Chapter Election Results Are In

The candidates for the spring Chapter election are listed below, along with two members who were recently appointed to fill vacancies on the Board of Directors.

Incoming Officers and Members-At-Large

President-Elect - Sandra Bernabei, LCSW
1st Vice President - Candida Brooks-Harrison, LCSW
3rd Vice President - Christiana Best-Cummings, PhD, LMSW
Treasurer - Benjamin R. Sher, LMSW
Helen M. Crohn, DSW, LCSW
Phyllis Erbaum-Zur, PhD, ACSW, LCSW-R
Sofia Frank, LMSW
Danielle Brown Fuller, MSW
Evelyn Laureano, PhD, LMSW (appointed)
Geri Matusewitch, LMSW
My-Lan Tran, LCSW (appointed)
Christine Wilkins, PhD, LCSW
Ricardo A. Guzmán Erazo, MSW
Ileana L. Fohr, BSW Student

Incoming Nominations Committee Members

Mark Agosto, LMSW
Natalia Echeverri, MSW
Vima Little, PsyD, LCSW-R, SAP
Hazel McIntyre, LMSW
Andrew Peters, MSW
Schanica Pickens, MSW

2013 Annual Meeting: Going on the Offense for Economic Equality

Jared Bernstein and Panel Frame Social Work Challenges and Opportunities at 2013 Annual Meeting

Alicia Fry, LMSW, Case Management Supervisor Services Now for Adult Persons (SNAP);
Member, NASW-NYC Board of Directors

“The every economist should first be a social worker.”
This provocative assertion, first made by Jared Bernstein on HBO's Realtime with Bill Maher and repeated in the introduction to his keynote presentation, kick started the NASW-NYC Annual Meeting on May 9, 2013. Dr. Bernstein, PhD, MSW, is a Senior Fellow for the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, and before that he served as Chief Economist and Economic Advisor to Vice President Joe Biden.

Most importantly to the May 9th audience of 500, he began his career as a social worker helping poor people in New York City, and believes that “most economists and politicians haven’t spent enough time in actual neighborhoods where people are just trying to get by. Social workers do just that, and therefore understand the context in which economic problems exist.” He further stated that, when it comes to the economy, “it’s time for us to get off the defense and go on the offense” to affect change.

Dr. Jared Bernstein, former Chief Economic Advisor to Vice President Joseph Biden delivers the keynote address at the 2013 Annual Meeting.

Click here to read the full article

Click here to view photos from the 2013 Annual Meeting

Message from the President

All God’s Children Need Shoes - The Right Shoes

The Social Work Equity Project

Recently, I read of a teacher trying to explain to her very young students the difference between equity and equality. She gathered the class in a circle and asked everyone to take off one shoe. The shoes were collected. The shoes were then redistributed and everyone was then given a shoe. Only a couple of students received the mate to their other shoe. As you can guess, the group complained. The shoes they were given were too small, too large, made for the wrong foot, etc. They had difficulty walking and running. Some were able to manage with the shoe they received and some could not manage at all. The young students got it.

In effect, the children all were equal in that they had shoes, but only those who had shoes that fit were able to adequately walk and run, actually experiencing the value of having shoes.

Click here to read the full article
Women's Equality is a Social Work Issue
Lauren Frederico, MSW, Organizer, New York Civil Liberties Union (NYCLU)

Editor’s Note: The NYC Chapter has endorsed the Women’s Equality Agenda, which is discussed below. Just before the newsletter was completed, Governor Cuomo introduced legislation to enact the agenda on June 5th.

During his state of the state address in January, Governor Cuomo announced plans to advance a ten point Women’s Equality Agenda that seeks to break down multiple forms of gender based discrimination in New York. The proposal encompasses a wide range of issues including access to reproductive health care, pay equity, domestic violence and tenants’ rights. Informed by conversations with service providers and advocacy groups across the state, the governor’s office convened a group of 20 organizations, including the New York Civil Liberties Union, to lead the charge around the groundbreaking initiative. Since then, the agenda has garnered widespread support. To date more than 800 organizations from every corner of New York State, including NASW-NYC, have joined the New York Women’s Equality Coalition. Together these groups are working together to raise awareness around the barriers impeding women’s equality in New York.

