New NASW Website: Social Work with Veterans and Military Families

The NASW National Office is pleased to announce that a new webpage has been launched that is dedicated to issues related to social work with veterans and military families. NASW is committed to supporting the health and well-being of the nation’s service members, veterans, and their families. Consequently, NASW now has a webpage that provides resources intended to assist professional social workers who work with or are interested in learning more about working with veterans and military families. This website offers information and links to NASW and external resources, schools of social work that offer military content, links to free online courses, military culture information, and other links. NASW plans to add valuable tools and resources including Standards for Practice and a Professional Credential for Social Work with Veterans and Military Families, which is currently in development. NASW hopes that this webpage will serve as a resource for current and future social workers, schools of social work and other stakeholders. Visit www.socialworkers.org/military.asp.

Free Online Course: Additionally, the NASW-California chapter will offer a free online course related to veterans care beginning August 1, 2012. Visit www.socialworkweb.com/nasw and look for “Free Courses.” Email questions to Louis@naswca.org.

Join Us at the NASW-CA 2012 Annual Conference

Registration is now open for the 2012 Annual Conference, which will take place on October 26 and 27 at the Marriott Hotel in Irvine, Calif. The two-day event offers an abundance of informative educational sessions, networking activities and opportunities to relax with colleagues and friends.

CEUs for all Social Workers!

The NASW-CA Professional Development Committee has planned more than 20 innovative and timely elective sessions for the conference. Topics include: The Social Work Entrepreneur: Ethical Practice and Commercial Success; Hoarding Intervention Strategies; Clinical Implications for Stress Management: The Use of Laughter and Humor; Social Media and Marketing; Creative Interventions for Children and Adolescents: Focus Upon Art Therapy and Sandplay; Transgender Client Advocacy, plus many more.

Also being offered are NASW-CA’s popular pre-license and license renewal courses presented by well known subject experts.

Why Care About Service Members, Veterans, and Their Family Members?

- 18.5 percent of veterans returning from Afghanistan and Iraq meet the criteria for Posttraumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and/or major depressive disorder.
- 19.5 percent report traumatic brain injuries (TBI) such as concussions during deployment.
- Substance abuse represents one of the leading causes of medical leave for military personnel, accounting for approximately 400,000 medical encounters and approximately 75,000 days of enforced bed rest each year.
- 79 percent of those with TBI met the criteria for alcohol abuse; 37 percent met the criteria for drug abuse.

continued on page 10

In This Issue

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>In This Issue</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Online Classes</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>President’s Message</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Executive Director’s Message</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legal Issue of the Month</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIV/AIDS and Co-Occuring</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mental Health Disorders</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Political Action</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Opinion</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Around the State</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Councils</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regions</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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FROM THE PRESIDENT
Continuing the Journey
By Shirley Gentilini, MSW, LCSW

I am looking forward to beginning my term this July as your NASW California chapter president and would like to let you know a little bit about myself.

I became a member of NASW in 1987, when I joined as a student at California State University, Long Beach. I became active in NASW Region F as unit chair where I met and worked with social workers who were very involved and dedicated to NASW. I was fortunate to have them as my mentors. Later, I went on to serve two terms as regional director from 1996 to 2000. Following that, I became treasurer of the board of directors from 2004 to 2008. In 2008, I was a member of the Committee for Nomination and Leadership (CNLI).

As I became involved at the local and statewide level, I was privileged to know and work with many talented and dedicated social workers from a variety of social work practices. These professionals work diligently to maintain the integrity and values of the social work profession, and are strongly committed to our professional organization—NASW. My social work experience has been in children services, hospital social work, hospice, mental health and as a field faculty professor at California State University, Los Angeles. I have enjoyed all aspects of my social work career.

As your incoming president, I am following a very successful and dedicated leader, Mary Kay Oliveri, whom I enjoyed working alongside this year as president-elect. I have respect and awe for Mary Kay and the contributions she made during her term as president. She is a dedicated social worker and passionate about social issues, policy and program needs of the clients our profession serves.

Hearing as a result of the dedication of the social workers, those of us who are involved in the social work profession, are our largest membership. I am looking forward to continuing to work hard as your president.

My goal is to continue their journey and work hard as your president. These are challenging times for social workers and those we serve. Yet, this year as I attended NASW Lobby Days in Sacramento, I was impressed by the dedication of the social work students. I would like to see those social work students continue to bring their enthusiasm.
FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Both Broad and Specific
By Janlee Wong, MSW

As we begin the new fiscal year for NASW, it is always a time to look back on what we’ve done for the past year. NASW continues to bring value to the profession and therefore its members. In this day and age of very specialized, targeted almost customized delivery of services and goods, it’s hard for a broad “all-bases covered” organization such as NASW to specialize products and services to each individual member. However, we hope to “target” our efforts by being both broad and specific.

We are broad in our child welfare advocacy efforts, but specific to those policy issues that affect clients and professional social workers. For example, we helped take professional clinical social workers out of an onerous 24-hour training requirement on topics that social workers already cover in school.

