

Dear NASW WI members:

As we bunker down in this cold Wisconsin weather and many of you get ready to take vacation time and enjoy the holiday season, I wanted to provide you with an update of NASW WI activities and other news that you might find beneficial.

## **IMPLEMENTATION OF MA VENDORSHIP EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2011**

The Department of Health Services, Division of Health Care Access and Accountability is preparing for implementation of MA Vendorship effective January 1, 2011. Attached please find an email from Medicaid Policy Analyst Sarah Coyle to me explaining the implementation procedure. In addition to MA Vendorship, there will be a new provision to be reimbursed for both mental health and substance abuse services. Please note that if you hold the substance abuse specialty classification through the Examining Board it will be treated the same as the substance abuse certification for purposes of this reimbursement.

## **NEW MEDICARE AND MEDICAL ASSISTANCE PROVIDER CERTIFICATION TO BE IMPLEMENTED IN 2011**

As a result of the Health Care Reform Act and an effort to reduce or eliminate fraud, all Medical Assistance and Medicare providers will need to go through an application and screening process in 2011. This process will be administered by the Department of Health Services, which is still working on when and how to implement these new requirements. There will be fees for clinics for this application and screening. It is not clear if individual providers will be charged.

## **INSURANCE COMPANIES ATTEMPT TO UNDERMINE MENTAL HEALTH PARITY BILL WITH HIGH COPAYS**

NASW WI has been informed of at least three insurance companies in Wisconsin that have charged consumers specialty doctor copays instead of a primary doctor copay as the result of the new mental health parity law. Federal regulations prohibit the charging of a specialty doctor copay for mental health services. Any consumer that is charged a specialty doctor copay instead of a primary doctor copay should file a complaint with the Office of the Commissioner of Insurance, <http://oci.wi.gov>. They should also send me a copy of any response they receive from OCI. NASW WI and the other advocacy groups will keep closely monitor this practice and meet with OCI if they do not take action to stop this practice.

## **INSURANCE COMPANY REIMBURSEMENT FOR CAPSW'S AND MSW GRADUATE STUDENTS AT OUTPATIENT MENTAL HEALTH CLINICS**

The newest version of HFS 35 requires insurance companies to reimburse CAPSW's and MSW graduate students at outpatient mental health clinics. This should help increase employment opportunities for MSW graduates seeking employment where they receive clinical supervision leading towards licensure. NASW WI is interested to know your experience with this new provision of HFS 35.

## **NASW WI BOARD MEMBERS MEET WITH GOVERNOR-ELECT WALKER'S TRANSITION TEAM ON CHILD WELFARE AND RELATED ISSUES**

On Wednesday December 15<sup>th</sup>, NASW WI Board members Matt Mattila and Raelene Freitag participated in a round table meeting with Governor-elect Scott Walker's Transition Team on the Wisconsin Department of Children and Families. At this roundtable meeting, Mattila and Freitag focused their comments on workforce issues – specifically caseload standards and professional development of the child welfare workforce.

## **UPCOMING CONTINUING EDUCATION DEADLINE: FEBRUARY 28, 2011**

All certified and licensed social workers in Wisconsin must complete 30 hours of continuing education by February 28, 2011. All NASW WI members should have received our January/February 2011 Continuing Education booklet which listed the following programs:

- 1) NASW national Risk Management Workshop on January 21<sup>st</sup>
- 2) Four Ethics and Boundaries workshops on January 21<sup>st</sup>, February 4<sup>th</sup>, February 19<sup>th</sup> and February 22<sup>nd</sup>
- 3) A North Central Branch Conference on February 19<sup>th</sup>
- 4) Six teleconferences, which will take place on January 26<sup>th</sup>, January 28<sup>th</sup>, January 31<sup>st</sup>, February 7<sup>th</sup>, February 11<sup>th</sup> and February 16<sup>th</sup>.
- 5) 34 home study CD's
- 6) Over 40 home study on-line programs

In addition we are also offering both BSW and MSW exam preparation workshops in January and February.

For more information check our website at [www.naswwi.org](http://www.naswwi.org) or call the NASW WI office toll-free at 866-462-7994 or (608) 257-6334.