Click here to read the full article

We welcome letters and comments.
Send to contactus@naswnyc.org
“Every economist should first be a social worker.”

This provocative assertion, first made by Jared Bernstein on HBO’s Realtime with Bill Maher and repeated in the introduction to his keynote presentation, kick started the NASW-NYC Annual Meeting on May 9, 2013. Dr. Bernstein, PhD, MSW, is a Senior Fellow for the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, and before that he served as Chief Economist and Economic Advisor to Vice President Joe Biden.

Most importantly to the May 9th audience of 500, he began his career as a social worker helping poor people in New York City, and believes that “most economists and politicians haven’t spent enough time in actual neighborhoods where people are just trying to get by. Social workers do just that, and therefore understand the context in which economic problems exist.” He further stated that, when it comes to the economy, “it’s time for us to get off the defense and go on the offense” to affect change.

In his presentation entitled “Getting Back on Offense: Diagnoses and Prescriptions: What’s Gone Wrong and What Social Workers (and other sane people) Can Do About It”, Dr. Bernstein opined that our current economic crisis is due to systemic causes, and therefore needs to be addressed systemically. In “diagnosing” our current problems, he cited the growing disconnects between productivity, jobs, wages, and poverty rates (since the mid-1970s, productivity has skyrocketed while real wages have stagnated and poverty has increased); inadequate job creation (both in quantity and quality of jobs); disinvestment by the government in education, jobs, and safety net programs (non-defense discretionary spending continues to decrease); inequality of income, and what he considers our most pressing problem—inequality of opportunity.

Dr. Bernstein believes that this is important because it violates our deeply held belief that, in America, your zip code or the financial status you are born into should not keep you from ascending the ladder of opportunity and achieving the American dream. When this occurs, it leads to despair, and hurts the overall economy. One example he gave is the fact that 71% of children from families in the top income quintile complete four years of college, while only 10% of those in the bottom quintile do. However, he also mentioned that boosting a poor family’s income by just $5,000 per year leads to that family’s children earning higher incomes as adults, because when families have more money, they invest it in their children.

Dr. Bernstein argues that inequality has been caused by increased globalization, diminished unionization, technological changes, the decline in the real value of the minimum wage, regressive changes in the tax code, and financial deregulation—and that nearly all of these are policy issues, which means that changing the situation will require changing policy.

On the positive side, Dr. Bernstein cited a steady economic recovery, a better than expected performance by the safety net, and a growing frustration and disillusionment with the dysfunction in Washington, coupled with the inequality of power that gave way to movements like Occupy Wall Street.

So…how do we fix this mess?

Jared Bernstein believes that it will “take a movement”, which George Packer defines as “an idea of the future that’s genuinely shared by large numbers of people.” He encouraged social workers to “go on the offensive” by using our unique skills to mobilize groups of people into an “economic rights movement”, and to lobby and advocate for increased educational opportunities for all, for raising not just the minimum but the median wage, for a Full Employment Act, and for a national policy that promotes both accountability and opportunity for all.

After Dr. Bernstein’s address, our Chapter panel of experts weighed in and expanded on his remarks, adding a personal and localized perspective that offered a vivid snapshot of the everyday challenges and opportunities social workers face in addressing poverty in NYC.

Beth Finkel, MSW, spoke on aging and poverty, stating that nearly half of NYC seniors are poor and nearly poor; and that we need to oppose Chained CPI—or Consumer Price Index, which is traditionally used to make cost of living adjustments (COLA) in benefits like Social Security, because it threatens the retirement of millions. Chained CPI uses a different “formula"
for calculating COLA, which will result in SS recipients receiving LOWER
increases, thereby losing more financial ground each year. Ms. Finkel
advised that, if this goes into effect, the average SS recipient will eventually
lose the equivalent of one month of their annual income. For NYC seniors
struggling to get by on low fixed incomes, this would cause hardship for them
and would hurt the overall economy.

Robert L. Hawkins, PhD, asserted that poverty reduces access to good
education, jobs, and the “life changes” that bring people out of poverty, and
stated that “safety net” programs like the EITC and SNAP, while “better than
nothing”, are at best a “band-aid” that “helps poor people get by, but not get
out.” He advocated for a greater focus on young children, the very poor,
structural racism, and a return to CETA-like jobs programs in poor
neighborhoods.