We are broad when it comes to covering licensure issues and the Board of Behavioral Sciences (BBS), but specific when we fight attempts to treat all disciplines as the same. Recently we blocked legislative language that would have called both MFT interns and LCSWs psychotherapists when the intern isn’t even licensed yet.

We are broad in providing continuing education and professional development, but specific to meeting the needs of those social workers that are required to take courses for licensure. We often stop legislation that would place additional and unnecessarily mandatory CE requirements on social workers.

We are broad when we participate in California’s efforts to build the foundation for health care reform, but we are specific on advocating for the role of social workers in the care coordination and medical home components.

We are broad on the need to assure those in the criminal justice system receive health, mental health and rehabilitative services, but we are specific on encouraging the state and counties to hire more social workers to provide these services.

We work on these areas and more with input and feedback from our many members who work in many practice areas. So, as we begin a new fiscal year for the Chapter, we’ll be listening and talking to our members about their special interests within the broad context of social work.

As we begin a new fiscal year for the Chapter, we’ll be listening and talking to our members about their special interests within the broad context of social work.

Sincerely,
Janlee Wong, MSW
Executive Director
National Association of Social Workers, California Chapter
1016 23rd St., Sacramento CA 95816

Dear Congressman Towns,

The 11,000 member California Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers wishes to express its deepest appreciation to you for your service as a professional social worker and a member of Congress.

Your hard work as sponsor of the Dorothy I. Height and Whitney M. Young, Jr. Social Work Reinvestment Act has inspired many social workers in the country and we pledge to continue your work until the job is done. We also want to thank you for creating and serving as chair of the Congressional Social Work Caucus. It was so heartening to see many members from both sides of the aisle join the Caucus and support our cause.

We wish you luck in the future and please call upon us if you ever have any ideas or thoughts about what we professional social workers can do to further the good in our society.

Sincerely,
Janlee Wong, MSW
Executive Director
National Association of Social Workers, California Chapter
1016 23rd St., Sacramento CA 95816

NASW-CA CHAPTER STAFF DIRECTORY
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**Introduction**

The NASW Legal Defense Fund (LDF) was established in 1972 to assist NASW members in three areas. First, a fund was created from member contributions to support NASW members with legal fees in cases involving social work issues. Second, the LDF was created to give a voice to NASW and the social work profession in the courts, in particular in precedent setting appellate litigation involving NASW policy issues or social work practice. The third prong of LDF’s designated mission was education. LDF was tasked with offering members timely information about legal developments and cases of importance to the social work profession—information that was not readily available in other forums. In accomplishing this third purpose, LDF has had its widest reach—making its publications and legal resources available to all NASW members and to the interested public.

**Publications – Starting From Scratch**

The Law Note Series

Legal information focused on social work practice and professional issues was scarce prior to the publication of the first General Counsel Law Note by the Legal Defense Fund in 1997. The first Law Note, Client Confidentiality and Privileged Communications, addressed the many questions received from NASW members about legal issues affecting client confidentiality in social work practice. Updated several times since 1997, in particular to incorporate a report of the U.S. Supreme Court’s protection of privilege in communications between social workers and their clients in Jaffee v. Redmond, and the inclusion of information about HIPAA’s confidentiality requirements, the Client Confidentiality Law Note is now published by the NASW Press. Other legal topics of interest and importance to social work practitioners were addressed in subsequent Law Notes, reaching a current total of thirteen, several of which are now made available through the NASW Press (see Resources and Webpage www.socialworkers.org/ldf/lawnotes).

*To view the entire article, please visit the national website, a member-only section, www.naswca.org/associations/7989/files/legal_issue_7_12.pdf. Please email Brandon at membership@naswca.org or call (800) 538-2565, ext. 42 to have a copy emailed.*

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**HIV/AIDS Spectrum Training Grant**

*By Janlee Wong*

NASW has received additional funding from the federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration to speed up the implementation of the National HIV/AIDS Strategy.

The National HIV/AIDS Strategy has three primary goals:

1. Reducing the number of people who become infected with HIV;
2. Increasing access to care and improving health outcomes for people living with HIV, and;

President Obama believes this cannot be done without the support and commitment of local government and private nonprofit organizations. NASW—with its extensive state chapter network and its large presence in key cities such as San Francisco and Los Angeles—are the ideal partners in implementing the strategies.

NASW’s role is to provide continuing education and training to professionals through distance learning (NASW’s WebED program) and workshops targeting the 12 communities identified in the United States as having the highest AIDS burden, while also targeting those communities with growing or emerging incidence of HIV/AIDS. NASW has set up a project advisory committee to oversee implementation of the grant.

“HIV has been around long enough that students now don’t see it as a phenomenon,” said NASW Advisory Committee member Diane Green-Smith.

“Not a single school (in my area) has a course on HIV,” said committee member Dinas Moncada, a clinician and trainer. “If social workers aren’t prepared to deal with it, who is? It’s up to social workers to continue to be there.”

