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THE WI SOCIAL WORK PAC COMMITTEE

SUPPORTS RECALL OF GOVERNOR SCOTT WALKER

The Social Work Political Action Committee voted unanimously to support the recall of Governor Scott Walker. The political action committee acts as a non-partisan body that takes action on behalf of the WI Social Work Association.

The Political Action Committee reviews records and actions of legislators to identify their positions on policies that impact the consumers that Wisconsin social workers serve. Our ethical responsibility as Social Workers is to improve the human condition, not only through our professional services, but by also advocating for policy that protects those who cannot protect themselves.

Committee members reviewed and discussed major policies endorsed or supported by the Governor and how those major policy decisions affect the lives of the consumers we serve and the agencies and organizations that provide many of the needed services. The committee agreed that the policies implemented and funding cuts to programs would adversely affect consumer's ability not only to thrive, but also survive.

Multiple actions taken by Governor Walker and his administration strategically targeted Wisconsin's lowest income and most vulnerable populations including the working poor, disabled and elderly persons, and children. These actions include:

- Erosion of the State's healthcare safety net through changes in access and affordability of BadgerCare and caps on enrollment in the Family Care program,
- Reductions in basic support to low income working families through changes in W-2, Food Share, Wisconsin Shares, pub-

lic transportation and the earned income tax credit,

- Elimination of in state tuition for the children of undocumented persons.

Professional Social Workers have always worked to help those with issues such as the homeless, and those with serious mental health and drug abuse problems. Increasingly we see the working poor and middle class needing help due to long term unemployment and under-employment. Many Wisconsin citizens are working two or three part time jobs without health benefits to maintain basic food and shelter for themselves and their families.

This is not about politics or whether a lawmaker is Republican or Democratic. The Committee has historically supported and opposed members based on their actions, not their political party.

The Social Work PAC Committee supports the recall of Governor Scott Walker because we believe the policy decisions that he endorsed or supported disproportionately burden the majority of Wisconsin citizens who we as professional Social Workers serve.

Submitted by:

Sandy Bernier BSW, CSW

WI Social Work Political Action Chair



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Executive Director's Column



RECALL WALKER?

The past ten months have been the most politically tumultuous times I have experienced in Wisconsin. From the weeks of mass demonstration in and out of the Capitol prompted by the escape of the Wisconsin 14 to protest the elimination of collective bargaining, to the apparent breaking of open meeting laws to pass the collective bargaining bill, to the Supreme Court "chokehold" while discussing this bill's legality, to State Legislators yelling at each other on the Assembly floor, to the summer recall elections, to citizens carried out of the Assembly gallery for holding up a sign or attempting to film proceedings, to bitter debates on the Voter ID bill, redistricting, the state budget, Medicaid and school cuts, the list goes on and on.

I have never seen the state so divided. I have never seen such visceral anger against a Governor. I have never seen such a blatant and ruthless use or abuse of power with the attempt to ram through the budget repair bill with minimal input, with the redistricting gerrymandering and recent failed attempts to change the date when Senate (but not Assembly) districts go into effect to benefit one party.

In our efforts to meet the NASW Code of Ethics Standards 6.01 Social Welfare, 6.02 Public Participation and 6.04 Social and Political Action we have taken strong stances in opposition to the Budget repair bill, the budget bill, the Voter ID bill, conceal carry legislation and other bills that we believe threaten social justice and "living conditions conducive to the fulfillment of basic human needs"

Currently we are greatly concerned about the impact of the proposed cuts to Medicaid on our most vulnerable citizens.

In terms of our professional issues, over the last ten months, we have watched in dismay as the Department of Health Services has held up the promised reimbursement of Certified Advanced Practice Social Workers and other "Qualified Treatment Trainees" for the provision of Medical Assistance services.

Electoral politics has a huge impact on policy. And in Wisconsin, the Governor has enormous power and influence over the state budget, legislation and department appointments. When one party controls the Governor's office, both parts of the State Legislature, the office of the Attorney General and the majority make-up of the Supreme Court, you have the potential of abuse of power with no checks and balances.

Therefore, if we are to have an impact on behalf of our clients and our profession, we must get involved in the political process.

For all the reasons I have stated above, Wisconsin Social Workers PAC recently voted to support the recall of Governor Walker. In other sections of this newsletter you will find a more comprehensive explanation of the PAC's decision, from its chair and an article on how you can get involved in the recall efforts.

As a membership association of 2100 members we can never expect to have 100% agreement on all our positions. As I stated in my Executive Director's e-newsletter I always welcome "letters to the editor" from members on legislative, political and professional issues.

UNDERSTANDING OBAMA'S NEW STUDENT LOAN REDUCTION PROGRAM



President Obama recently enacted a new Student Loan Forgiveness Program that helps reduce monthly student debt payments based upon income and enables potential students to make better college choices based on different loan opportunities.

In order to keep college an investment and opportunity for growth, the Obama administration has changed loan repayment rates. The new plan would accelerate reducing the burden of repaying student loans for an estimated 1.6 million new borrowers, as well as nearly 6 million current or recent students.

Currently, student loan borrowers are allowed to cap their monthly payments at 15% of their discretionary income. Beginning July 1, 2014, the new plan would reduce that limit from 15% to 10% of discretionary income. The new "Pay as You Earn" plan would also forgive the balance after 20 years, instead of the current 25. The income based repayment terms should be signed up for early in the life of the loan, although older loans may apply. It should be noted that the monthly payment will fluctuate on an annual basis subject to increases or decreases in income.

This would ease the burden of monthly payments, as well as forgive debt in a faster period of time. It is important to note that this applies only to anyone with Federal Direct loans, Stafford loans, and Perkins loans. Private lenders, such as Sallie Mae still have to be repaid in full.

Another provision of the new program is a consolidation option for graduated students, which would simplify the repayment process. Recent graduates and students with existing loans from both the Federal Family Education Loan Program and directly from the government will have the option to consolidate their loans. These individuals would be eligible to pay up to half a percentage point less in interest. Borrowers would receive a 0.25% interest rate reduction on their consolidated FFEL loans and an additional 0.25% interest rate reduction on the entire consolidated FFEL and Direct Loans.