Lastly, Elizabeth Rogers, LCSW, told the heart-wrenching story of a close-
knit low income family, caught up in “the system”, whose poverty came close
to preventing their reunification, and how her advocacy for just a few dollars
for a taxi made the difference between keeping a family together versus
tearing it apart.

Dr. Bernstein expressed admiration and support for the panelists,
suggesting that social workers should partner with economists on the fierce
work ahead, because economics, like social work, is all about people.
Chair, Annual Meeting Planning Committee, Andy Benejam (far left), along with Martha Adams Sullivan and Robert Schachter present the Social Work Image Awards recipients with their awards. Honorees from left to right: Frances Freedman; Hing Lin "Helen" Sit; and Chana Widawski.

Click here to view additional photos from the 2013 Annual Meeting

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Message from the President

All God’s Children Need Shoes - The Right Shoes

The Social Work Equity Project

Recently, I read of a teacher trying to explain to her very young students the difference between equity and equality. She gathered the class in a circle and asked everyone to take off one shoe. The shoes were collected. The shoes were then redistributed and everyone was then given a shoe. Only a couple of students received the mate to their other shoe. As you can guess, the group complained. The shoes they were given were too small, too large, made for the wrong foot, etc. They had difficulty walking and running. Some were able to manage with the shoe they received and some could not manage at all. The young students got it.

In effect, the children all were equal in that they had shoes, but only those who had shoes that fit were able to adequately walk and run, actually experiencing the value of having shoes.

Daily, social workers are encountering the impact of poverty on our clients. To extend the metaphor, too many New York City residents have no shoes. And how about shoes for the social workers who help them? The status of and impact of social work salaries, working conditions and practice challenges will also be an important area of focus to better understand the economic status of social workers.

According to some reports, homelessness has reached its highest proportions ever. Many of us remember homeless people being very visible on the streets and subways years ago. Homeless people seem less visible on our streets now. But forty-five thousand people sleep in shelters each night in our City and about 20,000 of them are children. People of color are greatly overrepresented among the homeless population.

This wave of homelessness has continued since the early 1980s. We now have an additional risk factor for homelessness: having been homeless as a child! How many of the families you see are presently ‘doubled-up’ and ‘tripled-up’ because they cannot afford rent otherwise? Food insecurity is a problem for far too many people.

What do you advise a parent who tells you that they only serve meat for dinner once per week because they can’t afford to serve it more often? Whoever thought that food pantries would need to limit how often a person could receive food in a given week? And, while jobs are more available, this is not so for all. For example, while unemployment in New York City is now at nine percent, higher than the national average, Bronx unemployment is still as high as twelve to thirteen percent. Long before the nation’s economic crisis, Black unemployment has always been twice the rate for the general population; it continues to be so.

Our recent Annual Meeting presenters were helpful in raising the dual issues of income inequality and inequality of opportunity. It cannot be assumed that all who obtain jobs, including the jobs which social service professionals prepare them for, will earn sufficient income to lift them out of poverty or to create greater opportunity for them and their families. Of course, the intersection of poverty with other forms of oppression such as racism render some groups disproportionately poor and more likely to experience disparities in access to social opportunities such as housing, good schools and health care, etc. Have no doubt that these are cross cutting issues; whether you practice in mental health, child welfare, aging, addictions or other fields of practice, poverty, disproportionality and disparities are critical issues for understanding people in the context of their environments.

And what about those who help? How are social workers and social work practice impacted by the current economy and attendant policies? How do you adjust your home management advice to the mother of a child diagnosed with ADHD with hyperactivity when there are so many people living in their cramped quarters?

The Chapter’s Social Work Equity Project will employ a variety of methods to address and expose the impact of poverty in New York City and the economic and working conditions of social workers. Mindful of the diversity of New York City and the fact that some are disproportionately impacted and that serious disparities exist, our approach will take into consideration the intersection of poverty with other dimensions of difference, such as gender, race/ethnicity, disability, sexual orientation, migration status, etc.

In addition to Chapter sponsored activities, we look forward to collaborating with others as well including co-sponsoring or supporting relevant programs and activities. We invite those who are doing relevant work on these issues to feel free to contact us if interested in collaborating.

