

CONNECTIONS

July—September 2022



Justice grows out of recognition of ourselves in each other — that my liberty depends on you being free too.

Barack Obama

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The Art of Beginning

Cheryl Wilson, LCSW, MBA
President, Connecticut Chapter

I am humbled and excited to contribute to this newsletter as the newly elected President of the NASW CT chapter.

Before I share about myself, I would like to express my gratitude to Shannon Perkins, our outgoing President for the NASWCT chapter. Shannon has gracefully succeeded in the role of President, during the most challenging times in recent history... (the COVID pandemic).

Additionally, I would be remiss if I did not thank Shannon Perkins for all her contributions to the NASW CT chapter. Shannon has been integral to the important advances we made as a chapter.

I am particularly grateful to have worked with Shannon and appreciate all her encouragement and support. Shannon's hard work and consistent support for Steve Wanczyk-Karp, our Executive Director has not gone unnoticed. Her counsel is wise, and her patience is truly appreciated. Shannon has set the tone for future leaders with her elegant communication style and her exceptional leadership skills. Shannon's presence has created a pathway for progressive teamwork in our upcoming years. My goal is to continue to build upon the progress made in

support of Shannon's many initiatives during her tenure as Board President for the past two years.

Like past Presidents of the NASW CT chapter, I joined the NASW CT as a student while attending Fordham University. I learned about the NASW from one of my professors at Fordham, who explained all the benefits of being a participating member of the NASW, which includes education, advocacy work, legislative issues...etc., along with the importance of the Code of Ethics in the social work profession, as it guides our practice and our moral conduct. The professor further explained how significant our membership is to further enhance the social work profession and betterment of the populations we serve.

My name is Cheryl Wilson-LCSW, and I started my career with the NASW CT chapter as a region 3 representative in 2016. In my role as a region 3 representative, I hosted and coordinated events to further enrich the social work profession by providing mini educational seminars for mental health professionals.

Subsequently, I moved into a volunteer role as a Board of Director member. Since then, it has been an exciting journey to be a participant in fulfilling our mission and goals as a social work profession.

Beginning, continued

I received my BA in social science from Albertus Magnus College, which is an interdisciplinary degree in social science and psychology. I obtained my master's degree in social work from Fordham University, with a concentration in children and families. I studied both the clinical and administration track during graduate school.

I currently hold an active clinical independent license in Social Work and have over 15 years of experience working in micro, macro, and mezzo social work. I started working in the mental health field in 2006 where I had an opportunity to work in child welfare, outpatient mental health, foster care, and higher education.

My background is diverse because of the many facets I have been graced with. My interest in clinical mental health, administration, programming, education, training, college teaching, as well as grant writing will help bring a unique perspective in moving our agenda forward.

Back in 2014, I decided to start a part-time private practice to help mitigate and support the clinical mental health needs of individuals and families. Concurrently, I was employed by Anthem Blue Cross/Blue Shield managing a Medicaid contract where we helped individuals obtain the right level of care while reducing inpatient hospital admissions for behavioral healthcare.

As a licensed practitioner, I have worked extensively with diverse populations using therapeutic modalities. Additionally, I have received specialized training in cultural competency and have all-encompassing experience and training in evidence-based practice, working with adolescents, adults, and families.

My exclusive years of experience in the corporate world-(Healthcare), has afforded me a particular knowledge base in managed care and gives me insight on how mental health and physical health are one and the same. You simply can't have one without the other.

My extensive background in teaching in higher education started in 2007. I have worked at local universities in Connecticut, as well as through the online platform for the University of Southern California and currently Fordham University in the Graduate School of Social Services department.

My interest includes micro, macro, and mezzo social work-simply because they all matter. Micro, macro, and mezzo social work all help to promote social justice and human well-being, with special emphasis on vulnerable communities. Being that the core mission is essentially the same, these three entities achieve the mission through different means and methodologies.

Lastly, as I reflect over the past couple years, it has become visible to me and many of us that we have a great deal of work ahead of us.

I am so excited to work in partnership with the board members and executive committee as the new chapter President and I look forward to the next two years with this wonderful team. More importantly, I am appreciative of how committed our board members are, individually and collectively. My goal as the new President is to continue to nurture an environment that allows for openness, creativity, and expression of ideas to help continue to move our agenda forward. I am here to represent our board and I look forward to all your contributions to the NASW CT chapter.

Cheers to a great two years together!

Don't it always seem to go That you don't know what you got 'til it's gone

(Big Yellow Taxi by Joni Mitchell)

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



I have been watching the January 6th House Committee hearings. It has been riveting testimony and frightening too. The extent that former President Trump and certain supporters went in order to remain in power is an eye opener. Clearly, it was a failed coup.

At the same time as the January 6 hearings, we had the Supreme Court decision overturning *Roe v. Wade*, a constitutional right that has been in place for nearly 50 years! Plus, Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas is suggesting that the Court should review other established rights, such as legality of contraceptives, same sex marriage and gender rights. While the other conservative justices offer assurances that such decisions are not in the crosshairs of the Court, who can believe them? It is not on the Court's agenda because they do not yet have a case before them.

Our democracy is a fragile vehicle that can only be maintained by constant vigilance. Rights are only won by activism, including political action that combines outside pressure of the many (protests, rallies, sit-ins, etc.) with heavy lobbying of those on the inside with the power to make changes. That is how this country passed civil rights legislation, women's rights, LGBTQI rights, reproductive rights, disability rights, and other rights for specific populations. Each were hard fought.

If you look at our Code of Ethics you will see how the Code has been revised over the years to incorporate language related to rights achieved. Yes, the Code has followed, not led on the battle for rights. Imagine though a Code of Ethics that did not include sexual orientation, gender identity and immigration status as part of the section on non-discrimination (Section 4.02 Discrimination). Those were only added in 2008, following movements that gained such recognition of rights.

Social work practice in Connecticut is no different. Third party reimbursement was achieved in 1990 over the objection of the insurance industry. It took a massive organizing campaign, contracted lobbyists that required raising significant funds, and a legislative plan that beat the insurance industry in the insurance capital of the nation. No small feat given the power and influence of the insurance lobby.