In addition to these changes, President Obama's administration also implemented a new fact sheet entitled "Know Before You Owe." This new fact sheet provides students with contrasting information about colleges and universities, and different forms of financial aids. This is available to students before they have enrolled in college and provides estimated student loan debt, monthly loan payments after graduation, and additional costs not covered by federal aid.

For more information, please visit the U.S. Department of Education online. www.ed.gov

For a fact sheet on the new changes, please visit the White House's online press release.

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2011/10/25/fact-sheet-help-americans-manage-student-loan-debt>

In addition to the new Student Loan Forgiveness program, social workers can benefit from the College Cost Reduction Act of 2007. For more information please visit:

<http://www.naswwi.org/student-center/student-loan-reduction/>

NEW CASELOAD CAPACITY CALCULATOR FREE TO NASW MEMBERS

Wondering how your case load compares to that of other case managers?

NASW is pleased to announce the launch of the Caseload Capacity Manager (CLC). This software, developed by Consulting Management Innovators, Inc. (CMI), The CLC builds on the Caseload Concept Paper <http://www.cmsa.org/portals/0/pdf/CaseloadCalc.pdf> published by NASW and the Case Management Society of America (CMSA) in 2008 and on a 2011 survey of NASW members. From that foundation, a team of clinicians and analysts developed software that provides comparison data with case managers in similar settings.

The Caseload Capacity Calculator is available, **free of charge, to all case managers through December, 31, 2011.**

Thereafter, it will remain free to NASW and CMSA members, though nonmembers may continue to use the tool for a fee.

This first version of the CLC is designed **for health plan and inpatient acute settings.**

However, during the public access period, **case managers of any setting may try the tool** by selecting one of three test settings during setup.

CMI hopes to develop calculator software for case managers in other settings in the future.

Visit www.socialworkers.org/caseloadcalculator to begin using the Caseload Capacity Calculator today.

Contact Chris Herman with questions at cherman@naswdc.org



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The President's Column

by Roberta Hanus



Oh, the weather outside is frightful...but the fire inside delightful!

This holiday jingle provides an apt metaphor for how to survive the Wisconsin winter ahead, i.e. your outer reality is shaped by your inner reality. It is amazing that no matter where I find myself, this same wisdom keeps cropping up: true change starts from within.

Today on NPR, author Alfie Kohn, a strong proponent for progressive education (The Myth of Homework) detailed repeated studies that have shown there is no academic benefit to homework for grade-school children! Their best learning happens in play and environments where they are playfully engaged in relationships. Quaker educator, prolific writer and activist Parker Palmer repeats the same simple value in his latest book *Healing the Heart of Democracy*, namely that the only way we are going to change the difficult situation we find ourselves in is to embrace the underlying spirit of our Preamble, We the People. And when I attended a conference this week on palliative care, Diane Meier, M.D. emphatically told an audience of health-care professionals that the actual reform this country needs is to bring the dialogue of health care back to the patients and families.

The spirit of dialogue is, according to physicist David Bohm (*Wholeness and the Implicate Order*) the ability to hold many points of view in suspension, along with the interest in creating a common meaning. Bohm asserts that our human development and ultimate survival is dependent on this dialogue or our ability to listen to one another and suggests that this essential skill is best learned through group work.

Now, I ask you...which profession has more experience with groups than social work? Could be that our task is to embrace what we already know and begin (again and again) to advance our ability to listen... which playfully begins with our own inner work. So while we step into the darkest time of the year, join me in listening to your own "still quiet voice within" while continuing to stoke the flames of your burning desire for social justice, transformative dialogue and revolutionary ideas for ending hunger, greed and other controllable forces.

If any of this seems like more work than play, I suggest organizing an intimate gathering amongst your local branch. We had one recently in Milwaukee and 30 social workers walked out into a tormenting rain at the end of the evening with smiles on their faces.



Southeast Branch members Brianna Vejvoda, Emily Palmer, Annalee Kruger and Sharon Keigher came in from the storm for conversation, support and rejuvenation for the road ahead.

The National Association of Social Workers, Wisconsin Chapter (NASW-WI) seeks to enhance the work of social workers across the state by promoting economic and social justice for vulnerable populations in Wisconsin. BadgerCare has been a program that has enhanced the lives of those living in poverty as it has provided access to healthcare at prices that families and individuals can afford. This has reduced visits to emergency rooms and has increased preventative care, overall reducing costs to Wisconsin.

We applaud some of the proposed innovations in the healthcare system.

- Increasing funding to use a trauma-informed care approach for the care of children in foster care will enhance the opportunity for screening and intervening appropriately for these children.
- Putting forth a pilot study for medical homes for particularly vulnerable populations is an innovative way to increase efficiencies and reduce cost.

However, the proposed reductions to Medicaid will undercut any ability on the part of low-income individuals and their families to successfully meet basic healthcare needs.

- Increasing premium rates will cause individuals and families either to choose to not have healthcare or will put them at further risk for failure to meet other basic human needs including shelter, food, transportation, and education.
- Counting the income of all adults in a household will keep some families who should be eligible from being eligible. While this rule was added to capture and reflect the financial makeup for houses with domestic partners, it will have unintended consequences for the homeless population. Individuals and families whose income does not allow them to live in their own home often resort to “doubling up” instead of utilizing the homeless shelter system. This very vulnerable population will be negatively affected by this rule and will exclude some of the most needy

and vulnerable in Wisconsin.

- Requiring in-state residency has the potential to slow an individual or family's enrollment. Many impoverished people do not have easy access to documents that prove in-state residency.
- Restricting access for young adults assumes that young adult children are able to be on their parents' private insurance. Yet the cycle of poverty predicts that young adult children in need of BadgerCare are in need because their parents either don't have insurance or are on BadgerCare themselves.

Reducing reimbursement rates to providers and HMOs will limit providers' abilities to care for patients in the outpatient setting, again contributing to increased costs in other parts of the healthcare system, such as emergency care.

The impact of these proposed cuts will extend well beyond low-income populations to include private pay consumers of healthcare, healthcare providers, and the emergency department. Private pay consumers are already burdened by increasing cost-sharing. These proposed cuts to Medicaid will cause a decrease in access to preventative care, and will cause an increase in more expensive emergency care, the burden of which will fall on the middle class through their insurance. These proposed cuts are, in effect, abandoning Wisconsin's most vulnerable population and, at the same time placing a further strain on the private sector.