The NASW Project Advisory Committee also discussed the continued need for pre-service education through collaborative efforts with the chapters. NASW’s Evelyn Tomaszewski believes the project’s potential is to build on the network of social work practitioners who have the expertise and hands-on experience in HIV/AIDS prevention, care and treatment.

NASW California will present one of the first of the project workshops on August 17, 2012 at the downtown San Francisco State University Center in collaboration with the School of Social Work at San Francisco State University. For more info and registration, go to the Calendar of Events on www.naswca.org/calendar.cfm.

*For more information on the project, visit www.socialworkers.org/practice/hiv_aids/. Portions of this article are reprinted from February 2012 NASW News®.*
Providing Services in Complex Times:
Working with Clients Living with HIV/AIDS and Co-Occurring Mental Health Disorders

DATE: Friday, August 17, 2012
TIME: 9:00am–3:30pm
Morning refreshments included. Lunch is on own.
LOCATION: San Francisco State Downtown Center, 835 Market Street, San Francisco, CA 94103
REGISTRATION FEES: NASW Member $50 Non-member $80
REGISTRATION DEADLINE: August 10, 2012
CEUS: 5*

COURSE DESCRIPTION
This course addresses HIV/AIDS within a bio-psycho-social-spiritual perspective and includes a brief overview of psycho-social issues of HIV disease progression, including adherence issues. Participants will increase their skills in identifying and distinguishing client/consumer’s common psychological reactions to living with HIV/AIDS from those that warrant a mental health diagnosis; discuss dual and multiple diagnoses; and be able to differentiate mental health disorders from neuropsychiatric complications. Participants will draw upon both knowledge and skills to practice culturally competent assessment and intervention planning including both the micro and macro levels. National and state resources will also be reviewed.

The workshop, developed to increase both knowledge and skill level, is for social workers serving diverse groups of clients/consumers across the range of practice settings. The workshop is for the experienced HIV/AIDS provider who has a basic understanding of mental health disorders and diagnosis.

TARGET AUDIENCE
Continuing Education for LCSW, LMFT, LEP
Professional Development for all Social Workers

COURSE INSTRUCTORS
Dimas Moncada, Jr., MSW, LCSW
Dimas Moncada, Jr. is from Mexico, but has lived in San Francisco, Calif. for 37 years. In his role as a clinical social work consultant in the San Francisco Bay Area, he works with a diverse group of client populations and issues including AIDS/HIV (treatment and prevention), cancer, learning disabilities, child/family issues, and trauma history. He works with immigrant Latino families, Latino MSMs (men who have sex with other men) and self-identified Latino gay/lesbian/transgender individuals. Mr. Moncada is part of a group a professional social work corporation that trains mental health professionals to work with Latinos from a culturally informed perspective. Mr. Moncada is also a field instructor for four MSW programs in the San Francisco Bay Area where, in addition to overseeing day-to-day supervision, he provides training addressing human development, personality disorder, and HIV/AIDS and mental health. He is bilingual and tri-cultural. Mr. Moncado is a trainer and advisory committee member with the NASW HIV/AIDS Spectrum: Mental Health Training and Education of Social Workers Project.

Jeremy T. Goldbach, PhD, LMSW
Jeremy T. Goldbach is an assistant professor at the University of Southern California School of Social Work., Inc. Dr. Goldbach completed his master’s and doctoral degrees at the University of Texas at Austin, and has been funded through Fellowship by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration’s (SAMHSA) Center for Substance Abuse Prevention (CSAP), specializing in Prevention Science. Jeremy’s research interests involve cultural competence in prevention practice, with a special focus on sexual and ethnic minority youth. Dr. Goldbach also has a variety of research and practice experience related to both substance abuse and HIV prevention related work. Most recently, he completed a comprehensive evaluation of the Center for Substance Use and AIDS Research in the United States (C-SALUD) at Florida International University. His background includes research, evaluation and consulting on community needs assessment, strategic planning and best practice evaluation approaches. Dr. Goldbach serves as project evaluator with the NASW HIV/AIDS Spectrum: Mental Health Training and Education of Social Workers Project.

Funded through the NASW Chapter HIV/AIDS Partnership Initiative, in collaboration with the NASW HIV/AIDS Spectrum Project (CMHS #280-09-0292).

*This course satisfies one time (7 hour) HIV/AIDS requirement due with first license renewal if taken with: Understanding HIV/AIDS: The Social Worker’s Role, FREE 2.0 CEUs with Certificate—NASW online course available at www.NASWWEBEd.org

Register online at www.naswca.org
Registration Instructions:
1. Check appropriate box and provide all required information using black ink pen.
2. Indicate type of license and number.
3. Include full payment. No registration is processed without full payment.
4. Mail or fax to Sacramento or Register online at www.naswca.org

- NASW Member. Fee $50
- Non Member. Fee $80

To receive 5 CEU credits, registrants must:
- Arrive within 30 minutes of class start time.
- Sign-in and sign-out at the NASW registration table.
- Provide a state license or file number.
- Complete online evaluation after the event.