Since 1990 social workers in Connecticut have achieved major steps toward professionalization and practice rights. Here are the most significant accomplishments:

- Licensure was passed in 1995 after a decade of having the weakest regulatory law in the nation (the Certified Independent Social Worker).

Til it's gone, continued

- The Social Work Confidentiality statute that gives our clients the right to privilege of their information was passed on the first try in 1992, overcoming objections from powerful legislators, and having to override a governor's veto.
- The expansion of licensure to the LMSW was passed in 2010, but was not implemented for 4 years because of a lack of Department of Public Health funding.
- The State of Connecticut's preference in hiring of BSWs and MSWs with a job classification titled "Social Worker" was administratively implemented in 2013. A sophisticated administrative lobbying campaign of 2.5 years by NASW/CT brought this about.
- LCSWs were added as providers under HUSKY Medicaid in 2014.
- Title protection, including codifying the state hiring preference passed in the final 20 minutes of the 2019 legislative session. Because so many legislators on both sides of the aisle heard from social workers the bill had strong bi-partisan support.
- The police accountability bill of 2000 required police departments to study utilization of social workers for mental health/social needs calls.
- In 2021 NASW/CT passed legislation creating the strongest nursing home beds to social worker ratio in the nation (60 beds per social worker) and took effect this year.
- In response to the pandemic and crisis in children's mental health, the 2022 legislative session passed a plethora of language that expands and strengthens social work practice in Connecticut.
- stopped numerous bills that would have restricted social work practice;
- played a major role in managed care reforms;
- led fights throughout the 1990s to stop health insurers from offering "bare bones" policies that excluded mental health care
- assured that substance use was included in the mental health parity law of 2000.

Before this year's legislative session began there was talk of barriers to licensure as part of the problem for the lack of sufficient mental health providers. I never could learn from those raising this concern exactly what those barriers were, but it sure sounded like elimination of the LMSW was being sought. In response, I worked with DPH and the Association of Social Work Boards to allow future MSW students to sit for the LMSW exam in their last semester of schooling. I helped legislators craft language to make the process of attaining the initial license more accessible. Later in the year I was in a meeting with an agency head who indeed was advocating for removal of the LMSW license level. Through vigilance and proactive steps NASW/CT made sure the nearly decade old LMSW remained intact

I titled this column with a line from a Joni Mitchell song about not appreciating what you have until it is gone. The rights that generations have fought for, once gone, can take years or even decades to regain. What we have become accustomed to in our democratic processes, social justice statutes and social work practice laws, requires constant vigilance and advocacy to maintain them. We cannot sit by and wait for others to take action. Every day we have a responsibility to be activists for what we believe in. **WHAT WILL YOU DO?**

In addition, throughout these years NASW/CT advocacy included, but was not limited to:

Beatrice's Ledger: Coming of Age in the Jim Crow South

by [Ruth R. Martin](#) (Author), [Vivian B. Martin](#)

Ruth Martin, a long-time NASW member, former NASW/CT Board Treasurer, and UCONN SSW faculty member, has written a book on growing up in South Carolina under Jim Crow. A vivid and moving story about family, courage, and the power of education

Ruth remembers the day the sheriff pulled up in front of her family's home with a white neighbor who

claimed Ruth's father owed her recently deceased husband money. It was the early 1940s in Jim Crow South Carolina, and even at the age of eleven, Ruth knew a Black person's word wasn't trusted. But her father remained calm as he waited on her mother's return from the house. Ruth's mother had retrieved

a gray book, which she opened and handed to the sheriff.

Satisfied by what he saw, the sheriff and the woman left. Ruth didn't know what was in that book, but she knew it was important.

In *Beatrice's Ledger*, Ruth R. Martin brings to life the stories behind her mother's entries in that well-worn ledger, from financial transactions to important details about her family's daily struggle to survive in Smoaks, South Carolina, a small town sixty miles outside of Charleston. Once the land of plantations, slavery, and cotton, by the time Ruth was born in 1930

many of the plantations were gone but the cotton remained. Ruth's family made a living working the land, and her father owned a local grist and sawmill used by Black and white residents in the area. The family worked hard, but life was often difficult, and Ruth offers rich descriptions of the sometimes-perilous existence of a Black family living in rural South Carolina at mid-century.



Dr. Ruth R. Martin

Photo by Sevim Yolacti

But there was joy as well as hardship, and readers will be drawn into the story of life in Smoaks. Enriched with public records research and interviews with friends and family still living in Smoaks, Martin weaves history, humor, and family lore into a compelling narrative about coming of age as a Black woman in

the Jim Crow South. Martin recounts her journey from

Smoaks to Tuskegee Institute and beyond. It is a story about the power of family; about the importance of the people we meet along the way; and about the place we call home.

For more information on the book that becomes available on July 8th go to https://www.amazon.com/Beatrices-Ledger-Coming-Crow-South/dp/1643363158/ref=tmm_hrd_swatch_0?encoding=UTF8&qid=&sr=

Farewell

So long. Adios. Au Revoir. Later... I must be going.

It is close to 16 years ago that I first walked into the NASW/CT office in Rocky Hill to start the job newly titled the *Coordinator of Professional Development*. Having been a Camp Counselor, a Caseworker for DCF, a Stripper for a Printing Company, a Small Business Owner, and miscellaneous other “professions” along the way, I was looking forward to being the Coordinator of something new. And, truly, it has been a great ride. To all my old friends, all my

many new friends, my Conference Planning Committees, my Conference Moderators and Presenters, my longstanding Annual Dinner Committee (thanks MaryJoan Picone, Ellen Pfarr, Rita Brzozowski, Raymie Wayne, and Diane Michaelson), my loyal team of Reviewers, my office colleagues, and my Director, Steve, (who always provided autonomy but with thoughtful direction) thank you for the conversations, the discussions, the decisions, the camaraderie, and all that we have shared over this time we have worked together. We’ve had some amazing conferences and some very moving award dinners and some memorable Keynote Speakers! We’ve reviewed hundreds and hundreds (maybe thousands and thousands) of Program Applications in the Continuing Education “division” of this job and created a well-oiled process supported by carefully crafted definitions and an inclusive approach (thanks Becky Anderson, Rosaline Brown, Karen Carney, Karen Christensen, Camilla

Hillian, Diane Michaelson, Jo Moody, Amy Myers, and Yvette Tyndale) with carefully documented databases to insure substantiation and corroboration (thank you Nicole Lepore and Meghan Maxwell).