NASW WI urges DHS to look further into innovative programs that can increase efficiencies and reduce costs, instead of increasing premiums and reducing services. Specifically, NASW encourages DHS to rework the provision regarding counting income in a home so that it more accurately reflects a family's income, instead of a household's. Reducing an individual or family's ability to access preventative healthcare puts them at risk for poorer health, which will lead to more costly healthcare in emergency departments. This cost will come back to the State of Wisconsin, and the burden will be on private-sector insurances and middle-class individuals and families.

SAVE THE DATE

NASW WI 2012 Annual Conference

A Meeting of the Profession: Igniting Our Spirits

October 29 - 31, 2012

Milwaukee Brookfield Sheraton

with Keynote Speaker Eileen Mershart



A PASSION FOR EXCELLENCE UNITES NASW WI 2011 AWARDEES

On September 14th three extraordinary men were honored for their contributions to the people and social workers of WI. Dale Decker, LCSW, received the 2011 Distinguished Social Worker Award; Willie Johnson, Jr. received the 2011 Public Service Award and Murray M. Bernstein, MSW, PhD, ACSW, was the recipient of a Lifetime Achievement Award.



*Dale Decker ,
LCSW, 2011
Distinguished
Social Worker;
Willie Johnson,
Jr., 2011 Public
Service Award
and Murray M.
Bernstein, MSW,
PhD, ACSW,
Lifetime
Achievement
Award*

Dale Decker, is familiar to many NASW WI members because of his active service with the NASW WI Clinical Network. His service to the people of WI has spanned several decades. Throughout his career, Dale has been committed to working with difficult clients. He has served people with serious mental illness who are financially impoverished, those who have lost many natural supports and those who have not sought services voluntarily

He is one of the partners at Moontree Psychotherapy Center in Madison and he is a preceptor for the UW-Madison, School of Social Work. He also continues to work at Mental Health Program of Mendota Mental Health Institute, MMHI where he could serve people throughout the state.

He considers the education of students and support of other social workers part of the responsibility of the profession. When layoffs affected social workers at MMHI, he assumed the supervision of a student. When the social work director position was vacated, he provided

guidance to any social worker in need; meeting with union stewards though his position was not directly at risk.

Dale leads by example. His identity as a gay man has long been part of his professional person. In his work at Moontree Psychotherapy Center, Dale began providing services to transgender individuals long before the community awareness common today. He understands the importance of the LGBT community as more than a client population placed on a list of specializations.

Dale Decker is an outstanding social worker and a person of great humility who genuinely believes this is all in a days work. He is a model of what social work can be.

Willie Johnson, Jr. was elected 13th District Supervisor in 2000 and is serving his third term on the Milwaukee Co. Board of Supervisors. Prior to his election, Supervisor Johnson worked for the Milwaukee Co. Department of Human Services - Financial Assistance Division and Child Welfare Division. He is an NASW WI member a trained consultant and facilitator for the Nurturing Program and a trained AODA assessment counselor.

To address community and economic development issues, Supervisor Johnson is a member of the Harambee Ombudsman Project, Riverwest Neighborhood Association and a volunteer of the Riverwest Development Corporation and the Milwaukee Local Initiatives Support Corporation, serving on LISC's Program/Executive Committee. He has served numerous other boards including the Parenting Network, Milwaukee Area Workforce Investment Board, 100 Black Men of Greater Milwaukee, Milwaukee Public Theatre, Urban Economic Development Association of WI and the WI Counties Association.

Governor Doyle appointed Supervisor Johnson to the State of WI Minority Business Development Board, and former WI Department of Administration Secretary Morgan appointed him to the State of WI Council on Small Business, Veteran-Owned Business and Minority Business Opportunities.

The Supervisor is presently appointed to the Bureau of Milwaukee Child Welfare Partnership Council, Milwaukee Co. Commission for Persons with Disabilities, Milwaukee Co. Community Justice Council Steering Committee, Milwaukee Co. Pretrial Services Advisory Board and the WI Co. Extensions Committees.

Supervisor Johnson is Chairman of the County Board Judiciary, Safety and General Services Committee and a member of the Finance and Audit Committee and Economic and Community Development Committee. He has served on the Milwaukee County AODA Quality Assurance Task Force, Parks, Recreation and Culture Dedicated Funding Task Force, and the Task Force on Segregation and Race Relations.

Murray M. Bernstein, MSW, PhD, ACSW, is an eight year veteran of active military duty, four of which were during the Vietnam War. There he served as a commissioned officer in the Social Worker Medical Service Corp working as team leader in a mental health clinic relating to war zone and returning military personal, and aiding in the development of a war zone substance abuse program.

2011 Awardees - Continued

Dr. Bernstein was a VA therapist for 30 years and served as an Asst. Professor of Psychiatry at the Medical College of WI. He has worked with Post Traumatic Stress Disorders for over 20 years and is a certified trauma specialist. He has published several articles on trauma and prisoner of war experiences, in addition to a current chapter in a textbook relating to international conflicts of trauma.

Dr. Bernstein has been instrumental in innovating two programs that work with military veterans in the Milwaukee area; the Dry Hooch Coffee Shop, a community based peer support center for veterans where he serves as the Clinical Director and also as a member of Board of Directors, and Veterans Quest, a program focused on supporting veterans with PTSD and their families.

He has been an active volunteer and a partial list of organizations and projects he has worked with includes the Civil Air Patrol, coaching Special Olympics [snowshoe, bowling, and tennis], Hillel Student Organization and *Your Library Hour*, on WTJM TV, a four week children's

story hour relating to Native American history and lore. He acts as a consultant to NBC, CBS and PBS on trauma and war related issues. He has achieved a Master Teachers Level in Reiki.

Among the honors he has received are the *Eagle* and *Silver Eagle* awards from Boy Scouts of America Explorer program, *Hands and Heart* the national Veterans Association's highest professional service award, the WI State Vietnam Veterans' Achievement Award, the Blind Veterans of America Achievement Award for program development and the 2008 North Suburban Special Olympics Volunteer of the Year.