Type of License and Number
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First Name                                                    Last Name
Street Address
City                                                                State & Zip Code
Primary Phone                                               Work Phone
Email Address (required*)                                     NASW Membership #
*Confirmations will be sent to the email address provided.

Special Needs Request: If you need this form in an alternate format or require other special arrangements, please submit your request a minimum of 30 days in advance of the event. For questions, call (916) 442-4565 ext. 17 or email tatyana@naswca.org.

Course Cancellation Policy: Classes which do not have sufficient registrants by the registration deadline may be canceled and registrants notified by phone.

Refund Policy: Refund requests must be made in writing. All refunds will be assessed a $15 fee and must be received by 5:00p.m. August 10, 2012. Registrants who cancel less than seven days prior to the event or who do not attend forfeit the entire fee.

CE Provider Information: Courses meet the qualifications for CEUs for LCSW and LMFT, LPCC and/or LEP licenses as required by the CA State Board of Behavioral Sciences PCE 44.
Government Relations Update

By Rebecca Gonzales, Director of Government Relations and Political Affairs

**Legislative Update**

We are almost at the end of the legislative year and the activity in the legislature has picked up considerably! Many of our “support” bills are still making their way through the legislative process, and many other measures that we opposed have been stopped in their tracks. We have also worked closely with several authors to make improvements to their legislation. Below is a brief summary of bad and ugly bills that died, good bills that have survived and a few other measures of interest.

**The Bad and the Ugly Bills That Have Died**

AB 1756 (Knight) would have allowed schools to opt out of providing instruction in social science that includes a study of the roles and contributions of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender Americans.

AB 2330 (Olson) would have eliminated the Commission on the Status of Women.

AB 2469 (Grove) would have required CalWORKs recipients to get periodic drug testing to continue their eligibility.

ACR 94 (Morrell) commended the Boy Scouts of America on their 102nd anniversary. We supported a rival resolution, ACR 128 (Feuer), which commended the Boy Scouts, but urged them to get rid of their anti-gay policies. The Feuer version passed out of committee and is awaiting a floor vote before the State Assembly.

SB 1074 (Dutton) would have reinstated the policy of requiring fingerprint imaging for those applying for CalFresh.

SB 1514 (Anderson) would have removed automatic appeals to the State Supreme Court in death penalty cases.

**The Good Bills That Survived**

AB 154 (Beall) Lobby Days Bill. Requires that mental health benefits be provided in parity with benefits for physical ailments. This bill expands our existing parity statutes by covering a broader range of mental health diagnoses.

Status: Failed in Health Committee. May be resurrected later this session.

SB 1064 (De Leon) Lobby Days Bill. Provides a uniform approach in handling immigrant child welfare cases. Among other things, this bill seeks to ensure that parents/guardians have equitable opportunities to regain custody of their children. It also provides that if family reunification is not possible, that these children can be placed with a relative, regardless of immigration status.

Status: In Assembly Appropriations Committee.

AB 327 (Davis) amends the “Three Strikes” Law, subject to voter approval, to require that the current conviction be a “serious” or “violent” felony in order to subject a defendant to an enhanced sentence under the 25-years-to-life (third strike) provisions.

Status: In the Senate. This issue has also qualified for the November 2012 ballot.

AB 828 (Swanson) allows for CalFresh eligibility for individuals who have been convicted of a drug felony, provided that six months have passed since the person has been convicted of any crime.

Status: In Senate Appropriations.

AB 1501 (J. Perez) enacts a scholarship program, which would significantly reduce the cost of a UC and CSU education for middle-income Californians.

Status: In Senate Appropriations.

AB 1909 (Ammiano) requires that school districts notify a foster youth’s county social workers and/or their court appointed attorney if the youth is facing expulsion or is subject to a manifestation determination review.

Status: On the Senate Floor.

AB 2039 (Swanson) permits an employee to take protected unpaid leave under the Family Rights Act to care for his or her independent adult child suffering from a serious health condition and expanding the definition of “parent” to include an employee’s parent-in-law. This bill also permits an employee to take leave to care for a seriously ill grandparent, sibling, grandson, or domestic partner.

Status: In Senate Appropriations.

AB 2352 (Hernandez) excludes the value of a motor vehicle in determining CalWORKs eligibility.

Status: In Senate Appropriations.

SB 1172 (Lie) bans Sexual Orientation Change Efforts for minors. We worked extensively with the author to amend this bill to our satisfaction and we were instrumental in crafting a groundbreaking piece of legislation, which may become a national model.

Status: On the Assembly Floor.

SB 1345 (Evans) continues in Statute the California Commission on the Status of Women, which had been slated for elimination in the Governor’s Budget.

Status: In Assembly Appropriations.

SB 1381 (Pavley) eliminates the word “mentally retarded” and refers instead to intellectual disability or a person with an intellectual disability.

Status: In Senate for concurrence in Assembly amendments.