Thanks to all of you out there doing the hard work of social work and those of you who are working hard to provide the best, updated,

valuable continuing education for your colleagues. Thanks to every Presenter who answered my call to provide Continuing Ed via Zoom during Covid and to those who submitted Conference Workshop Proposals over the years, presenting such well received trainings—some of you presenting almost every year, back by popular demand! Thanks to all the Exhibitors who supported our efforts year after year and who came back with such enthusiasm this

year to attend our first LIVE conference since 2019!

As I said at the 2022 Conference (with thanks to Winnie the Pooh), how lucky I am to have something that makes saying goodbye so hard! Thanks for hiring me, Steve! I have enjoyed this work and the opportunity to meet so many people committed to the art and science of social work.

All the Best,
Pat



Steve and Pat at this year's conference

Continuing Education & Membership Coordinator

Because our beloved Pat is moving on to her now full-time position of “Fun Grandma,” we have an opening for a Continuing Education & Membership Coordinator. Click [here](#) for the full description and how to apply.

Addictions Committee Update

The Addiction Committee will be meeting on the 1st Tuesday of the month, 4:30-5:30pm. If interested, please contact Gabriela Krainer at gabriela.krainer@fcaweb.org.



Chapter Election Results

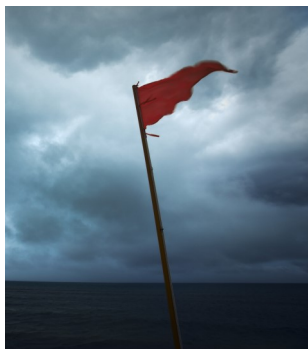
Thank you to all of our members who voted in the 2022 Chapter elections. We are pleased to announce the election results:

Diane Michaelsen has been re-elected as Secretary and **Joanne Leon** is returning to the Board in a new position of Member At Large. The new Regional Representatives are **Jason Andrade** for Region 1 and **Pat Carl-Stannard** for Region 2. Our new student representatives are **Casey Caldwell** as the BSW Student Representative and **Avery Price** is the MSW Student Representative. The Chapter welcomes our new Board members.

We thank the following members who were not elected: **Julie Budney**, **Cheryl Green**, **Lisbeth Greist**, **Claudia Pina** and **Alexandra Solomon**. We thank these members for allowing us to run them as candidates.

The full list of Board of Directors can be found at <http://naswct.org/about/board-of-directors/>

Red Flag Law Update in Effect



Last year Governor Lamont signed [Public Act No. 21-67](#) that expanded the list of persons who can petition the superior court for a risk assessment when a person who has weapons is deemed to be a possible threat to self or others. If the investigation is approved by the court and findings are found of a potential threat such weapons will be removed from the persons possession. On June 1, 2022 the expanded law went into effect.

The bill allows family or household members or **medical professionals** to apply to court for a risk protection order investigation if they have a good faith belief that someone poses a risk of imminent personal injury to himself, herself, or another person. For these purposes, a “family or household member” is someone at least age 18 who is one of the following in relation to the person subject to the application: 1. the person’s spouse, parent, child, sibling, grandparent, grandchild, stepparent, stepchild, stepsibling, mother- or father-in-law, son- or daughter-in-law, or brother- or sister-in-law; someone residing with the person; 3. someone who has a child in common with the person; 4. the person’s dating or intimate partner; or 5. the person’s current or former legal guardian. **Under the bill, a “medical professional” is one of the following state-licensed professionals who has examined the person: a physician or physician assistant, an advanced practice registered nurse, or a psychologist or clinical social worker (note the law specifies LCSW).**

NASW/CT supported this bill and lobbied to include licensed clinical social workers in the bill. The fact that the Legislature included licensed social workers was a statement of the professional recognition our profession has attained.

New Law Changes Mandatory Reporting on Elder Abuse

The new law reduces, from 72 hours to 24 hours, mandated reporting timeframes for elderly protective services. Under the old law, mandated reporters who fail to timely report to the Department of Social Services (DSS) when they have reasonable cause to suspect that an elderly person needs protective services or has been abused, neglected, exploited, or abandoned, are subject to a fine of up to \$500. The new law eliminates the fine for a first-time failure and instead requires someone who fails to report within the required 24-hour timeframe for the first time to retake the mandatory elder abuse training and provide the DSS

commissioner with proof of successful training completion. It requires repeat violators to (1) retake the training and provide the proof of successful training completion and (2) be fined up to \$500. Under existing law, unchanged by the bill, intentional failure to report is a class C misdemeanor for the first offense, punishable by up to three months in prison, a fine of up to \$500, or both. Subsequent offenses are a class A misdemeanor, punishable by up to 364 days in prison, a fine of up to \$2,000, or both. These changes took effect July 1, 2022.

NASW/CT Ethics Committee is Pleased to Announce the First Peer Ethics Support Group!



This is a virtual open group that runs the 4th Thursday of each month starting July 28th, 2022. Group runs 6:30pm-7:30pm. Please contact CEC Chair, Yvette Tyndale at (803) 422-1888 or Yvette.tyndale2020@gmail.com for questions about the Peer Ethics Support Group. Zoom information:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83319239846?pwd=V1JRNTV5TzRPS2pQdTROb3NieVEwUT09>

Meeting ID: 833 1923 9846

Passcode: 263334

Expanded CE Webinars Coming Starting September

We are pleased to announce that the CT and NYS chapters are launching an innovative project to expand the continuing education webinars offered through CT NASW. This collaboration between chapters, the first of its kind amongst NASW chapters, will bring NYS sponsored continuing education webinars to CT social workers.

Through this collaboration, CT NASW will select up to five webinars per month that NYS NASW offers that will be of interest to CT social workers. This will allow CT NASW to double or more the number and range of online webinars we are now able to offer. All webinars will be eligible for CECs recognized by CT DPH for license renewal. You will continue to receive announcements of programs from NASW CT and the same service that you have come to know from our Chapter. The CT Chapter will continue to run our own webinars, including those sponsored by our committees and programs specific to our state.

