.socialworkers.org

NASW Assurance Services

855-385-2160

LCSW Exam Application—Department of Health

800-509-7603

Ethical Questions
Stephen Wanczyk-Karp, NASW/CT Executive Director

860-257-8066 x202
skarp.naswct@socialworkers.org

Committee Participation
NASW/CT Chapter Staff

860-257-8066

Licensing Questions
NASW/CT Chapter Staff

860-257-8066

Continuing Education Information/Conference Questions
Pat Hartman, NASW/CT Coordinator of
Professional Development

860-257-8066 x204
phartman.naswct@socialworkers.org

Bookkeeping
Nicole LePore, NASW/CT Bookkeeper

860-257-8066 x203
naswbookkeeper.naswct@socialworkers.org

Website, Newsletter, Advertising & Labels
Meghan Maxwell, NASW/CT Office Administrator

860-257-8066
mmaxwell.naswct@socialworkers.org