The Chapter recently co-sponsored “The Impact of Poverty in New York City: A Post Sandy Discussion” with the Women's City Club of New York. On June 13, a forum Getting Ready for Federal Health Care Reform in New York – What Every Social Worker Needs to Know, organized by Dr. Terry Mizrahi, (Silberman/Hunter) and Mark Hannay at the Silberman School of Social Work at Hunter College will address these issues. See their article in the previous issue of Currents. The Chapter has signed-on to the Governor’s Women’s Equality Agenda. Other activities and initiatives: We are collaborating with Dr. Mimi Abramovitz, (Silberman/ Hunter) and Dr. Jennifer Zelnick, (Touro) on a study of the impact of current policies on social service delivery and client wellbeing. See the Chapter’s statement in opposition to Stop-and-Frisk on our website. Next fall, we also plan to have a Speak Out on Poverty in NYC and plans are underway to develop a set of issue briefs which will be useful for advocacy with policy makers as well as for practitioners, educators and students.

The Social Work Equity Project is a work in progress; there is plenty of opportunity to address the many facets of the issues as they relate to specific populations and fields of practice. There is also plenty of opportunity for you to get involved.

In closing, I’d like to thank the Chapter’s Board of Directors and Officers. The Chapter has been in good hands because of their dedication and willingness to work and to deal with challenging issues. A heartfelt thanks to those who are ending their term of office.

A hearty congratulations and welcome to the new officers and Board members (see below).
We look forward to your participation in the Chapter’s important work!

Incoming Officers and Board members
President Elect - Sandra Bernabei, LCSW
First Vice President - Candida Brooks-Harrison, LCSW
Third Vice President - Christiana Best-Cummings, PhD, LMSW
Treasurer, Benjamin R. Sher, LMSW

Members At Large
Helen M. Crohn, DSW, LCSW
Phyllis Erlbaum-Zur, PhD, ACSW, LCSW-R
Sofia Frank, LMSW
Danielle Brown Fuller, MSW
Evelyn Laureano, PhD, LMSW
My-Lan Tran, LCSW
Gerri Matusewitch, LMSW
Christine Wilkins, PhD, LCSW

Student Members At Large
Ricardo A. Guzmàn Erazo, MSW Student
Ilenea L. Fohr, BSW Student

Outgoing Officers and Board Members
First Vice President - Gwendolyn Butler, LCSW
Third Vice President - Kevin Lotz, LCSW, CASAC, ACSW
Treasurer - Joseph Girven, LMSW

Members At Large
Andy Benejam, LCSW-R, MPA
Ravi Bhasin, LCSW-R
Edward Ma, LCSW
Gail Siegal, LCSW
Ricardo Torres, MSW

Student Members At Large
Shawnte Pitts, MA, MSW Student
Samira Saei, BSW Student

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Women’s Equality is a Social Work Issue

Lauren Frederico, MSW, Organizer, New York Civil Liberties Union (NYCLU)

Editor's Note: The NYC Chapter has endorsed the Women's Equality Agenda, which is discussed below. Just before the newsletter was completed, Governor Cuomo introduced legislation to enact the agenda on June 5th.

During his state of the address in January, Governor Cuomo announced plans to advance a ten point Women's Equality Agenda that seeks to break down multiple forms of gender based discrimination in New York. The proposal encompasses a wide range of issues including access to reproductive health care, pay equity, domestic violence and tenants’ rights. Informed by conversations with service providers and advocacy groups across the state, the governor’s office convened a group of 20 organizations, including the New York Civil Liberties Union, to lead the charge around the groundbreaking initiative. Since then, the agenda has garnered widespread support. To date more than 800 organizations from every corner of New York State, including NASW-NYC, have joined the New York Women’s Equality Coalition. Together these groups are working together to raise awareness around the barriers impeding women's equality in New York.

As we work toward equity and fairness, the agenda brings to focus the intersection of racism and gender-based discrimination. In my work with this coalition, I have approached this effort with the understanding that the problems and solutions, outlined in the Women’s Equality Agenda impact social workers as individuals and employees, in addition to the clients and communities we work with who all too often find themselves at the axis of marginalized identities and discriminatory practices.