## **2011 LOBBY DAY ISSUES FINALIZED**

NASW WI's Lobby Day Planning Committee has selected the following issues for our 2011 lobby day: 1) State budget; 2) Patient Abandonment Act; 3) Child Victims Act; 4) School Financing 5) Loan forgiveness for social workers and 6) Changing the mandatory age for referral to adult court from 17 to 18. Lobby day will take place on Wednesday April 13, 2011 at the

Madison Masonic Center and the State Capital. Registration will begin on the NASW WI website by the end of December. For more information please call NASW WI toll-free at 866-462-7994 or (608) 257-6334

## **NASW WI HELPS FORM COALITION TO OPPOSE CONCEAL CARRY LEGISLATION**

NASW WI is working with the Wisconsin Anti-Violence Education project to form a statewide coalition to oppose efforts to pass conceal carry legislation and/or obtain as many exemptions as possible to the law. Because of the changeover in state government from total Democratic to total Republican control, some form of a conceal carry bill will likely pass. However during the bill review process such groups as county human service departments, hospitals, day care centers, non-profit organizations, colleges and universities and mental health clinics could request an exemption to the law. If you would like to get involved in either trying to prevent passage of this law or obtaining an exemption, please contact me at [marcherstand@tds.net](mailto:marcherstand@tds.net) or by phone at 866-462-7994 or (608) 257-6334.

## **NASW WI NORTHEAST BRANCH BOARD MEMBERS ASK GREEN BAY CITY COUNCIL TO SUPPORT DOMESTIC PARTNERSHIP BENEFITS**

In response to the denial of a City of Green Bay employee's request for domestic partnership benefits and an effort by a Green Bay City Council member to have the city join a lawsuit against the state domestic partnership registry, NASW WI Northeast Branch board members Matt Mattila, Marc Seidl and Ellie Jarvie sent a letter to the Green Bay Mayor, City Council and the Green Bay Press Gazette supporting such benefits. Mattila, Seidl and Jarvie attended the Green Bay City Council meeting where this issue was discussed. At the meeting the Green Bay City Council decided not to take any action on this issue.

## **NASW WI AND THE FAMILY CARE PROGRAM**

On September 13<sup>th</sup> NASW WI held a meeting with the Legislative Audit Bureau to provide input on the Family Care program. NASW WI members Mary Madden, Cindy Milner, Romona Williams, Dana Strohm, Joanne Barndt and I presented concerns to Andy McGuire ([Andrew.McGuire@legis.wisconsin.gov](mailto:Andrew.McGuire@legis.wisconsin.gov)) and Justin Martin ([Justin.Martin@legis.wisconsin.gov](mailto:Justin.Martin@legis.wisconsin.gov)) with the State of Wisconsin Legislative Audit Bureau. NASW WI presented concerns about the lack of standards for hiring case managers and supervisors for the program. We provided Andy and Justin with a copy of the Case Management Society of America standards, which recommends hiring certified and licensed professionals for case management positions. We also recommended hiring licensed mental health professionals for supervisory positions. The Legislative Audit Bureau will present the results of their study by January to the new Governor and Legislature. Hearings on the study will likely be held in early 2011. If you have concerns about the program, please email Andy and Justin and send me ([marcherstand@tds.net](mailto:marcherstand@tds.net)) a copy of the email. You can also call me to discuss your concerns with the program.

## **WEBSITE TO BE REDESIGNED**

NASW WI has contracted with the SWC group to redesign our website. The first phase of this redesign should be implemented by the end of January. We would welcome your comments and feedback. Our intentions are to make this website more user friendly and aesthetically pleasing. You will notice new content on this redesigned website. In July we will further expand our website with a members' only section.

## **NASW WI STARTS PILOT JOB LISTING SERVICE TO MEMBERS**

Following our annual conference, NASW WI's interns started a job listing service to members. In this service we will send to any member who requests to be on this service any job that gets emailed to us. If you are interested in participating in this service, please email me at [marcherstand@tds.net](mailto:marcherstand@tds.net).

## **HOLIDAY OFFICE CLOSING**

NASW WI's office will be closed from December 24<sup>th</sup> through December 31<sup>st</sup> and will reopen on January 3<sup>rd</sup>

## **PLANNING BEGINS FOR NASW WI'S 2011 ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

NASW WI's Continuing Education Committee has begun planning NASW WI's 2011 annual conference. NASW WI's 2011 annual conference will be held on September 12-14, 2011 at the Sheraton Madison Hotel. The theme of NASW WI's 2011 annual conference is "Strong Individuals, Resilient Communities: Engaging our possibilities". The theme of the Town Hall Meeting will be "Immigration and Social Work Practice in Wisconsin". The Call for Abstracts for the 2011 annual conference will be posted on our website by the end of December.

## **What has NASW WI done for me recently? We have your back or what NASW WI and its Executive Director do to help individual members every day.**

Many members are unaware of the many services provided to NASW WI members by the Wisconsin Chapter and me. They may also be unfamiliar with the many activities conducted by NASW WI on behalf of its members. These two attachments, which can also be read on the NASW WI blog, address these questions.