Wit v. United Behavioral Health Court Ruling Mental Health Parity is at Stake

NASW/CT stands alongside clinical experts, mental health and addiction advocates, and 50,000 plaintiffs in *Wit v. United Behavioral Health (UBH)* fighting to protect mental health and substance use disorder coverage. At stake in this case is whether the largest insurer in the country can put its own financial interests ahead of patients – and in the process, set a dangerous example for how other insurers can limit coverage of urgently needed mental health and addiction treatment.

The [U.S. District Court for Northern California](#) ruled in 2019 that UBH ignored accepted clinical standards to prioritize profit over people's needs, but the ruling was recently reversed by a 3-judge panel of the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals. If left unaddressed, the panel's ruling would establish a harmful precedent for other insurers – amidst a historic mental health and addiction crisis, no less. The ripple effects of a *Wit* ruling impact the healthcare of over 130 million Americans.

Leading [mental health advocates and practitioners](#) pushed back on the 3-judge panel ruling by filing amicus briefs that urge the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals to rehear the case, emphasizing that

implications will be significant if insurers are allowed to make decisions out of step with clinical standards:

“Patients will suffer as a result [of the panel's reversal]. When insurers are given the authority to ignore expert consensus treatment guidelines and deny authorization for covered medically necessary treatment based on financially influenced internally developed guidelines, patients are forced to forego medically necessary care. This is especially problematic in a world where so many people with behavioral illnesses already do not receive the care they need.” - [National Association for Behavioral Healthcare, American Psychological Association, American Hospital Association, et al.](#)

A rehearing from the full 9th Circuit offers an opportunity to revisit the panel's flawed ruling, which allows insurers to deny coverage of medically necessary treatment during a historic national mental health and addiction crisis. [Learn more about the case and why this is one of the most significant health policy cases of the 21st century.](#)

Recorded Trainings Now Available

SOCIAL WORK
ONLINE CE INSTITUTE

If you missed Bob Madden's webinar, “**The Cures Act and The No Surprises Act: Practical Steps for Clinical Social Work Compliance**,” in which he explains the recent federal regulations granting patients more access to their medical records, and preventing consumers from receiving unanticipated medical bills, you can see the recording on the CE Institute by [clicking here](#).

Numerous New Provisions of Law Related to Licensure

The CT Legislature passed a variety of provisions that make changes to current social work licensure law (as well as other professions). The majority of these changes were recommended by and/or supported by NASW/CT. Here is a brief summary of the key changes now in effect unless otherwise noted.

- DPH must notify licensure candidates of accommodations they may be eligible for, including extra time and a translation dictionary for ESL candidates.
- The LMSW temporary license period has been expanded to 1 year and remains in effect even if the applicant fails the licensure exam, until prior to June 30, 2024. As of June 30, 2024 the license returns to its 120-day maximum with failure of the exam resulting in revocation of the license. *NASW/CT sought to allow for two tries at passage of the licensure exam.*
- The LMSW temporary license takes effect upon issuance of license from DPH. The temporary license has been in effect from the date of graduation, which is problematic as no one can actually apply and receive it on the day of graduation. *NASW/CT successfully advocated for the start date of the temporary license be at the time of issuance.*
- DPH is to implement a needs-based waiver of the licensure application fee and license fee. Priority will be given to: applicants who are members of racial and ethnic minorities; persons identifying as LGBTQ; and persons with a disability; who will be providing mental health services to children.
- Licensure reciprocity will be available to out-of-state licensed social workers with at least 4-years of licensure in good standing with a

license of similar or greater requirements to CT, including passage of the licensure exam. Effective January 1, 2023.

- Out of state licensed social workers may continue treating existing clients, through telehealth, without a CT license, when the out of state client is in CT. This provision ends on July 1, 2024. *NASW/CT introduced this idea and sought to make the change permanent and applied to all out of state licensed mental health providers. The Chapter will attempt to make this permanent, and applied to all licensed mental health providers, in next year's legislative session.*

All of the above changes are in Public Act 22-47.

- Licensure candidates with a felony may apply to DPH, explaining the circumstances of their felony and history since the felony. DPH will have up to 30 days to determine if the applicant may sit for the licensing exam. DPH can refuse licensing only where it is determined the felony directly impacts the current safety of practice. Up to now DPH summarily refused to license social workers with a felony. The new law includes a variety of health and occupational licenses, with social work, professional counselors and art therapists the only behavioral health professions included. This law takes effect October 1, 2022. *NASW/CT heavily lobbied for passage of this bill, especially in the final two weeks of the legislative session. It passed on the final night of the session.*

The above change is in Public Act 22-88.

The NASW/CT Diversity Committee
Presents

The Roles and Responsibilities of Social Workers During the Journeys of Immigrants and Refugees

Join us to explore the different levels of social work with immigrants, how social workers can help immigrants acclimate as well as the impact of helping this population and how to manage such. This program will also include the first-hand experiences of individuals who immigrated from the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Afghanistan.

Friday, September 16, 2022
10:00 am to 11:30 am
Via Zoom

1.5 Cultural Competency CECs
pending approval

\$25 members / \$40 non-members
\$15 student members / \$20 student non-members

**Stay tuned, registration link will be provided in the
August and September eblasts!**

For additional information contact
info.naswct@socialworkers.org or call 860.257.8066

LCSWs Added as Providers of Police Behavioral Health Assessments

In 2020 the Legislature passed the Police Accountability Act that requires periodic behavioral health assessments of police officers. When the bill passed the only two professions who could perform the assessment were trauma informed psychiatrists and psychologists. NASW/CT sought to include LCSWs at the time but were informed that there was not a consensus amongst the bills authors to add clinical social workers. Upon passage of the law the Chapter began to lobby for inclusion of LCSWs. Through the work of NASW/CT the Governor's Task Force on Police Accountability and Transparency included in their recommendations that LCSWs be added as approved providers for the mental health assessments of officers. At the start of the 2022 legislative session NASW/CT tirelessly lobbied for adding LCSWs to the law. Our efforts were successful as LCSWs were included in AN ACT CONCERNING PERIODIC BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ASSESSMENTS, POLICE OFFICER RECRUITMENT, SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS, REPORTING OF VIOLATIONS TO THE POLICE OFFICER STANDARDS AND TRAINING COUNCIL, INVESTIGATIONS BY THE INSPECTOR GENERAL AND MINIMUM STANDARDS AND PRACTICES FOR THE ADMINISTRATION, MANAGEMENT AND OPERATION OF LAW ENFORCEMENT UNITS, that has now become Public Act 22-114.