SB 1476 (Leno) provides that a child may have a parent and child relationship with more than two parents and requires the court to allocate custody and visitation among the parents based on the best interest of the child.

Status: In Assembly Appropriations.

We also lost several good bills, mainly because of fiscal concerns including a bill, AB 1439 (Alejo), which would have made annual adjustments to the minimum wage based on inflation and AB 1940 (Hill), which would have allowed the records of those convicted of prostitution to be sealed and expunged if they were a victim of human trafficking.

There were also a couple of bills that would have opened up jobs to marriage and family therapists that are currently filled by MSWs. AB 1764 (Hernandez) would have allowed MFTs to work as supervisors and executive directors in private adoption agencies and AB 1785 (B. Lowenthal) would have allowed MFTs to work in federally qualified health centers and made them eligible for reimbursement under Medi-Cal. We opposed both of these bills and they did not advance.
State Budget News

The Legislature completed its work on the State Budget on June 27, more than a week after it had sent the main budget bill to the Governor’s desk. There are a variety of “trailer bills” that implement the statutory changes that the budget requires. After the Legislature sent the main budget to the Governor, it continued negotiating the details of the various trailer bills.

Like recent budget bills, this budget has many elements to dislike. Unfortunately, it has been virtually impossible to pass tax increases to fund vital public services with so many conservative members of the Legislature signed onto a national “anti-tax” pledge. The Governor is still hoping to pass his November tax measure to prevent even deeper cuts, but the sad truth is that there just isn’t enough money generated by our current tax system.

However, some of the harmful cuts I mentioned in previous editions of the California News have been mitigated. The CalWORKs program has still been targeted for deep cuts, but the Governor was not successful in passing grant cuts or in completely restructuring the program. There is a new 24-month time limit for adults who do not meet federal work participation requirements, but advocates successfully negotiated an exemption if they are in an education program that is not completed or if they live in an area with high unemployment. This new time limit is not retroactive as originally proposed and the changes to the program only apply to new applicants as of January 2013.

In the In Home Supportive Services program (IHSS), the final budget did not eliminate domestic and related services such as housework, shopping and meal preparation. Nor did the budget cut IHSS hours by 7 percent, but they did maintain the current 3.6 percent cut in hours. The budget also creates a statewide panel to oversee future raises for IHSS workers.

The January budget proposed to shift more than 1 million seniors and peoples with disabilities who are “Dual Eligibles” for Medi-Cal and Medicare, from fee-for-service Medi-Cal into managed care. The final budget limited this proposal to a pilot program in eight counties.

Probably the biggest surprise of this budget was the final budget action to have a phased in transition of all of the children in the Healthy Families program to Medi-Cal. This proposal seemed to have almost no support and was limited to only those children under 133 percent of poverty who would have been shifted to Medi-Cal under federal health care reform. The Legislature will closely follow this transition and has pledged to make adjustments if necessary to ensure a smooth transition and a preservation of services. Child care was also slated for deep cuts that were avoided, but the budget still eliminates 14,000 slots, an improvement over the original elimination of 62,000 slots.

Lastly, for Cal Grants, the Governor was unable to require a higher grade point average for Cal Grants, but the budget did cut grants for those attending private nonprivate and for-profit schools by 5 percent. In addition, Cal Grants will be prohibited for higher education institutions with a high loan default rate and those schools with a low graduation rate.

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ANNUAL CONFERENCE  
Continued from page 1

Need Job Search Strategies

Expand your career options by attending a special evening session on job search strategies and resources for social workers presented by Lora Pierce, BSW, MS, director of online professional development for NASW-CA.

New This Year

Special Friday evening showing of Crazy Art, a film produced by J.T. Turner, executive director, Phoenix of Santa Barbara. This ground-breaking documentary explores how three artists struggling with mental illness use art to tame their sometimes brutal psychiatric symptoms.

Network

Tour the exhibit hall and win door prizes, bid on silent auction items and enjoy refreshments while meeting exhibitors and recruiters offering a variety of services and products.

Learn more about the NASW-CA councils by attending one of their meetings. The groups scheduled to meet to date include the American Red Cross, Social Action/Social Justice Council and the Asian Pacific Islander SW Council South.

Saturday’s Social Work Awards Luncheon will include a celebration of the social work profession by honoring outstanding individuals for Social Worker of the Year, Public Citizen of the Year and presentation of the Lifetime Achievement Award.

Enjoy the Sights

After an invigorating day of conference activities, simply relax by the Marriott’s outdoor patio and enjoy the Southern California sunshine. Or venture out to some of California’s best-loved attractions, including Laguna Beach, Newport Beach, Disneyland and Knott’s Berry Farm.

Registration Discounts and Volunteers Needed!

Registration discounts are offered to NASW members, social work students and retired social workers and early registrants. Discounts are also available to volunteers who serve as course monitors. For complete details or to register online, visit www.naswca.org. Or contact the office at (916) 442-4565, ext. 17 to request a registration brochure. Register by September 7 for early bird discounts – but hurry, space is limited!