Dr. Bernstein's commitment to working with youth, veterans, families, the military and the community demonstrates a dedication to providing a safety net for the most vulnerable, and is a testimony to his 40 year career. NASW WI is proud to add its Lifetime Achievement Award to his many other honors

KEYNOTE SPEAKER WOWS CONFERENCE ATTENDEES

"Leslie is a powerhouse! I was very inspired by her talk and left with a big feeling of hope."

"Leslie provided a superb description of community level interventions and how to make a positive effect between the individual and the policy-level."

These are just a couple of the many positive comments praising Leslie Ann Howard's presentation at the annual conference. Leslie was the dynamic keynote speaker for day two of the conference, held at the Sheraton Hotel in Madison. Her presentation on utilizing community engagement to identify, reduce, and eliminate critical issues facing Dane County brought inspiration and hope to the attendees of the conference.

In 2003, United Way of Dane County (UWDC) engaged the community in a discussion in order to identify serious issues. Leslie explained how the engagement helped develop the community's Agenda for Change. United Way's Agenda for Change is a program split into seven areas in which United Way works to improve individual lives. The key factor was implementing research-based strategies to develop clear community goals that would produce measurable results.

At the NASW annual conference, Leslie provided clear examples of the remarkable public achievement that was attained through United Way partnering with the community. Six mobilization plans were developed in order to address the issues of Dane County, as well as key strategies and key measures of success. Some of the daunting tasks included eliminating racial achievement gaps in school, decreasing homelessness, accessing health care for uninsured people, and reducing violence toward individuals and families.

The analysis Leslie provided not only informed the attendees, but provided hope through realistic, encouraging change results in Dane County. For example, Leslie provided the information that the most reliable predictor of educational success for children is whether they are reading at grade level by the end of 3rd grade. In 1995, there was a 21% difference in the success rates of white

students and students of color in Madison. Through the efforts of Leslie, UWDC and "Schools of Hope" partners, the gap was reduced to 2% by the end of 2004.

Leslie also discussed future plans with clearly defined expectations for community reintegration in order to tackle the criminal re-offense rate. Currently 66% of prisoners returning to Dane County are likely to commit a crime and return to prison, due to the lack of available resources. United Way has developed the Community Reintegration Pilot that provides a one-stop resource for returning prisoners. The goal is to reduce the recidivism rate by 20%, while also making the community a safer place.

These examples, as well as other initiatives Leslie and United Way implemented, have been carefully developed as a result of community engagement as well as local and national research on different issues facing Dane County. Leslie shared the clear, understandable goals of United Way coupled with strategies to achieve success. Leslie's presentation demonstrated that measurable achievement has been made amongst various issues within the community.

Through her presentation and her work with UWDC, Leslie Ann Howard shared and reinforced the social work idea of "individual in the environment." In order to solve individual and family issues, United Way defined the community's issues as a whole, and then joined with local resources that resulted in more proactive, institutional practices. Leslie's hard work with United Way addresses residual problems for individuals in a community setting in order to reduce the serious social issues facing Dane County. The results presented by Leslie were inspiring, hopeful, and empowering.

"Thank you, Leslie, for showing us how the United Way is using researched based information to provide change - a new way of thinking!!"



Keynote Speaker Leslie Ann Howard, CEO of United Way of Dane County

Strong Individuals, Resilient Communities: Engaging Our Possibilities



NASW WI & NASW Board Presidents Roberta Hanus & Jeane Anastas with Marc Herstand



Attendees wait for Jeane Anastas' Keynote Address



Pam Phillips Olson, Jeane Anastas & Barbara Boustead



Sebastian Ssempiija, and Mai Zong Vue on working with Hmong Clients



Diane Brandt at the UW-Madison/UW EauClaire Part -Time MSW program table



LaVonne Cornell Swanson presents Advanced Ethics and Boundaries



Mare Chapman presents on Mindfulness



Marc Herstand with NASW WI interns Rachel Fleming and Cassandra Pohfahl



Sophia Thorn's presentation was The Cancer Survival Toolbox



Immigration & SW Practice presenter Daysi Jimenez speaks to Marc Herstand



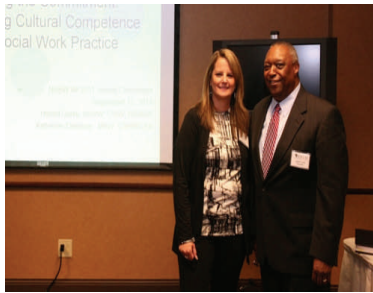
Leila Pine & Fabiola Hamadan were panelists on the Immigration & SW Practice session



Racine Kenosha Branch Chair Wendy Trefz with two branch members

The 2011 NASW WI Annual Conference - Photographs by John Hanrahan

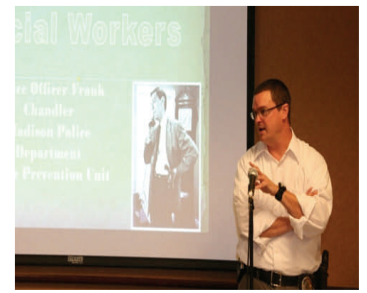
The NASW WI Annual Conference provides education and inspiration. It's a place to learn, new skills, to share acquired wisdom, to network with peers and to laugh with old friends.



Kathy Drechsler & Harold Gates presented on Ethics and Cultural Competence



West Central Branch members enjoy a networking lunch together



MPD Officer Frank Chandler on Personal Safety Issues for Social Workers



Carol Faynik's topic was pre-licensure clinical supervision



Francis Akakpo presented on juvenile offenders



Attorney Rock Pleidl offered two workshops on social work and the law



The Ho-Chunk Nation exhibit on The Best Outcomes for Indian Children program



Rhonda Montgomery presents on T-CARE, a protocol for caregivers



Conference attendees share opinions and advice over lunch



Kristin Scheeler on WI Health Care Advance Health Care Directives



Jim Ellis, Pam Phillips Olson, Gretchen Fincke Patti Baker and Brenda Ward on Senior SW panel



Ron Diamond, MD on Working With Angry People



**Rachel Fleming
testifies at a Badger-
Care/Medicare
hearing in Eau Claire**

*My internship
at NASW WI
allowed me to
grow through
many
opportunities. I
have been able
to research
bills, contact
lobbyists, and
become totally
engrossed in the
political
process.*

FROM DISCRIMINATION TO INSPIRATION

By Rachel Fleming, NASW WI Intern, Autumn 2011

I have learned as an undergrad pursuing my BSW that many of my fellow students are less than enthusiastic about macro level social work, especially policy. Just the word “policy” will produce an audible groan from many of my classmates at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire where I attend class. Policy seems to be an area that few social workers pursue. This makes sense for a career that is chosen based on a desire to work with people, not laws and statutes.