This Public Act makes various changes in the laws governing law enforcement units.

Specifically, it does the following: 1. **Allows trauma informed licensed clinical social workers, in addition to psychiatrists and psychologists, to conduct the behavioral health assessments of police officers required under existing law;** 2. expands the requirements for law enforcement unit guidelines on minority police officer recruitment, retention, and promotion to include, among other things, the goal of achieving ideological diversity, in



addition to racial, gender, and ethnic diversity, within law enforcement units and community involvement 3. requires the Board of Regents for Higher Education (BOR) to select an institute of higher learning to (a) study school resources officers' role and impact on students with disabilities and (b) report its findings

to the Judiciary Committee by December 1, 2022 (NASW/CT supports replacing SROs with School Social Workers) 4. requires (a) law enforcement units to report to the Police Officer Standards and Training Council (POST) instances where police officers commit certain prohibited actions (e.g., excessive force or failure to intervene) and (b) the Office of the Inspector General (OIG) to investigate law enforcement units who fail to report and submit its findings to the governor and the Judiciary Committee.

We thank our members who lobbied in favor of this bill, especially those members who reside in the districts of the Judiciary Committee co-chairs.

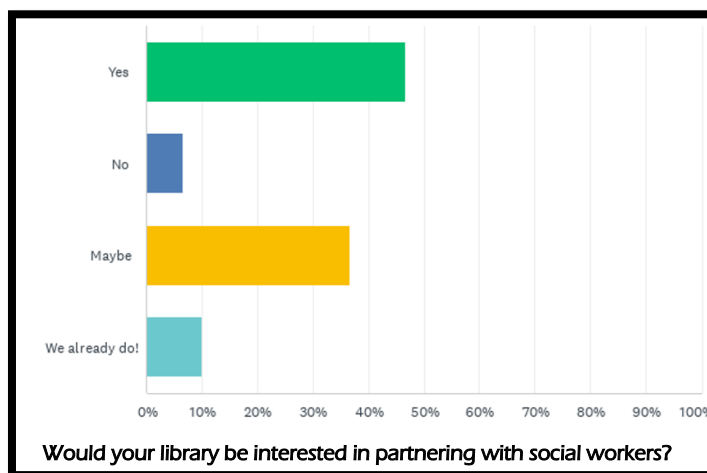
Library Social Work Project Takes Off

In 2019, before the COVID-19 pandemic took over, the NASW CT Chapter began a collaborative initiative in which the goal was to employ social workers within public libraries throughout the State of Connecticut. This project was first overseen by NASW/CT Executive Director, Steve Wanczyk-Karp, partnered with employees from the Connecticut Library Consortium. In the early months of 2020 this initiative was put on hold, until October of 2021 when intern, Breanna Formanski, took over as the lead and began moving the project forward again. Since October, many steps have taken place to refine this new idea which has slowly been developing throughout the country, but this is the first time that CT as a whole is being introduced to this concept.

First, we conducted multiple informative meetings with outside sources leading to new connections and very insightful tips and tools. The most substantial meetings occurred with an employee of the Massachusetts Library System Consulting & Training Services Team, as well as employees from the Connecticut State Library. The State Library was very helpful in suggesting a different method for the project and in connecting the Chapter with Library Directors across the state. From this point on the project developed into a mission to place BSW and MSW students in public libraries due to the costly process of hiring a professional social worker.

Once this shift took place it was time to lay out the next steps. This consisted of editing and revising

surveys which were sent out to library directors as well as social work students from the nine universities that have social work departments in Connecticut. These would be UConn, CCSU, SCSU, WCSU, ECSU, SHU, SJU, FU, and QU. To reach the students we contacted Deans, Secretaries, Department Directors, and Field Organizers to discover the initial interest from the program, and to survey the student interest in having a library as their field placement.



The next step took place rather quickly, which was sending out the two separate surveys to library directors and social work students in order to gauge where the majority interest lies.

Through the survey we were able to discover that many CT Public

Libraries would be interested in partnering with social workers: Yes 14/30 (46%), No 2/30 (6%), Maybe 11/30 (36%), Already do 3/30 (10%)

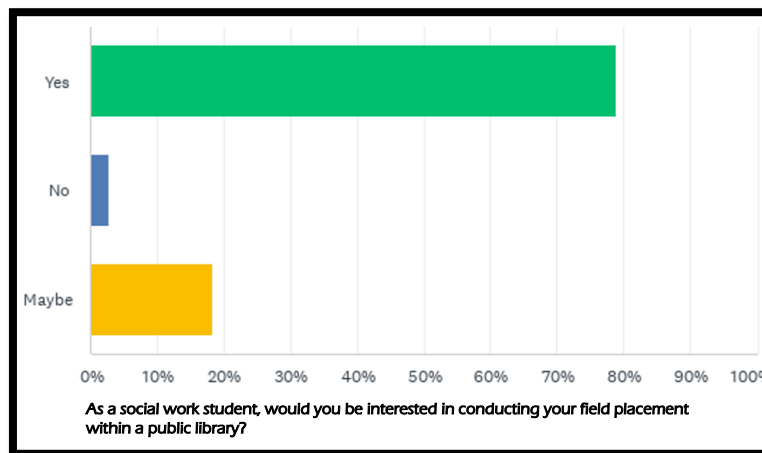
Then, we saw that most student respondents were indeed interested in learning more about this initiative:

Yes 56/71, No 2/71, Maybe 13/71

Which leads into the next big step in this process when intern, Breanna Formanski, planned and held several virtual information sessions in order to elaborate on the project and educate attendees (directors and students) on the importance of providing social work services within a library.

Project, continued

These sessions were held at the end of April and addressed the needs that library patrons face. A public library is a community center and hub where the main function is to provide services and information to patrons. It is one of the only places to go that provides free water, air conditioning or heat as well as safety and opportunities to learn, entertain or socialize. Internet access is also provided and is essential today for those who do not have access outside of these facilities. The patrons within a library seek out these simple, yet necessary services, but some need much more, like housing, food, clothing, transportation, legal services, and many other resources. This is where a social worker would play a crucial part because they would be able to match patrons with their desired services, or just be there to listen.