WHY CARE ABOUT SERVICE MEMBERS?  
Continued from page 1

• In the United States, 200,000 veterans will be homeless at one point during a year’s time, with approximately 107,000 veterans being homeless each night. Nearly one-fifth of the homeless population is veterans, although only 8 percent of the veteran population can claim veteran status. There are also 1.5 million veterans on the verge of homelessness.

• Three out of four homeless veterans have alcohol, drug, or behavioral health problems.

• Female veterans are four times more likely to become homeless than men and are more likely than men to have dependent children.

• Those with deployed spouses are at significantly increased risk for depressive, sleep disorder, anxiety, acute stress, and adjustment disorders.

• 30,000 suicides are committed each year on average, more than 20 percent are veterans.

• On average, a veteran commits suicide every 36 hours.

• The unemployment rate of post 911 veterans is 13.3 percent, compared to a non-veteran rate of 9 percent. The unemployment rate for veterans between the ages of 18 to 24 is 21.9 percent. The unemployment rate among Reservists may be as high as 40 percent.

• Employers may not recognize the unique contributions and strengths of veterans, and many have a difficult time reintegrating into society, finding a job and earning comparable wages.

WANTED YOUR FEEDBACK!

We want to hear from you about the articles we have been running in California News as well as ideas for articles you would like to see in upcoming issues.

What issues are most important to you as a social worker in California?

Please let us know what you think!  
Send an email or call:  
Lisa Kopochinski, Editor  
California News  
Naswnews@naswca.org (916) 481-0265
Why Do CCRC Residents Need to Know About Elder Death Review Teams?

By Lillian L. Hyatt, MSW, a resident of a CCRC and AARP Policy Specialist on CCRCs

In 2001, Senator Martha Escutia authored a bill, SB 333, that established elder death review teams in California. The elder death review teams (EDRT) includes law enforcement, prosecutors, the coroner, adult protective services, hospitals, state licensing officials, experts in the field of forensic pathology, medical personnel with expertise in elder abuse and neglect and the state’s long-term care Ombudsman. SB 333 authorized counties to establish an interagency elder death team to assist local agencies in identifying and reviewing suspicious elder deaths and facilitating communications among persons who perform autopsies and persons involved in the investigation or reporting of elder abuse or neglect.

Most importantly, SB 333 allowed each organization represented on an elder death review team to share with other members of the team information in its possession concerning the decedent who is the subject of the review or any person who was in contact with the decedent and any other information deemed by the organization to be pertinent to the review. The intent of AB 333 was to promote interagency communication and cooperation. SB 333 permitted the disclosure to members of the team of any information deemed confidential, privileged or prohibited from disclosure by any other provision of law. However, any information shared by an organization with other members of a team is confidential. Information gathered by the elder death review team and their counties to develop education and prevention, can use any recommendations made by the team and, if necessary, prosecution strategies that will lead to improved coordination of services for families and the elder population.

To view the entire article, please visit www.naswca.org/associations/7989/files/hyatt0712.pdf. To request a printed copy of this article, please contact (800) 538-2565, ext. 42.

The 99 Percent

By Samantha Esver

“We are the 99 percent” is a representative phrase of the unfair imbalance of economic distribution. The Occupy movement transcends domestic concerns and is viewed as a global movement due to worldwide economic strains. The NASW newsletter is a great source for social workers to stay updated on the Occupy movement’s successes and challenges.

The NASW newsletter is also a great way for social workers to learn how they can support the movement and let the public know where we stand on sensitive social issues. Now, more than ever, and especially with the recent tension with CPS, occupiers need to know that we are aligned in beliefs of antidiscrimination.

Today, social workers everywhere work tirelessly to approach individual issues of immigration, education and child development, employment, health care and much more. Social workers are a direct representation of what the Occupy movement is hoping to achieve. Social work is advocacy, social work is collaboration, social work is change and social work is progress. NASW, it is time to start a network of Social Worker Occupy Supporters.

Samantha Esver is an MSW student at San Jose State University and can be reached at sesver0205@gmail.com
The Soldiers Project
Free, Confidential Psychological Counseling for Military Services Members and their Loved Ones

The clinical director of The Soldiers Project–Sacramento/Placer/Yolo/El Dorado is searching for colleagues in the mental health field to join the cause and become a volunteer therapist. The Soldiers Project is a national nonprofit dedicated to providing mental health treatment for the men and women who have served in Iraq and Afghanistan since 2003, and their families. Since the inception of The Soldiers Project in 2004, hundreds of mental health professionals across the country have donated thousands of hours to provide free, confidential, unlimited psychological services, as well as outreach to the military and local communities.

This is an invitation and call to any clinical social worker interested in providing mental health therapy services to the service members and their families seeking help from The Soldiers Project. With volunteer therapist services, special training events will be provided for working with this demographic, many of which offer continuing education units. The Soldiers Project provides the most up-to-date information and research on the treatment of this population and offers access to free online Webinars.