When I decided I wanted to intern at NASW WI, for me it was an easy choice. I have always been interested in policy development and how government can help benefit, or in the case of the current administration, impede the progress of social welfare. I find the reason others may have a disinterest in policy is due to the lack of connection between generalist practice and actual policy creation. After attending a recent committee hearing it became evident where my coursework as a generalist practice social worker and my internship at the policy level connected.

Senate Bill 207 (companion bill is Assembly Bill 286) would permit an employer to refuse to employ or to terminate from employment any individual with an unpardoned felon. NASW WI is clearly against this bill, as felons trying to reintegrate back into society already face many barriers and stigma. A committee hearing was held, and while I expected some testimonies I was not prepared for a 6 hour session that would leave me so inspired. There were over 35 awe-inspiring testimonies against the bill, in comparison to only 2 small, evidence deficient testimonies in favor of the bill.

The courage and strength from the many individuals who spoke with conviction and passion reinforced my decision to intern at NASW WI. The bill would disproportionately affect the African-American community in Wisconsin as they are disproportionately represented in our prison system. I was truly impressed as a large number of people shared their personal stories, as well as the barriers they have faced as ex-felons. I could hear the worry and concern in their voices over this bill. However, many people utilized their worries to speak from their hearts. Many individuals spoke with humility when expressing their mistakes, but also demonstrated pride in being able to change their lives by being given a second chance under current law. Current law only allows individuals with crimes substantially related to their job to be fired or not considered for a position.

On the surface a bill can appear one way, but how the bill actually impacts individuals can be a completely different story. This bill represents not only discrimination against felons, but covertly has racist implications. Racism and the impact it has had on social welfare can be taught through a textbook or in a classroom. However, a textbook does not leave the incredible impression that I was fortunate enough to experience by listening firsthand to people’s experiences. During the personal and touching testimonies, the connection between micro and macro practice in social work became clear. Hopefully the testimonies from the individuals who will be most directly impacted can influence our legislators to vote no on this disenfranchising bill.

My internship at NASW WI allowed me to grow through many opportunities. I have been able to research bills, contact lobbyists, and become totally engrossed in the political process. These opportunities have provided me with the chance to learn more about social work unconventionally, like being able to listen to personal testimonies at a committee hearing. This experience has helped strengthen the bond between my generalist practice teachings and my pursuit of a policy-related career. An internship at NASW WI will get your blood pumping at times, and being across the street from the capitol in this political climate definitely encour-

NASW WI POSITIONS ON PENDING LEGISLATION

At its September and October meetings, the NASW WI Legislative/Social Policy Committee took action on bills that have been introduced into the Wisconsin Legislature.

The LSP Committee voted to **support** the following bills:

- AJR 52 Requires the legislature to enact laws requiring reasonable notice of and public access to meetings of governmental bodies, provides a penalty for members of the legislature who violate such laws
- SB 167 Making an elector who resides in the same senate district as the one in which a challenged elector resides the only person who can challenge the ballot
- SB 168 Requires a firearms restrictions record search for transfers of handguns that do not involve a firearms dealer
- SB 206 Patient Bill of Rights that addresses pro-consumer measures from the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act
- AB 220 Provides an income and franchise tax credit for workplace wellness programs
- AB 230 Deleting the one-week waiting period for collection of unemployment insurance benefits
- AB 232 Puts Wisconsin Constitution policy into statute to confer upon victims the right to be “treated with fairness, dignity, and respect” for privacy by public officials, employees, or agencies. Enables the Crime Victims Board to be able to take complaints and action
- AB 247/SB 177 Clarifies when a court has subject matter and person jurisdiction in relation to domestic violence, and includes jurisdiction in other states where harassment may occur if the abuse is a threat to the state of Wisconsin (Note: Protects victims who flee to Wisconsin for support from families, friends, etc.)
- AB 255 Restores FoodShare benefits to legal immigrants in Wisconsin. Under federal law, a state may, but is not required to provide FoodShare benefits to qualified aliens.
- AB 256 Provides a grant to Milwaukee County to assist men of color to obtain employment
- AB 269 Strengthens the 72 hour no contact rule for victims of domestic violence by changing the violation from a civil penalty to a misdemeanor
- SJR 41/SR 21 Requires the legislature to enact laws requiring reasonable notice of and access to public meetings of governmental bodies, including the legislature
- LRB 1923 Child Victim’s Act-Remove the statute of limitations for victims to report sexual assault
- LRB 2739 Wisconsin Jobs Initiative

The LSP Committee voted to **oppose** the following bills:

- AB 210 Implementing health insurance reform (Note: Inconsistency in this bill between federal law and implementation of state law could be found unconstitutional and insurers would be exempt from the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act coverage requirements under this new bill)
- AB 222 Requires documentary evidence of citizenship or satisfactory immigration status for public assistance programs
- AB 286-SB 207 Allows an employer to refuse to employ or to bar or terminate from employment an individual who has been convicted of an un-pardoned felony (Note: Current law already allows this if the felony is substantially related to the job)
- SB 237/AB 337 Repeal of the 2009 Healthy Youth Act, which would eliminate the requirement to teach about contraception and promote abstinence based teachings in sexual education programs in schools



From Webinars to Home Study audio programs, Ethics and Boundaries workshops to Teleconferences, NASW WI offers the best in Continuing Education for social workers. Featuring nationally recognized presenters, covering a wide variety of topics and areas of specialization there is no better value to be found.

QUALITY, VARIETY & VALUE

The NASW WI 2012 Continuing Education Calendar

At NASW WI we pride ourselves on offering Wisconsin's social workers the best in Continuing Education. We strive to produce products that stimulate, motivate and innovate; programs that will help you excel in your practice.

