

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S LETTER TO MEMBERS

Dear NASW WI Members:

I hope you all have enjoyed our beautiful Wisconsin fall weather.

As usual there is a lot going on at NASW WI in terms of our profession, social policy issues, political activities and continuing education.

REIMBURSEMENT FOR CERTIFIED ADVANCED PRACTICE SOCIAL WORKERS STILL IN LIMBO

NASW WI has continued to advocate with the Department of Health Services (DHS) to reimburse Certified Advanced Practice Social Workers for serving Medicaid clients at outpatient mental health clinics. Throughout 2010 DHS staff had repeatedly informed us that they expected this reimbursement to start in early 2011. However implementation of this reimbursement was halted, pending a review of the policy and a fiscal estimate, sometime in the spring of 2011. This is a very important issue for graduating MSW's seeking employment, for clinics with waiting lists and for clients who face access problems. If you would like to help advocate for this change, please contact your State Senator or State Representative about this issue or write directly to Dennis Smith, Secretary, Department of Health Services, 1 West Wilson Street; Madison, WI 53703 or to Bret Davis, Medicaid Director; Department of Health Services; 1 West Wilson Street; Madison, WI 53703. For more information call or email me at the NASW WI office (608) 257-6334, 866-462-7994 and review the attached email sent to Bret Davis's assistant Richard Desensi.

PHYSICIAN PRESCRIPTION REQUIREMENT IN THE PROCESS OF REPEAL

Although the Vendorship bill eliminated the requirement for a physician prescription for psychotherapy for MA clients, the Department of Health Services did not implement the needed rule change when the law went into effect in January 2011. We have been informally told recently that this implementation was in process and that practitioners would be reimbursed for past services where they did not have a physician prescription. If you are still encountering problems with this requirement, please email marchestand@tds.net or call me at 866-462-7994 (Toll free in WI) or locally at 608-257-6334.

STANDARDS FOR SOCIAL WORKERS TRAINING CERTIFICATE UPGRADED

The Examining Board for Marriage and Family Therapists, Professional Counselors and Social Workers has upgraded standards for the Social Worker Training Certificate. The new standards, which are now in effect, would increase the number of courses required from four to five with an additional methods course, and would require that social work training certificate courses be taught by an instructor with an MSW or PHD in social work using social work text books. The new standards also require that the methods classes include content on the NASW Code of Ethics and the NASW Standards for Cultural Competence.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES SEEKS INFORMATION ON THE NUMBER OF OUTPATIENT MENTAL HEALTH CLINIC PSYCHOTHERAPISTS WHO ARE NOT LICENSED

Prior to the regulation of the social work, marriage and family therapy and professional counseling professions in 1992, the Department of Health Services granted Provider status to individuals with a variety of masters degrees so that they could provide psychotherapy and be reimbursed for their work at state regulated outpatient mental health clinics. Despite the implementation of the 1992 regulation of these three professions, DHS continued to provide this Provider status to individuals with Masters degrees that are not licensable in Wisconsin. With the upcoming (December 31, 2011) phase out of these Provider Status letters, the Department of Health Services is seeking information on the number of these individuals working at outpatient clinics in Wisconsin. DHS staff Mark Hale and Dan Zimmerman recently sent an email to all

outpatient mental health clinics in Wisconsin requesting this information. This information will be used by the Department of Safety and Professional Services which is considering the introduction of legislation that will certify these non licensable practitioners

APPLICANTS NEEDED TO FILL LCSW AND CAPSW POSITION ON SOCIAL WORKERS SECTION

George Kamps, LCSW, and Mary Jo Walsh, CAPSW, are scheduled to leave the Examining Board of Marriage and Family Therapist, Professional Counselors and Social Workers at the end of this year. If you would be interested in applying to serve on the Examining Board, which includes service on the Social Workers Section, please contact me at marchestand@tds.net or call me at 866-462-7994 (Toll free in WI) or locally at 608-257-6334.

RECALL WALKER!

Wisconsin Social Workers PAC, the political arm of NASW WI has endorsed the recall of Governor Scott Walker. For information on the Governor's actions that have harmed social workers and social work clients, please see the attachment.

The PAC will be providing information to NASW WI members about the recall activities. They will also provide a written justification for the recall in the next NASW WI on-line newsletter. NASW WI welcomes letters to the editor from our members for the newsletter on controversial issues. If you support or oppose the recall of Governor Walker, feel free to send me a "letter to the editor" and I will include this letter in the next newsletter, space permitting.