While gender discrimination cannot be solved by passing legislation alone, the Women's Equality Agenda presents an exciting opportunity for dialogue and movement in the fight for women’s rights. Some of the agenda’s goals directly tackle gender-based discrimination and socio-economic marginalization, which too often disproportionally affect communities of color. For example, the agenda seeks to:

- Achieve Pay Equity
  In 1963, when the Equal Pay Act was signed, women made 59 cents for every dollar earned by men. Fifty years later, women in New York only earn between 55 and 80 cents for every dollar that a man earns, with women of color, and in particular Black and Latino women, earning the least. These statistics are important reminders about sexism and racism in the workplace and that the fight for equal pay, for us and our clients, continues.

- End Family Status Discrimination
  In social work, a profession historically defined as “women’s work,” we are no strangers to the way gender stereotypes impact the way work is valued. Even today, in New York City, mothers are less likely to be hired and are offered lower salaries than women without children (and fathers). This form of discrimination exacerbates the existing wage gap. Currently more than 26 percent of households headed by women in New York City live below the poverty level.

- Stop Pregnancy Discrimination Once and For All
  It is not uncommon for a pregnant woman to be pushed out of her job after making requests for temporary accommodations at work. The lack of accommodation disproportionately impacts low-income women who work in positions that require manual work or extended periods of standing. Women should not have to choose between their health or their employment. Common examples of appropriate modifications for pregnant workers would include a stool to sit on, more frequent restroom breaks or an altered uniform.

  These represent only three of the 10 points included within the Women’s Equality Agenda, and yet each of them speaks to an important opportunity to create a more equitable state for New York’s women and families.

The governor’s agenda marks the beginning of a conversation and opens the door for us to think holistically about the intersecting challenges facing New Yorkers today. It provides a platform to elevate future conversations about equality and the intersecting challenges New York women face, including discrimination based on race, class, gender identity and expression, sexual orientation, and immigration status. These elements are present in our work every day, the NASW’s code of ethics and its continued commitment to social justice provides a framework for moving NYC forward.

Ways for NYC based social workers to get involved:
- Get your organization to sign on! Add your organization or business to the list of more than 800 supporters across the state.
- Contact your elected officials. Let them know women in NYC, and across the state, are still facing barriers. Even if you think your
elected officials are in support, let them know you are paying attention and appreciate their commitment to issues of equality.

• Keep the conversation going. The women's equality coalition includes medical professionals, small business owners, lawyers, labor and social workers and demonstrates the ways we can work across disciplines to help achieve equality.

• New York has the power to solve many of the problems impeding women's equality by simply amending state law. Empowering New York women to once again make history depends on leveling the playing field here in New York. This agenda, and the extraordinary range of businesses and groups supporting it, underscores that full equality for women cannot be achieved by taking partial steps or by focusing solely on a single barrier to equality. The agenda and the coalition behind it recognize that women's struggles, and the solutions, are all interconnected. This is an opportunity for activists across professional lines to engage in a sincere dialogue about the inequalities that exist today, and to plant seeds for future movements toward equity and fairness.

We welcome letters and comments. 
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New York Health Benefit Exchange: What Does it Mean for Your Clients?

Angela Pause Smith, Project Coordinator - External Affairs, Outreach & Marketing, New York Health Benefit Exchange

The New York Health Benefit Exchange is where individuals and small businesses will shop for, compare plans and enroll in health insurance coverage. It's the only place to get federal tax credits that reduce the cost of coverage.

As a social worker, you can help raise awareness about the Exchange by learning what it has to offer and by sharing information with your clients about the ways it can help them obtain health insurance coverage that is right for them.

To shop in the Exchange, consumers must live in New York and must be a U.S. citizen, national or lawfully present non-citizen. Small business owners with 50 or fewer eligible employees can come to the Exchange for a choice of health plans to offer their employees.

Health plans offered through the Exchange will provide a wide range of medical, prescription drug and other health care services. Beginning in 2014, all new small group and individual market plans will be required to cover 10 Essential Health Benefit categories, including mental health and substance use disorder services, and will be required to cover them at parity with medical and surgical benefits. This new requirement will apply to health plans sold both inside and outside of the Exchange.

Experts will be available to guide consumers and small business owners through the enrollment process, help them find the right insurance based on their specific needs and help determine eligibility for tax credits that reduce the cost of coverage. Starting in October, enrollment support will be available online, in person in the community, by phone and by mail.