This year we are expanding our popular lunchtime teleconference series from six programs offered during the winter months to eight programs offered throughout the year and we are adding five webinars to the mix. At one hour long offered over the noon hour, these programs allow you to earn valuable "live" CE hours without leaving your office, the field or your home. Because these programs are live and participants are able to interact with the presenter and other participants, they are not considered self study.

We are offering three Ethics and Boundaries sessions before the Annual Conference including a new webinar programs. Topics covered include Ethics and Boundaries in a Virtual World, Ethics and Boundaries for Clinical Social Workers and Ethics and Boundaries for In-Home Services.

If you are looking for self-study options, our popular Home Study Audio Program has expanded to over 40 titles and our On-line Learning Institute offers nearly 100 programs, some content created by NASW WI and some by other NASW state chapters.

A 2012 Continuing Education brochure will be mailed later this month, with full details of all our program offerings. Online registration for all programs will begin this month as well.

Take a look at our offerings for first few months of 2012 and start planning your CE calendar.

- Jan 12 - **Webinar** - WI Health Care Advance Directive Options by Kristin Scheeler, MSSW, CAPSW
- Feb 1 - **Webinar** - Pre-Licensure Clinical Supervision for Practitioners in Youth Serving Agencies by Carol Faynik, MA, MSSW
- Feb 15 - **Teleconference** - Child Abuse & Neglect: Effects on the Brain by David Cooper, MSW, MA, LCSW
- Feb 21 - **Teleconference** - Current Trends in Substance Abuse and Treatment Modalities by Amy Mosher-Garvey, LCSW, CSAC, ICS, SAP
- Mar 13 - **Teleconference** - High Functioning Autism & Asperger's Syndrome by William Shryer, DCSW, LCSW
- Mar 22 - **Webinar** - Mindfulness: Cultivating Stability in the Midst of Uncertainty and Change by Mare Chapman, MA
- Mar 30 & Apr 6 - **Ethics & Boundaries Webinar** - Ethics and Boundaries for In-Home Services by Jeanne Wagner, LCSW (presented in two hour blocks, two different days)
- April 12 - **Webinar** - Managing Lack of Insight in Individuals with Serious Mental Illness by Christina Newhill, MSW, LCSW, PhD
- April 24 - **Webinar** - Bringing the War Home: The Impact of the Wars in Iraq & Afghanistan by Gail Gunter Hunt, LCSW; Kurt Brunner, LCSW; Stephanie Daugherty-Dennis, MSW & Jennifer Jaqua, MSW
- May 3 - **Teleconference** - Grief & Loss: Numbing the Pain Through Substance Abuse by Jessica Holton, MSW, LCSW, LCAS
- May 10 - **Ethics Workshop** - Social Work Ethics in Virtual World by LaVonne Cornell Swanson, MSW, PhD

The Wisconsin Chapter Nominations and Leadership Identification (NLI) committee announces the following positions are open for nominations. Elections will be held in Spring 2012

Board of Director Positions

- Secretary
- Racine/Kenosha Chair
- South Central Branch Chair
- Southwest Branch Chair
- Northeast Branch Chair
- South Central Branch Representative
- Southeast Branch Representative
- Undergraduate Representative
- Graduate Representative

NLI Committee Positions

- Chair
- Southeast Representative
- Northeast Representative
- South Central Representative
- West Central Representative
- Racine/Kenosha Representative
- North Central Representative

Delegate Assembly Positions

- Delegate Assembly Representative (2)

The NLI Committee intends to create a preliminary slate in early January, 2012. The final slate will be presented at the January 2012 NASW WI Board meeting.

NASW WI members interested in running for any of the offices mentioned, or who wish to suggest a member name for us to contact, should phone or email their area NLI Representative (listed below). In addition you may contact the NLI Chair or contact the NASW WI office at (608) 257-6334 or use the toll-free number (866) 462-7994 (WI only) Email the office at naswwi@tds.net

Jennifer Burelbach (NLI chair) jennifer301@centurytel.net

Brit Van Klooster (Southeast Branch Representative) Brit_williams@hotmail.com

Debra Nichols (Southwest Branch Representative) dlnichol@gundluth.org

Arlene Langley (North Central Branch Representative) alangle8@gmail.com

Linda Tiso (Racine/Kenosha Branch Representative) joelindat@tds.net



The recall process gives social workers the opportunity to engage in a grassroots effort. Through community organization, we can take back our state.

HOW TO GET INVOLVED IN THE RECALL OF GOVERNOR WALKER

Are you concerned about the drastic cuts in public transportation, health care for the poor, the elimination of collective bargaining of state employees, as well as many other programs that affect professional social workers, and our clients? The PAC of NASW WI has endorsed the recall of Governor Scott Walker. The time to take action is now!

NASW WI is urging our members to become involved with the recall of Governor Walker. 540,206 valid signatures are necessary for the recall to happen. The Democratic Party of Wisconsin and United Wisconsin have various meetings and offices in different areas of the state in order to train individuals with recall protocol.

To get involved with the recall process, you can either contact your local Democratic Party Office listed below or you can sign up to be a volunteer on the Democratic Party or the United Wisconsin websites. The volunteer sheets allow an individual to choose exactly how he or she wants to be involved. For example, you can sign up to circulate petitions, throw a recall party in your home, or work on a phone bank for a recall center. There are many ways that NASW WI members can get positively involved!

The recall process gives social workers the opportunity to engage in a grassroots effort. Through community organization, we can take back our state. The recall process also provides an opportunity for NASW WI members to network with various social workers within their communities. Different branch chapters are encouraged to circulate petitions or sign up to volunteer together in their local area!