NASW WI'S LEGISLATIVE POSITIONS

NASW WI recently provided a position statement in opposition to the proposed cuts to the state Medicaid program. This statement, which was distributed at the Madison hearing, is attached.

NASW WI has registered against the repeal of the "Healthy Youth Act", which requires school districts to provide comprehensive and accurate information on human sexuality when they include this information in their curriculum.

NASW WI registered in opposition to a bill that would allow employers to fire or refuse to hire individuals who are ex-offenders, regardless of whether the offense was substantially related to the work setting. We are currently developing a position paper on this issue, which will be distributed at the State Legislature.

Other NASW WI positions on legislation can be found in an attachment. For more information on NASW WI's policy positions or the work of NASW WI's Legislative/Social Policy Committee, please email marchestand@tds.net or call me at 866-462-7994 (Toll free in WI) or locally at 608-257-6334.

NASW WI EXPANDS ITS POPULAR LIVE LUNCH HOUR CE SERIES IN 2012: NOW OFFERING WEBINARS AND TELECONFERENCES

In 2012 NASW WI plans to expand its very popular Lunch Hour CE Program. These programs have allowed attendees to call in to attend a live teleconference over the lunch hour, earning CE credits easily from their office, home or even on the road! In 2012 we are expanding this program with more offerings and a new format: webinars!

We currently have five webinars scheduled and eight teleconferences scheduled between January and September of 2012. The speakers will include five national speakers who authored NASW journal and section articles and eight presenters from the 2011 NASW WI annual conference. Topics will include child welfare, AODA, safety issues for social workers, legal issues for elders, SMI and more.

Look for your 2012 Continuing Education brochure in early December. It will have a complete calendar of CE events before next year's Annual Conference in October. Information will also be posted on our website <http://www.naswwi.org/> in November.

2012 ETHICS WORKSHOPS TO INCLUDE WEBINAR

For the first time ever, NASW WI will offer an ethics webinar. This webinar, entitled, "Ethics and Boundaries for In-Home Services" will be presented by Helen Bader School of Social Welfare Clinical Professor Jeanne Wagner. Because webinars are live events, you will be able to participate in this workshop from your home or work setting anywhere in Wisconsin. The webinar will be scheduled in two hour sessions scheduled one week apart.

Other ethics workshops in 2012 include Clinical Social Work Ethics with Pam Phillips Olson, Ethics and Boundaries , "Social Work Ethics and Boundaries in a Virtual World" with Dr. LaVonne Cornell Swanson and "Professional Ethics, Social Media and Technology" with Dr. Nick Smiar. Registration information should be available on the NASW WI website <http://www.naswwi.org/> by the end of November.

LCSW, CAPSW, AND CISW: WHAT ARE THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THESE CREDENTIALS?

It has been brought to my attention that some employers in Wisconsin are requiring an LCSW (licensed clinical social worker) credential for positions that do not involve psychotherapy or clinical supervision. I have attached an article that explains the differences between these credentials. In Wisconsin an LCSW is a psychotherapeutic credential and is not needed for positions that do not involve the provision of psychotherapy or clinical (psychotherapeutic) supervision.

JOBS JOBS JOBS!

The NASW WI Chapter office continues to email out information about jobs we receive at the office on a weekly, and sometimes daily, basis to subscribing members. We are also now monitoring the Sunday edition of major newspapers to add job offerings for social workers to our list. This is an exclusive Members Only benefit. If you would like to add your name to the NASW WI job list serve, please email Rachel Fleming, the NASW WI intern at naswwiintern@tds.net

LIST OF AGENCIES PROVIDING 3,000 HOURS OF SUPERVISED CLINICAL PRACTICE UPDATED

NASW WI recently updated it's list of agencies and mental health clinics in Wisconsin that provide supervision for MSW graduates who need 3,000 hours of supervised clinical practice. The list now contains over 50 different agencies and clinics! Many of these agencies hire candidates and pay them while they are earning their hours, sometimes requiring a commitment to stay with the agency for a certain period of time after the supervision period ends. While there is no guaranteed these agencies have current openings, this list, which is available to only to NASW WI members, could be an excellent place to start your search. Please email Anne at the NASW WI office at naswwi@tds.net if you would like a copy of this list.

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>