Open enrollment begins on October 1, 2013 for effective coverage dates beginning January 1, 2014 and ends on March 31, 2014.

More information, including consumer-friendly fact sheets that you can print and share, is available on the Exchange website at www.HealthBenefitExchange.ny.gov.

Sign up for updates on the website or email questions to exchange@health.state.ny.us.

We welcome letters and comments. Send to contactus@naswnyc.org

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Tribute to a Social Work Giant - Dr. Helen Rehr

This year the social work profession lost one of our great leaders, Dr. Helen Rehr. Beginning over seventy years ago and continuing until her death earlier this year, Dr. Rehr had a long and illustrious career as a social work practitioner, administrator, researcher, and teacher in health and mental health.

Born in NYC in 1919, Dr. Rehr received her BA from Hunter in 1940, her MSW in 1945 and her DSW in 1970 from Columbia University. She worked for over 50 years at Mt. Sinai as Director of Social Work where she created a department that was considered the most outstanding in the nation because of its unparalleled excellence in practice, research, training and education. Dr. Rehr directed the Department through challenging times during which social work departments all over the country were disappearing, but during this period not only did she succeed in increasing the size of the department, but also its impact within Mt. Sinai, in the NYC community, and nationally.

One might ask how she was able to do this. Dr. Rehr was a major advocate for the social work profession, but recognized that advocacy alone was never sufficient. If she wanted to retain or add any new program, she would always prepare a detailed budget to demonstrate that the program would be cost saving for the institution. She was a key observer and used every experience to enhance her practice. Once when she was in an airport, she noticed a Travelers Assistance program and thought this is what we need in health care. When back in New York and at Mt. Sinai she introduced the possibility of a patients assistance program, backing it up with data to show how this would be cost effective for the hospital. Now patient assistance is available in hospitals throughout the nation and around the world.

Dr. Rehr's impact was not only national, but also international. At Mt. Sinai she organized the Visiting Scholars program that annually brought leaders in health care from Australia, New Zealand, Israel, Singapore, and Beijing for six weeks to New York to learn about and share with others information about pressing issues and innovative programs in health and mental health care.

Dr. Rehr has held many important positions at NASW, including the National Center for Social Policy and Practice where she served as the first treasurer. She also was the first recipient of the NASW Foundation Knee-Whitman Lifetime Achievement Award in Health and Mental Health. Because of her outstanding contribution to social work, Dr. Rehr was selected as one of the first NASW Pioneers and served as a member of the national Board of the National SW Pioneer Association. The NASW Pioneers are professional social workers who have been NASW members for 25 or more years and have been selected because of their major innovations in social work practice, teaching, research, administration or policy. More information about the Pioneers can be found at http://www.naswfoundation.org/pioneer.asp.

Dr. Rehr founded and chaired the NYC NASW Pioneers. In this capacity she brought in a number of new NYC Pioneers and organized monthly meetings of Pioneers to address current practice and policy concerns. Always cognizant of the link between research and education, she developed a funded project and served as Co-Principal Investigator with me on a study of the leadership characteristics of Pioneers. Dr. Rehr was always interested in teaching the new generation of social workers and she hoped that the findings from this study, The Dynamics of Leadership: A Study of NYC NASW Pioneers, would be helpful in educating the next generation of social work leaders. As the careful researcher she was, she designed a qualitative research study in which 30 NYC Pioneers were interviewed in terms of their what, why, and how of their productivity. Information sought was not only what each Pioneer had accomplished, but also what obstacles they had encountered, how they dealt with these challenges, and were able to overcome them. Dr. Rehr believed that information from this study might help new professionals begin innovative programs within their organizations. The report, The Dynamics of Change, was shared with members of the NYC NASW Pioneer group and it is hoped that the results of the study can be more widely disseminated. If funding is available, National NASW Pioneers have expressed an interest in conducting a national survey of Pioneers.

We welcome letters and comments. Send to contactus@naswnyc.org

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Alayne Rosales, Joins Chapter Staff as Program and Administrative Associate

Alayne Rosales, was appointed as the Program and Administrative Associate in early April 2013. In this position she will be involved in membership recruitment and retention and coordinating electronic communications.