The Democratic Party of Wisconsin

<http://grassroots.wisdems.org/page/s/volunteer-to-recall-scott-walker>

United Wisconsin

<http://www.unitedwisconsin.com/contact-united-wisconsin>

To download the petition

<http://grassroots.wisdems.org/page/s/united-wisconsin-petition-download>

Are you concerned or apprehensive to volunteer because you are unsure of what is expected during the recall? Many different offices have trainings leading up to and after the recall process is started. This ensures that you will be educated on how to participate properly and should take away any concerns you might have with the recall process. To locate a recall training near you either contact the nearest recall office or visit the websites below:

[http://grassroots.wisdems.org/page/event/search_results?](http://grassroots.wisdems.org/page/event/search_results?orderby=day&state=&country=US&event_type%5b%5d=&limit=900&radius_unit=mi)

[orderby=day&state=&country=US&event_type%5b%5d=&limit=900&radius_unit=mi](http://grassroots.wisdems.org/page/event/search_results?orderby=day&state=&country=US&event_type%5b%5d=&limit=900&radius_unit=mi)

<http://www.unitedwisconsin.com/calendar>

Listed on the next page are some of the main offices for the recall. If these locations are not feasible for you, there are others that may be closer. Please check with the Democratic Party of Wisconsin and United Wisconsin to find other locations.

Eau Claire

405 S Barstow
Eau Claire, WI 54701
collinh@wisdems.org

Kenosha

5535 6th Avenue
116 5th Kenosha, 53410
timothy@wisdems.org

Madison

330 E Wilson
Madison, WI 53703
danerecalleast@wisdems.org

Milwaukee

3206-3208 W National
Milwaukee, WI 53215
milwaukeesouth@wisdems.org

Appleton

612 W College Ave
Appleton, WI 54911
michaelp@wisdems.org

La Crosse

116 5th Avenue South
La Crosse, WI 53719
ericak@wisdems.org,
laurah@wisdems.org

Madison

6602 Normandy Lane
Madison, WI 53703
danerecallwest@wisdems.org scottp@wisdems.org

Milwaukee

7984 W. Appleton Ave
Milwaukee, WI 53218
milwaukeenorth@wisdems.org

Stevens Point

2220 Division Street
Stevens Point, WI 54481
jeffreyw@wisdems.org

Green Bay

1061 W Mason
Green Bay, WI 54304
evank@wisdems.org

INFORMATION RESOURCES ON CHANGES TO WISCONSIN'S VOTING LAWS

The NASW WI office was contacted by the Madison City Clerk's office on behalf of City Clerk Maribeth Witzel-Behl.

Ms. Witzel-Behl had hosted a Voter ID information session at a food pantry on Saturday, September 17, 2011. She had met a social worker at the meeting who asked that we attempt to get information on recent changes to WI election laws into the hands of social workers in Madison so they can pass it along to individuals with whom they work.

The Madison City Clerks office contacted us with an offer to provide brochures their office has produced to social workers regarding Voter ID legislation.

The brochures are:

Recent Changes to Wisconsin Election Law <http://www.cityofmadison.com/clerk/documents/NewElectionLawsBrochure.pdf>

Obtaining An ID Card to Vote <http://www.cityofmadison.com/clerk/documents/ObtaininganIDCardtoVote.pdf>

While these brochures were produced in Madison, the information in them applies throughout the state. They are available on-line and can be downloaded. Please use and share this information as needed. It is especially important to let low income clients know that they do not have to pay for an ID, but they must request the free ID to receive it.

The City Clerks office will also be happy to supply brochures to the Madison area social workers upon request.

... because DHS did not issue the Forward Health Update until this month, LCSW's had their reimbursement claims returned due to lack of a physician prescription.

The Forward Health Update does include a provision for backdating prior authorization requests to cover the period from January 1, 2011- November 4, 2011.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES ELIMINATES PHYSICIAN PRESCRIPTION REQUIREMENT

On November 4th, the Department of Health Services (DHS) issued a Forward Health Update, which announced the elimination of physician prescription for mental health and substance abuse services. The Vendorship bill had eliminated physician prescription as of January 1, 2011, but because DHS did not issue the Forward Health Update until this month, LCSW's had their reimbursement claims returned due to lack of a physician prescription. The Forward Health Update does include a provision for backdating prior authorization requests to cover the period from January 1, 2011- November 4, 2011.

The following is the email sent out by DHS to interested parties. If you would like to read the actual Forward Health Update, cut and paste the URL listed below.

Please note that the Medicaid Handbook Update #2011-71 was issued on November 4, 2011 (go to <https://www.forwardhealth.wi.gov/kw/pdf/2011-71.pdf>). This Update, which is entitled "Prescription No Longer Required to Initiate Certain Mental Health and Substance Abuse Treatment Services," pertains to outpatient mental health and substance

abuse treatment programs, as well as mental health and substance abuse day treatment programs. However, the requirement for a physician prescription to initiate treatment services for the following Medicaid benefits still pertains:

- Community Recovery Services.
- Community Support Programs.
- Comprehensive Community Services.
- HealthCheck "Other Services" Child/Adolescent Day Treatment.
- HealthCheck "Other Services" Intensive In-Home Mental Health and Substance Abuse Treatment Services for Children.

Dan Zimmerman
Contract Administrator
Bureau of Prevention, Treatment & Recovery
1 W. Wilson Street, Room 851
PO Box 7851
Madison, WI 53707-7851
608-266-7072
608-267-7793 (fax)

An Invitation to Senior Social Workers

Retired or semi-retired but not quite willing to be put out to pasture? The profession still needs your experience, expertise, and vision.

Recognizing this, a group of us are developing an exciting project that will highlight your skills and years of experience. Our mission is to make better use of the enormous talent pool amongst us older social service professionals that will benefit various agencies.

We are planning a semi-retired and retired data base. This would include brief bios with an email link to request a longer CV, as well as information about services you might offer.

These services might include serving on Boards, doing consultation work, or providing direct services either on a long time or short term basis. In speaking with Marc Herstand, it is also clear that our talent might be useful on the various NASW committees at the State level.

I am the contact person for this effort. If you want to be included in the project, please let me know (contact information below).

Lastly, I would also like to put out a request for senior mentors. If you would be willing to mentor someone entering the field or already active in mid-career, please contact me or Marc. We will also include mentoring information as part of our website

We believe that creating such a venue offers agencies a speedy way to connect with the outstanding social workers in various fields when they are looking for that special person

We will be organizing at the next yearly NASW Conference which will be held in October 2012 in Brookfield, Wisconsin. In the meantime we will connect through email or by phone. Please join us.