The demand for services in the Sacramento/Greater Placer County area has grown. The VA and the Department of Defense have an enormous wait list for those who seek services. Most importantly, only few of those eligible enter the doors of the VA due to stigma and career implications.

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer therapist for The Soldiers Project–Sacramento / Greater Placer, please call Carolyn Fink, LCSW, at (916) 792-3728 or email sacramento@thesoldiersproject.org.

Hearing on “Ending Racial Profiling in America”
Testimony of Melvin H. Wilson, Manager, Department of Social Justice and Human Rights
National Association of Social Workers (NASW)

End Racial Profiling in America
Senate Judiciary Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights, and Human Rights
U.S. Senator Richard Durbin (D-IL), Chairman

Chairman Durbin, Ranking Member Graham and members of the Committee. My name is Melvin Wilson. I am a professional social worker and I serve as the manager of the department of Social Justice and Human Rights at the National Association of Social Workers (NASW) in Washington, DC. I would like to thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony for the record regarding the problem of racial profiling in the United States.

NASW is a professional association that has a current membership of over 145,000 social workers with 56 chapters in all 50 states, as well as New York City, Washington, DC, Puerto Rico, Guam, the Virgin Islands and internationally. Established in 1955, NASW works to enhance the professional growth and development of its members, to create and maintain professional standards, and to advance sound social policies. NASW, its chapters and individual members are guided by a set of values that include advocating for social justice and human rights for all Americans, especially those who are socially, economically, medically and emotionally vulnerable. For that reason, NASW has consistently taken strong stances on many issues that have an actual or potential negative impact on millions of Americans. Therefore, NASW applauds the Committee for holding this Racial Profiling hearing which is a matter of vital importance to our membership and their social justice focus. While our nation has made significant advances in achieving racial equality, racial profiling is an area where inequality continues.

According to the American Civil Liberties Union, “Racial Profiling” refers to the discriminatory practice by law enforcement officials of targeting individuals for suspicion of crime based on the individual’s race, ethnicity, religion or national origin in deciding whom to investigate, arrest or detain. Criminal profiling, generally, as practiced by police, is the reliance on a group of characteristics they believe to be associated with crime. (ACLU, www.aclu.org/racial-justice/racial-profiling-definition).

To view the rest of the article, visit www.naswca.org/associations/7989/files/racial_profiling_testimony_7_12.pdf.


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Brendan Broms Moving On

A nyone who’s been around NASW in the last 14 years knows Brendan Broms as the “membership guy” for NASW. In 1998, Brendan was hired on as an administrative assistant in the Los Angeles office. As Brendan often tells the story, he was hired to do clerical work such as typing, but he couldn’t really type very fast or “touch type.” Luckily, Brendan learned the world of “word processing” quickly.

He helped us move our LA office from the Wilshire district when we lost our lease to downtown LA on West 9th Street. Under the tutelage of former Membership Director Toby Hur, Brendan developed and was promoted to Membership Coordinator with major responsibilities for supporting local NASW units and regions.

A major challenge arose when the chapter established the membership director position in the Sacramento office almost three years ago. Despite advances in technology and virtual communications, social workers know program coordination and working relationships are best done in person. A decision was made to consolidate membership staff operations in Sacramento where we will have a new membership director. And we do expect to increase support for Southern California with some new ideas that we have.

The chapter wishes to acknowledge all the positive contributions Brendan has made and we know that his many talents will serve him well in the future.

Spanish Immersion Program for Social Workers in Costa Rica!
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For details, visit www.acce.co.cr/social_workers.html.
Often we explain to our clients that the distress they experience is a “consequence” of their being either irresponsible or negligent as a way to absolve ourselves of responsibility for our part in their distress. Is that how those who fired Thelma conceptualize their action?

Thelma was hired as a cook at a nonprofit drug treatment agency seven years ago. She was soon promoted to receptionist. Her recently appointed new supervisor did not like Thelma (possibly due to class/cast differences). They did not argue, but the relationship was difficult. In March 2012, Thelma was fired for leaving work at the end of her work day “without telling anyone.”

For Thelma, the consequences were catastrophic. She had painstakingly rebuilt her life after release from prison in 2002, got sober, reunited with family, obtained training and secured employment. When she was fired, Thelma was providing a home for herself, her college-age daughter and her seven-year-old granddaughter.

Thelma’s claim for unemployment insurance was denied so she appealed. During the six-week wait, the family’s only income was from her daughter’s part-time job. They couldn’t pay the bills, the car was repossessed and the family evicted.

Eventually, Thelma won the appeal and is receiving unemployment insurance. The family is homeless. The chances of finding an affordable apartment or any job with a history of eviction, conviction and discharge are miniscule.

Consequences?