Alayne is a 2010 MSW graduate of the Fordham Graduate School of Social Service, with a major in Leadership and Macro-Practice, and a concentration in Administration. She has a bachelor of arts in sociology from Douglass College at Rutgers University.

Alayne is now stepping into her 4th position at the Chapter. In 2009-2010, she was the administrative social work intern. Upon graduation, she stayed with NASW part-time for almost another year as the Administrator for Special Projects, where she convened focus groups of mid-level social workers in different fields of practice to identify prevalent issues for the field. Alayne’s return to NASW was as the 2012 Awards Dinner Coordinator. From there, she joined the staff as the Interim Program and Administrative Associate.

Prior to her time at NASW-NYC, Alayne worked as a Research Assistant at the Rutgers Graduate School of Social Work, studying parenting behavior in 2-parent families with school age children. Alayne also worked at FEGS Health and Human Services, working with low income seniors and also adults with MR and other co-occurring mental health disorders.

Alayne’s most memorable experience in her career thus far was visiting Haiti only two months after the 2010 devastating earthquake, with a few other students from a class at Fordham on International Social Development. The disaster response trip gave birth to The Haiti Initiative, Inc. (THI), a non-profit devoted to sustainability and reforestation in Haiti in conjunction with employment, education, etc. The organization’s mission was conceived during the 2010 trip and today is a rapidly growing non-profit.

When not working for NASW-NYC, Alayne dances and previously worked as a gymnastics coach.

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In Memoriam - Florence Wexler Vigilante

A profoundly creative leader and productive scholar, Dr. Florence Wexler Vigilante served on the faculty of the Hunter College (now Silberman) School of Social Work for 41 years. After receiving her MSW from Columbia University, she joined the faculty as a lecturer in 1969, then completed her DSW at Yeshiva University and was promoted to full professor in 1984. Dr. Vigilante held almost every significant leadership position in the School including ten years as Director of Admissions, and a record 16 years as Chairperson of the Clinical Practice (Casework) Sequence.

In 1983 she founded the Hunter College Employee Assistance Program (EAP) which she directed until her retirement. The EAP won national recognition and served as a model for other university-based EAPs around the country. She co-founded, with Dean Harold Lewis, the peer-reviewed periodical, Journal of Teaching in Social Work, which she edited for 21 years. She authored many publications in various journals, and was a much sought after speaker and presenter both locally and nationally. Dr. Vigilante was considered a master teacher, and mentored generations of young faculty in the Clinical and Human Behavior sequences. Her achievements were recognized by two Hunter College presidents, Donna Shalala in 1987 and Jennifer Raab in 2007, when she received the President’s Award for Distinguished Service.

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In Memoriam - Dr. Jerome "Jay" Goldsmith

Dr. Jerome "Jay" Goldsmith, a giant in the field of community and adolescent mental health, died on Tuesday evening, March 12, 2013. Dr. Goldsmith not only led the merger of the Jewish Board of Guardians and Jewish Family Services to create the Jewish Board of Family and Children's Services (JBFCS) in 1978, he was also a founder of The Coalition of Behavioral Health Agencies in 1972.

In addition to his many accomplishments, Dr. Goldsmith played a decisive role in supporting NASW’s effort to expand insurance reimbursement for clinical social workers in 1984, as he called upon his contacts at the highest level of state government.

During his tenure as a mental health specialist and child therapist, Dr. Goldsmith was a relentless advocate for child mental health and possessed a broad understanding of the public policy issues affecting families. His conviction was that troubled children need help rather than punishment. He was sought out as a resource by State and City government leaders at the highest levels. Due to the regard in which he was held, he chaired the Mental Health Committee of the Community Council of Greater New York, the New York State Hospital Review and Planning Council, and the Governor's Select Commission on the State-Local Mental Health System.

Dr. Goldsmith was the CEO of JBFCS during the height of the HIV AIDS epidemic, and he was one of the first to recognize the need for mental health services to people with AIDS. He served on the Board of the Gay Men's Health Crisis. Dr. Goldsmith remained at the helm of JBFCS until 1991 and his professional life continued long after his formal retirement.

We welcome letters and comments.
Send to contactus@naswnyc.org

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Friday June 21, 2013

10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

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*Please note: Absolutely no food or drink is allowed inside the classrooms.