As of summer 2022, the project is still ongoing. Currently, Breanna is now contracted for a temporary position as project coordinator, so there will not be a pause again. She will pass down her work to the incoming interns in the fall and we will continue to move forward. The most recent steps

are to keep the connections with libraries and universities strong while organizing their geographical locations to determine the accessibility for students to reach their possible library field placement. There may even be an effort to reach more public libraries throughout

the state and students at each university. These steps are what will lead the State of Connecticut to furthering this initiative in the coming years. Hopefully, someday soon, a majority of public libraries will employ professional social workers and be able to truly assist the needs of patrons. Until then, we will intently stay on top of this work.

Member in the News

Gina Rosich, Ph.D., MSW and **Shalymar Cruz, MSW Student** had an essay published in the online New Social Worker magazine. The article, *Reflections on Macro Advocacy and Professional Development for Social Workers*, discusses the importance of policy work and refers to manner in which NASW/CT organizes members for legislative action. You can read the article here <https://www.socialworker.com/feature-articles/practice/macro-advocacy-professional-development-social-workers/>. Gina is a member of the Chapter's ELAN and Assistant Professor at University of Saint Joseph, Department. of Social Work and Equitable Community Practice. Shalymar is a MSW student at USJ.

Stopping Bills as Important as Passing Them

We always highlight the bills that we successfully get passed in the Legislature. Passing bills is only part of the critical work we perform. Stopping bills that will negatively impact on social work practice or disadvantage clients is equally important. In the 2022 legislative session we stopped or modified the following proposed bills affecting social work practice:

- HB 5322 would have required school social workers to make at least 2 home visits each school year to every student they worked with. This time consuming and unnecessary mandate died in committee after NASW/CT organized opposition amongst school social workers. This bill also allowed certain baccalaureate trained individuals to provide mental health services in schools if requested by school districts. Here is our testimony <http://naswct.org/testimony/testimony-on-hb-5322-an-act-concerning-the-creation-of-a-human-services-permit-and-a-requirement-that-school-social-workers-conduct-home-visits-during-the-school-year/> The language on allowing baccalaureate trained persons to work in school systems for mental health services also appeared in SB 1, a senate children's mental health priority bill that we were able to get the senate to change the bill's language to a study by the State Department of Education (SDE). This derailing of the language was a major victory as SDE testified in opposition



to the provision that they now are instructed to study.

- HB 5450 would have required telehealth providers to have a significant presence within the geographic boundaries of CT. This would have meant that out of state providers with a CT license would be unable to preform telehealth with CT residents. NASW/CT enlisted the help of the CT Counseling Association and Mental Health CT in opposing the bill. This bill died in

committee. Here is our testimony <http://naswct.org/testimony/testimony-on-hb-5450-an-act-concerning-telehealth/>

- SB 246 would have allowed LCSWs and APRNs employed by the UCONN Wellness Center to issue emergency transportation orders for

hospitalization of a student. We opposed this bill as it did not require the providers to have attained DMHAS' specialized training on issuance of emergency orders. Our testimony was credited by opponents of the bill in UCONN's decision to withdraw the bill from consideration. Here is our testimony <http://naswct.org/testimony/sb-no-246-raised-an-act-allowing-clinical-social-workers-and-advanced-practice-registered-nurses-employed-by-the-university-of-connecticut-to-issue-an-emergency-certificate-to-transport-students/> This same issue came up in a bill on police reforms that we did support, and we were able to have the language removed when the bill passed in committee.

Social Work Compact Moving Forward

Development of an interstate compact for social work licensure has been underway for nearly a year, with a draft expected to be released for stakeholder review and public comment in July, and the goal of having model legislation available to states for passage in their 2023 legislative sessions. The development of a social work licensure compact is vital to ensuring the portability of professional social work practice as the landscape of practice continues to evolve due to the expansion of telehealth and the re-examination of how (and where) social workers engage with clients in the midst of the ongoing pandemic and beyond.

The social work compact development process has been led by the Council of State Governments (CSG), through funding from the Department of Defense. NASW cares deeply about social work licensure, supports the development of an interstate licensure compact, and has worked hard to help inform various steps of the compact development process. The CSG appointed a Technical Assistance Group of 20 persons nationally, including Stephen Wanczyk-Karp, CT NASW executive director. While it was impossible to include voices from every state in the Nation at this stage of development, the next step in the compact development process (stakeholder review and public comment) includes an opportunity for anyone in the Nation to provide input, and it will be vitally important for all of us to participate in this process. NASW will share further information about the stakeholder review and public comment process that is expected to take place over the summer months.

LMSWs to be Given HUSKY Provider Status in Private Practice Settings

Under a new state law, Public Act 22-81, LMSWs can be authorized practitioners for HUSKY Medicaid recipients. The new law allows for a licensed clinical practitioner, in private solo or group practice, who accepts HUSKY to be paid for services rendered by a LMSW in their practice. The law also allows Associate Licensed Marital & Family Therapists and Associate Licensed Professional Counselors to be providers. The law requires the LMSW (or the Associate MFT or LPC) to be under the professional supervision of a clinical licensed practitioner. The clinical supervisor must comply with any supervision and documentation requirements under law. For LMSWs the clinical supervisor must be a LCSW, LMFT, LPC, APRN, licensed Psychologist or licensed Physician.

The Department of Social Services has until October 1, 2022 to develop and issue regulations in regards to this expansion of Medicaid coverage. We caution private practitioners to not act on this new law until DSS has made the final rules effective. At this time, we do not know the exact provisions and rules other than the above paragraph that is based on the Public Act.

Having LMSWs be Medicaid eligible providers was one of the recommendations put forth by NASW/CT to address the demand for mental health services. The State Senate Republican Caucus made this their number one priority for children's mental health, assuring that it made it into the language of the bi-partisan Senate Bill 2: An Act Expanding Preschool and Mental and Behavioral Services for Children.