## **TASK FORCE ON CHILDREN'S ISSUES**

The Task Force on Children's Issues is a forum for discussion among NASW –WI members with an interest in issues affecting children. The primary vehicle for discussion is the Facebook group, where members can post information, discussion or events. If there is momentum to get more involved in an issue ad hoc phone or in-person meetings can be held to delve more deeply on a topic and/or plan potential advocacy. Once you are confirmed as a member of NASW-WI you will be given access

to the group. For more information on the Task Force, please contact co-chairs Raelene Freitag ([RFreitag@mw.nccd-crc.org](mailto:RFreitag@mw.nccd-crc.org)) or Karen Jick ([kjick@sbcglobal.net](mailto:kjick@sbcglobal.net))

## **NASW WI TASK FORCE ON CHILDREN'S ISSUE AND CHILD DEATH REVIEW TEAM**

The NASW WI Task Force on Children's Issues will act as the liaison for NASW WI to the Child Death Review (CDR) Team of Wisconsin. The team is an appointed multidisciplinary advisory body comprised of pediatricians, social service administrators, attorneys, state agency representatives, health care professionals, child advocates, coroners and medical examiners to review all child deaths in the state. Each county or coalition of counties is to host its own team at the local level.

The CDR team is currently working on new legislative policy and has invited NASW –WI to assist in supporting and promoting the legislation to have statutory status for the CDR, to collect uniform data, to provide local teams with improved access to critical information and to support prevention activities.

For more information please contact Task Force co-chair Karen Jick at [kjick@sbcglobal.net](mailto:kjick@sbcglobal.net).

## **NASW WI TO SWITCH TO ON-LINE NEWSLETTER**

In order to be more environmentally conscious and to save money, NASW WI will switch to an on-line newsletter in 2011. Those members who are unable to receive our e-newsletter can still receive a hard copy of the e-newsletter, upon request. More information about this switch can be found in the upcoming newsletter.

## **HOW TO UPDATE YOUR PERSONAL INFORMATION IN THE NASW DATABASE**

In order to receive this e-newsletter and other critical emails from the Wisconsin Chapter of NASW, your correct email must be on the national NASW data base. To update your email or other information on the national NASW data base, please following the directions listed below:

Go to [www.socialworkers.org/membercenter](http://www.socialworkers.org/membercenter)  
Enter your NASW username and password  
Go to "Modify/Change Your Profile"  
Click on "Your Personal Information" then "Edit"  
Update your information and then click "Submit"

Or call Customer Service at 800-742-4089. Have your member number available when you call.

You can also use this system to change other personal information such as name or street address.

## **NASW WI COMPILES LIST OF AGENCIES THAT HIRE CAPSW'S SEEKING 3,000 HOURS OF SUPERVISED CLINICAL PRACTICE**

In response to a suggestion from the Wisconsin Social Work Business Summit, NASW WI has compiled a list of agencies in Wisconsin that hire CAPSW's who are seeking 3,000 hours of paid supervised clinical practice. If you are an NASW WI member and would like a copy of this list, please contact the chapter office toll-free at 866-462-7994 or (608) 257-6334 or email [naswwi@tds.net](mailto:naswwi@tds.net).

## **MENTOR CONTACT PROGRAM**

Are you a new social work professional seeking advice, support and/or information from an experienced social worker in your field? Are you a social work student who would like to learn more about an area of social work? Are you a social worker who is switching your area of practice and need some pointers? If so, NASW WI's mentor contact program can help you! Contact the NASW WI office by phone at (866) 462-7994 or (608) 257-6334 or [naswwi@tds.net](mailto:naswwi@tds.net) and we will send you a list of NASW WI members who have agreed to serve as mentor contacts. Once you receive the list you can contact the individual who you would like to serve as your mentor

## **SIGN UP TO BE AN NASW WI MENTOR!**

Are you an experienced social work professional with expertise that you are willing to share with a social work student, new social work professional or social work colleague?

NASW WI has a mentoring contact program. This program is designed to provide a mentoring contact for social work students, new social work professionals, social workers moving to Wisconsin, social workers switching their area of practice and other social workers with questions in an area of expertise. Mentors are NASW WI members with expertise who are willing to be contacted via email or phone from a mentor list compiled by the NASW WI Chapter.

If you are willing to serve as a mentor contact please email me your contact information and area of expertise at [marcherstand@tds.net](mailto:marcherstand@tds.net). Please feel free to call me for more information

## **GETTING INVOLVED, STAYING INFORMED!**

To help promote any of the issues listed in this Letter to Members, please call or email me or go to our website and join one of our committees. If you want more information on any of these (or other) issues, please call me toll-free at 866-462-7994 or (608) 257-6334.

As always, I welcome your feedback and suggestions regarding this monthly e-newsletter or any other NASW WI program or service.

Sincerely yours

Marc

Marc Herstand, MSW CISW  
Executive Director  
NASW WI Chapter

**If you wish to be excluded from future emails of this nature from NASW please click <https://www.socialworkers.org/membercenter/newsprefs.asp>**