Marge Nixon
(262) 292-8256 or mnixon243@yahoo.com



***I'm not recovering
from a bipolar
disorder only to
die of lung cancer.***

***I had to quit
smoking.***

-Blake

AODA/mental health patients smoke half the cigarettes in America.

Most want to quit. Many have quit.

You can help.

www.HelpUsQuit.org

FREE CME, Toolkit, Videos, Research, Case Studies



**School of Medicine
and Public Health**
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

Schedule of Events

SOCIAL WORKERS SECTION

Dec. 12, 2011, 9:00 A.M.
 Dept. of Safety and Professional Services,
 1400 E. Washington Avenue, Madison

For more info contact DSPS at 608-266-2112

NASW WI CONTINUING EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Dec. 12, 2011, 12:00 noon

NASW WI LEGISLATIVE/SOCIAL POLICY COMMITTEE

Dec. 12, 2011, 5:00 P.M.

NASW WI PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS & REGULATION COMMITTEE

Dec. 19, 2011, 12:00 noon

All NASW WI Committee Meetings are held at the NASW WI office and by conference call. For more information contact us toll-free at 866-462-7994 or 608- 257-6334

DECEMBER 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5 <small>CE & LSP Committees</small>	6	7	8	9	10
11	12 <small>CE & LSP Committees/ SW Section</small>	13	14	15	16	17
18	19 <small>PSR Committee</small>	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Social Workers In the News

The August 31st edition of *WisPolitics* announced that Milwaukee County Supervisor (and NASW WI member) **Willie Johnson Jr.** had been chosen to receive NASW WI’s 2011 Public Service Award. In this article Willie Johnson stated, “It is an honor to receive this award from NASW WI and I thank the Executive Committee for selecting me. I will continue to support our community of social workers, who do great things for our society every single day.”

The August 31st edition of the *Wisconsin State Journal* printed a letter to the editor from NASW WI member **Mary Trainor** entitled, “We should expect more “Irene” storms. In her letter Trainor made the connection between our reliance on fossil fuels and the dangerous climate changes we are experiencing.

In the September 8th edition of *The Capital Hues*, NASW WI **Paul Kusuda** writes a second in a series of two articles on Growing Older. The September

8th article is entitled, “Growing Older Has Draw Backs, But Medicare Reduces Them”. In this article Paul talks about the importance of Medicare for those in the “Golden Years”.

Under its Hues City Happenings, the September 8th edition of *The Capital Hues* printed an announcement of the NASW WI annual conference panel presentation on “Immigration and Social Work Practice in Wisconsin”.

NASW WI member **Cathy Arney** and social work student **Victoria Olszewski** were quoted in a September 20th *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* article entitled, “A safe haven for abuse survivors”. In this article Cathy Arney discussed the support that The Healing Center provides for men. Victoria Olszewski is pictured in the article in front of the Helen



Paul Kusuda

NASW WI CONTINUING EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Jan. 9, 2012, 12:00 noon

NASW WI LEGISLATIVE/SOCIAL POLICY COMMITTEE

Jan. 9, 2012, 5:00 P.M.

EXAMINING BOARD OF MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPISTS, PROFESSIONAL COUNSELORS & SOCIAL WORKERS

Jan. 10, 2012, 9:00 A.M.

Dept. of Safety & Professional Services,
1400 E. Washington Avenue, Madison

For more information contact DSPTS at 608-266-2112

SOCIAL WORKERS SECTION

Jan. 11, 2012, 9:00 A.M.

Dept. of Safety & Professional Services,
1400 E. Washington Avenue, Madison

For more information contact DSPTS at 608-266-2112

NASW WI PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS & REGULATION COMMITTEE

Jan. 16, 2012, 12:00 noon

NASW WI BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Jan. 28, 2012; South. Police Station,
825 Hughes Place, Madison

For more information call NASW WI toll-free at 866-462-7994 or 608- 257-6334

JANUARY 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9 CE & LSP committees	10 Examining Bd of PC, MFT & Social Worker	11 Social Work Section	12	13	14
15	16 PSR Committee	17	18	19	20	21 NASW WI Board of Directors
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

Social Workers In the News

Bader School of Social Welfare where she is a student. In the article Olszewski discusses how one of the social work classes brought back memories of her sexual abuse, which led her to treatment at The Healing Center.

On September 22nd, the *Wisconsin Gazette* printed a feature article on **Dale Decker**, who received NASW WI's 2011 Distinguished Social Worker award. The Gazette article described Decker's accomplishment at Moontree Psychotherapy Center, at Mendota Mental Health Center as well as his assistance to help get the Vendorship bill passed.

In the November 2nd edition of the *Appleton Post Crescent*, NASW WI Executive Director **Marc Herstand** was quoted in an article entitled, "Wisconsin ex-cons say proposed bill could hurt job prospects". The Post Crescent mentioned that NASW WI lobbied against the bill and quoted Herstand as saying that

with the passage of this bill an employer could fire an employee with a felony history and a higher salary through years of work and replace her or him with a new person at a lower salary.

The front page of the September 2011 edition of *NASW News* featured a photograph of the Wisconsin participants in the 2011 Delegate Assembly; **Wendy Volz-Daniels, Nick Smiar, Roberta Hanus and Marc Herstand**

The November edition of the *Wisconsin Jewish Chronicle* included a "Workplace" article entitled, "Social work group honors Bernstein". This article announced that NASW WI had selected **Murray Bernstein** for its 2011 Lifetime Achievement Award. It described Dr. Bernstein's accomplishments that led to the award.

16 N. Carroll Street, Suite 220
Madison, WI 53703
Phone: 608-257-6334
Toll Free in WI: 866-462-7994
Fax: 608-257-8233

NASW Wisconsin Chapter Staff
Marc Herstand, MSW, CISW: Executive Director
email: marcherstand@tds.net
Anne Courtney: Administrative Coordinator
email: naswwi@tds.net

THE NASW WISCONSIN CHAPTER MISSION STATEMENT

“To support all social work practitioners in their mission

to serve and strengthen relationships within diverse populations;

to promote social justice;

and to enhance the dignity and worth of all people in the State of Wisconsin

through the promotion of quality practice, competent practitioners,

integrity and unity of the social work profession.”