Women’s Council members consider “consequences” and similar ethical issues. The council meets bimonthly in greater Los Angeles. For more information, email mujerista@All2easy.net or call (800) 538-2565, ext. 57.
Register online for this FREE webinar that will provide an overview of the latest research and promising practices for treating smokers with mental illness. The webinar speaker will be licensed clinical psychologist, Judith Prochaska, PhD, MPH from Stanford University’s Department of Medicine. Her research focuses on developing effective treatments for tobacco dependence and other leading health risk factors with a specific focus on populations with co-occurring disorders.
transgender youth issues, advanced illness care issues, burnout prevention (a repeat by popular demand) and much more. Stay tuned for dates, locations, and registration information and be sure we have your current email address so that you don’t miss the announcements. Email us at NASWSonomaUnit@gmail.com to be added to the list.

We are also working with three CSU Long Beach MSW cohort students on developing a New Professional Network-Northern California (NPN-NC). We will be working closely with the NPN in Southern California that has successfully developed networking events and conferences for MSW students and new social work professionals in a variety of southern California locales. Check out their info on the NASW-California chapter website (www.naswca.org) under the Networking dropdown.

REGION B
San Mateo, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Monterey, San Benito, San Luis Obispo

By Shelly Kalmer, MSW
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San Luis Obispo Unit Report
By Ly-Lan Lofgren
Our unit continues to run by Executive Committee. We have lined up next year’s CEU programs, and celebrations. If you would like to build a stronger relationship with our local unit, please feel free to share responsibilities for one or more programs. We will not meet for July or August, but will resume meeting in September on the fourth Thursdays of the month. We will have programs including motivational interviewing, sex therapy, treating adolescents and more. Please LIKE us on Facebook (NASW San Luis Obispo County). Contact Ly-Lan Lofgren for more information at LyLanMVLOf@gmail.com.

REGION C
Alameda, Contra Costa, Napa, Solano

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REGION D
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Region E Report
By Jennifer Tinsley
Region E would like to thank our two student liaisons and recent graduates Tera Steleni from USC and Preston Tang from SDSU. Their passion and dedication to NASW made a huge impact on our events this year. Region
Visit Cuba
A trip and immersion study of Cuba’s well-integrated “Health and Social Services” sponsored by National Association of Social Workers-California Chapter with Global Exchange a nonprofit human rights organization. Earn up to 24 CEUs.

The Center On Aging: Helping All Seniors Live Longer and Better

The SDSU Center on Aging has been part of SDSU’s universe for almost 40 years. Having undergone several transitions over the years, the center has re-emerged, along with the gerontology department, as part of the School of Social Work; which, having come full circle, is where they originally started back in 1973!

Dr. Anita S. Harbert, former director of the School of Social Work, has been asked to serve as the new director of the Center. “I am so thrilled for the opportunity to rebuild this center to serve gerontology and the growing aging population,” she states.

“As baby boomers age, the percentage of elderly population in our country continues to grow. With new medical technologies, improved health care, better nutrition and increased physical activity, we’re living longer, with a higher quality of life,” says Harbert. “However, more aging adults mean they will need more services tailored for them and the issues they face, especially minority and disadvantaged elders.” The center aims to contribute to a better understanding of the elderly in their physical, economic, cultural and psychosocial environment.

The mission of the Center on Aging is to play a key role at the university in the development of multidisciplinary education, research and community services for older adults. The Center will hold a unique place in the national arena by creating new knowledge, stimulating research and influencing national policy with regards to the issues facing the elderly.

Most recently the Center has been focused on stimulating interdisciplinary training and research as it relates to disadvantaged elders. This is being done through a project entitled Collaborative Healthy Aging and Workforce Development, a program funded by the Gary and Mary West Foundation in conjunction with the San Diego Senior Community Centers’ (SCC), Gary and Mary West Senior Wellness Center. The SCC serves a diverse multicultural group of disadvantaged seniors in downtown San Diego.

One goal of this project is to stimulate students to seek careers in working with older adults by giving them the opportunity to provide services to and/or do research with older adults. During the fall semester 76 CHHS students participated in internships or other educational activities at the SCC with 10 to 16 of those students participating in an interdisciplinary team seminar each semester.

Another goal of the project is to stimulate faculty interest in doing research with the population of the SCC. Currently, several college faculty-led research projects are being conducted at the Center. The research varies from looking at substance abuse and nutrition patterns; end of life planning; language issues; health disparity among Chinese speaking elders; and seniors’ involvement in a civic engagement project.

For more information about the Center on Aging go to http://socialwork.sdsu.edu/coal or contact Dr. Anita S. Harbert, director, at aharbert@mail.sdsu.edu. Also visit, http://chhs.sdsu.edu/pulse/spring12/article9.php.
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**Kaynor Heineck, M.S.** is a Licensed Mental Health Professional and examination preparation expert in Social Work licensing. She has published numerous articles on exam preparation. Kaynor teaches the Online Small Group Workshop.

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I just wanted to express a thank you and to let you know that reviewing the 2 volumes along with taking the TestMASTER exams was sufficient for preparing for the Written exam. I will definitely be using your site and referring my colleagues to AATBS in the future. I plan to start studying for the Vignette portion in a couple of weeks so I will definitely return in using your services.

Thank you, Randy Nater - Upland, CA.

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Thank you, Randy Nater - Upland, CA.
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