**Presenter**
Dawn Hall Apgar, Ph.D., LSW, ACSW

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As part of the National HIV/AIDS Strategy Spectrum Project, NASW NYC Presents

Providing Services in Complex Times:
Working With Clients Living with HIV/AIDS and Co-occurring Mental Health Disorders

Friday, June 28, 2013
9:00 AM to 1:00 PM
at the NASW-NYC Office
50 Broadway, Suite 1001

There is No Charge for this Workshop

Who will benefit from attending?
Social workers and other mental health professionals providing services to people living with HIV/AIDS – for those who specialize in HIV/AIDS related services and those for whom HIV/AIDS issues emerge in their caseloads. Social work students are welcome to attend.

The objectives of this workshop are to:
1. Identify mental health and substance use challenges across the spectrum of living with HIV/AIDS, including psycho-social issues relating to the progression of HIV, common psychological reactions, as well as the impact of poverty, limited resources, lack of access to information, and the affects of stigma and discrimination.
2. Obtain tools to assess adherence to medications as well as mental health and substance use issues.
3. Identify, describe and formulate relevant social work interventions with persons living with HIV and co-occurring and chronic disorders

Presenter:
Barbara I. Willinger, LCSW, BCD, Social Worker, AIDS Institute
Ms. Willinger is a trainer for the NASW HIV Spectrum Project. She began her work with HIV/AIDS clients in hospitals in 1989. Working with the Department of Health/AIDS Institute for the last 10 years, she provides monitoring, training, and consultation to AIDS Day Treatment facilities. Ms Willinger, the lead editor of "A History of AIDS Social Work in Hospitals" has authored clinical articles as well as presented on psychopharmacology for social workers, de-escalating difficult clients, documentation and ethics. She is analytically trained and maintains a private practice.

Space is limited. Please RSVP by June 24th at www.naswnyc.org.

The NASW HIV/AIDS Spectrum Project is supported through a contract with the Center for Mental health Services (CMHS) of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Rockland MD.
Getting Ready for Federal Health Care Reform in New York

What Every Social Worker Needs To Know

Thursday, June 13, 2013
5:30 to 8:00 PM
At the Silberman School of Social Work
At Hunter College*
2180 Third Ave., Manhattan
At East 119 Street

- Up to 1.5 million uninsured New Yorkers are projected to obtain coverage in NY, taking a substantial bite out of the state’s 2.5 million uninsured. Getting this many New Yorkers’ aware of what’s going to soon be available and getting enrolled in a health plan through the new Health Exchange will be a very daunting task.
- Social workers will play a critical role as service providers and advocates (regardless of setting) at the individual client and policy levels. This forum will bring social workers up to speed about what is known and will identify the questions that have not yet been answered.

Moderator

Terry Mizrahi, PhD
Professor, Silberman School of Social Work at Hunter College, CUNY; member of Steering Committee of Metro New York Health Care for All Campaign and former President, National NASW

Speakers

Mark Hannay
Director, Metro New York Health Care for All Campaign

Yvette Rolon, LCSW, ACSW
Program Administrator, NY Presbyterian Hospital/Weill Cornell Medical Center; Chair, NASWNYC Health Committee

Stacy Collins, MSW
Senior Practice Associate, NASW National

Virna Little, PsyD, LCSW-R, SAP
Senior Vice President Psychosocial Services/Community Affairs, The Institute for Family Health

Registration for this forum is $10 to help defray costs. To register on line, by June 11, click here.

*Directions to the School of Social Work by Subway: 4 or 5 train to 125 Street or 6 train to East 116 Street. Walk one block east to Third Avenue.
NASW-NYC PACE - Candidate's Forum

Monday, June 17, 2013 (6:00 PM - 9:00 PM)

To RSVP for the NASW-NYC PACE meeting, please send an email to naswnypace@gmail.com.

All Candidates for NYC Mayor & Public Advocate will be invited.
Connecting Social Workers to Opportunities and Services

The NASW-NYC Marketplace is where NASW-NYC brings social workers into connection with organizations and individuals providing opportunities and services of interest to social workers. Many offerings fill the pages that follow that we think you will find to be helpful, timely and even inspiring. We invite you to take advantage of these opportunities for yourself, and encourage you to consider sharing them with your colleagues.
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