Latino/a Social Workers Network Awards Eight Students Dr. Julio Morales, Jr., Scholarships

The Latino/a Social Workers Network is proud to announce the eight recipients of the Julio J. Morales Scholarship. This is a one-time \$250 scholarship granted by the Latino/a Social Workers Network on behalf of Dr. Julio Morales, Jr. The recipients are social work students at the college or university level from all over the nation who identify as Latinx, Latino, Latina, or Hispanic.

Dr. Julio Morales, Jr. was born in Vieques, Puerto Rico and is the first in his family to go to college. He was a professor at the University of Connecticut School of Social Work. Throughout his career, he has been actively involved in furthering social justice for members of the LGBTQ and Latinx communities. He established and served as president of the board for Connecticut Latino/as Achieving Rights and Opportunities (CLARO). He has received numerous fellowships and grants from both the private and public sectors for school dropout prevention projects related to Latinx youth, diversity trainings, and recruitment and retention of Latinx people in professional education programs. He founded the NASW/CT Latino/a Social Workers Network and was an integral part in establishing its Latinx Mentoring Program for students. Dr. Julio Morales, Jr., has spent his career giving back to the communities he holds dear.

Please join us in congratulating the following eight recipients of the Julio J. Morales, Jr., Scholarship!



Claudia Marisol Blanco
Washington, DC

Claudia Marisol Blanco is in her first year of the MSW program at the Catholic University of America. She is currently working at Mary's Center as a Family Support Worker and providing resources to families in the community and strengthening their children's development skills. She enjoys helping others, which provides her with so much happiness. She believes that working at non-profits has given her the love she has for Social Work and fueled her drive to pursue her degree so she can help her community in a larger capacity.

The quality that characterizes Jessica Chavez to be a great social worker is her strength not to give up under any circumstance and to fight for what she wants for her personal and professional development. She has the character to accomplish the goals that she set for herself and move forward with the people that love and need her. She can proudly say that "There is no obstacle I can't overcome!"



Jessica G. Chavez

Scholarships, continued



Chely Cifuentes
Falls Church, VA

Chely Cifuentes transferred to George Mason University (GMU) last Spring. She has enjoyed every moment, and all her professors and advisers have been so kind, knowledgeable, and highly supportive. Also, she is currently working part-time for the Department of Human Services in Arlington County. Her duties include working with a diverse population while assisting mental health clients. Her goal for the next two years is to continue to learn as much as possible so she can grow in her career and better assist clients. This past semester, she completed 45 hours of volunteer work at Crisis Link 24/7 Crisis and Suicide Prevention Hotline and Text-line. She enjoys volunteering at this organization because it offers crisis intervention, suicide prevention, and support to individuals to foster self-sufficiency by providing problem-solving skills and information on community resources. She helps callers and texters to better cope with emotional, personal, and family trauma. She cannot wait to continue learning at work and school to be a better leader for individuals and the community. She looks forward to the courses she will be taking to broaden her experiences and help her better understand how to help clients. After she graduates, she would like to continue her studies and apply for the social work master's degree at George Mason University.

Andy Checo is a BSW student at the NYU Silver School of Social Work. His experience in the social work field has not yet started, but he has been in various situations where he has been challenged to apply his limited education in the field. As a member of the Latino community, and someone who is fluent in both English & Spanish, his identity has helped him form connections and extend his help to people in his own community. His history as an academic tutor for a small Latino-owned business in Brooklyn, NY, has taught him the value of community building and representation. The youth he was able to work with showed resilience and perseverance when proper individual attention was placed on them and their circumstances, despite their "bad grades" or "poor behavior" in their school settings. While he has not yet embarked on his social work career journey, he has been showing up the way a social worker would in other situations that he encounters and applying his skills the best he can, to help as many as he can.



Andy Gabriel Checo
Brooklyn, NY



Andrea Garcia-Garcia
Savannah, GA

Andrea Garcia-Garcia is currently a rising second-year Master of Social Work student with a Marriage and Family Certificate at the University of Georgia. She was born and raised in Puerto Rico and moved to Georgia nine years ago. For her second year placement as a Master of Social Work student, she will be working with *La Clinica*, which is an outpatient mental health organization that provides services to Latinx families in the Athens, GA, area. With this internship, she will be able to advocate and help the Hispanic community in Athens get the mental health resources they need to become the best versions of themselves. As a Latina woman with the privilege of obtaining higher education, she wants to make sure that she is always giving back to her community. She is interested in reducing the education achievement gap that impacts the Latinx community and other culturally and linguistically diverse students. As a social worker, her work is done to help others, advocate for their needs and rights, and ensure that everyone has equal and accessible opportunities to maximize their educational potential regardless of socioeconomic status. After obtaining her graduate degree, her goal is to become a licensed clinical social worker (LCSW) and be able to have her own practice and clients so that she can continue serving her community and advocating for the Latinx families and individuals in her area.

Scholarships, continued



José Ángel Guevara
Sunderland, MA

José Ángel Guevara is the son of immigrant parents from México and identifies as Chicanx. He graduated from Knox College in Galesburg, IL, in 2017 with a degree in International Relations and Sociology. During his time at Knox College, he worked as an assistant coordinator for a community center and was an active member of M.E.Ch.A (Movimiento Estudiantil Chicanx de Aztlán). After graduation, he worked for the Peace Corp. in the Dominican Republic for three years as a primary school literacy promoter. He currently attends the Smith College School for Social Work. After graduation, he plans on working with immigrant, refugee, and asylee communities within school settings incorporating anti-racist and anti-ableist frameworks.

Cristian Gutierrez is a product of migration born to refugees from El Salvador who fled due to war. He is a first-generation student receiving his full K-12 education in Ogden, UT, before enrolling at Weber State University in the fall of 2013. He then went on to receive his undergraduate degree on an academic and Rugby scholarship at Weber State University. He is a year away from completing his graduate degree as a member of the first MSW cohort and the only Latino student in the program. Cristian still lives in Ogden and spends his time either with family, gardening, or running his non-profit Los Dreamers (Dreamersaward.com). Los Dreamers was formed as an answer to the non-existent scholarships for undocumented and DACA students in Utah. He works as an advisor for undocumented students, which led to the philosophy that money should not be the only reason keeping his students from higher education. This is a philosophy made evident by the privilege of being able to work and take loans for education while his students could not.



Cristian Antonio Gutierrez
Ogden, UT



Kelly Sanchez
Meriden, CT

Kelly Sanchez, a proud New Haven native, will be entering her third and final year at the University of Connecticut, School of Social Work. Graduating with her Masters in Social Work, she intends to work as a clinician with historically marginalized populations. Ultimately, she hopes to combine her training in both social work and public health to address issues of social justice, social determinants of health and the intersection of the two. Kelly wants to extend her deepest thanks to the NASW/CT and the Julio Morales, Jr., Scholarship for this award.

DCF Mandated Reporting Goes Online

Effective 6/6/22, all Mandated Reporters across the state will now be able to provide non-emergent reports - those not requiring an immediate response - via an online portal by utilizing mobile devices, tablets, laptops, or a desktop computer.

A training video: [Mandated Reporter Portal](#) has been created to assist with implementation. Please note that if you have previously used an online version of making a report to the Careline, the process has now changed, and we ask that you review this video to be updated on our processes.

To commence this new reporting process, visit <https://portal.dcf.ct.gov> and click on "Mandated Reporter Portal - Non-Emergent Reporting."

The DCF Careline should remain being called at 1-800-842-2288 for emergent situations that may include but are not limited to a child(ren).

- Suffering from immediate harm
- In need of emergent medical or mental health care
- Expressing a realistic fear of further abuse or neglect within the next 24 hours
- Believed to be inaccessible within the next 24 hours

This information is provided by DCF. Contact DCF directly for inquiries on this new procedure.

DMHAS Seeks LMSW Job Classification

If you are a LMSW you may be dissuaded from seeking a clinical social work position with the CT Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS), due to the lack of an appropriate job classification. Currently, LMSWs are only eligible for the position of Clinical Social Worker Licensure Candidate that requires attaining the LCSW within two years (may be extended to three years) or one loses the job. This job title pre-dates the existence of the LMSW and now is an inappropriate title for a social worker who is a licensed master social worker.

DMHAS is seeking to recruit more clinical social workers. LCSWs are in demand within DMHAS however staffing needs are not being met by LCSWs alone. Thus, DMHAS is seeking to have a new job classification that is appropriate for LMSW practice. This requires a new job classification to be issued by the CT Department of Administrative Services, the Department that handles personnel matters and all job classifications for the executive branch of state government.

NASW/CT is working with DMHAS to achieve an appropriate LMSW job classification and job title. The Chapter has written an extensive letter to DMHAS outlining a range of benefits that a LMSW job classification will offer to DMHAS' recruitment efforts of clinical social workers.

Clinical social workers interested in learning of job openings with DMAS can use this link <https://portal.ct.gov/DMHAS/Job-Opportunities/Job-Postings/Jobs—All-Job-Listings>

School Social Workers Toolkit Available

Dear School Social Workers and Colleagues,

While one school year closes, many of us start to look ahead toward the next. What will we encounter next year as we strive to support students? Another round of the Coronavirus? Induced fears from nation-wide traumatic events? Inflation and budget constraints that could jeopardize the employment of school social workers? While such questions lead to a sense of uncertainty for not only our students but ourselves as well, it is with great confidence knowing that the Connecticut Alliance of School Social Workers (CASSW) is there to support us and students. The mission of CASSW is to promote the educational and professional growth of its members and to ensure the highest standards of practice are upheld. As such, CASSW is dedicated to fostering the principles of school social workers through advocacy and retention efforts. In view of such efforts, the second edition to the *Connecticut School Social Worker Survival Tool Kit* was created as a self-advocacy resource guide.

The “Tool Kit”, as it has come to be known, is just that! The resource guide encapsulates the bond formed between CASSW and the National Association of Social Workers in 2016 along with the supportive efforts of the School Social Work Association of America. The Tool Kit also speaks to the value of school social workers through engagement, their role with combating absenteeism, the importance of utilizing scientific based interventions, building connections in the community, and the need for school social workers to promote safe schools. While school social workers work collaboratively with colleagues within a school system, the Tool Kit also champions the value and importance regarding the unique skill set of school social workers. The ability to complete thorough case histories, understand and alleviate ensuing obstacles that may interfere with a student’s progress and the capacity to forge important relationships with other community organizations are just a few examples. Also provided in the Tool Kit are research data, sample letters and testimonies that may help to not only retain school social work positions but to foster further employment and school expenditures for the position.

Oftentimes, school social workers put the needs of students before their own, in the sense that we may at times fail to advocate for ourselves with the same fervor as we do for our students. Where school social workers often empower students to reach their academic and social-emotional goals, the Tool Kit provides school social workers with powerful resources to not only shine a light on the profession but also provides guidance on how to maintain and foster the growth of the profession in order to meet both the needs of students and ourselves.

You can view and download the School Social Workers Toolkit from the NASW/CT website using this link <http://naswct.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/Connecticut-School-Social-Worker-Survival-Tool-Kit-A-Self-Advocacy-Resource-Guide-Created-by-CASSW.pdf>

Sincerely,

Anthony P. Cianchetti, M.Ed., LCSW
School Social Worker
CASSW Steering Committee Member

The NASW/CT 2022 Advocacy Fund Drive

THE NASW/CT 2022 ADVOCACY FUND DRIVE

Out of crisis comes opportunity.
This is Social Work's Time!

Our Legislative Agenda Includes:

Social Justice Issues

- Protecting the safety net for Connecticut's most vulnerable citizens;
- Acting on the crisis in children's mental health;
- Addressing access to comprehensive health and behavioral health;
- Expanding mental health services in schools;
- Furthering criminal justice reforms;
- Advancing racial, economic, and environmental justice;
- Increasing funding for community non-profit providers;
- Promoting progressive revenue sources to pay for human services.

Social Work Legislation

- Reducing annual licensing renewal fees;
- Increasing compensation by employers and insurers;
- Passing funding for hiring of social workers in schools, FQHC's and homeless shelters;
- Adding LCSWs as providers for police officer's mental health assessments;
- Instituting student loan forgiveness;
- Stepping up the appointments of social workers to state task forces;
- **Defeating any bills that infringe on social work practice;**

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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/>

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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

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Rocky Hill, CT 06067

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

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

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National Office, DC
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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
To be announced

860-257-8066

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