

NEWSLETTER

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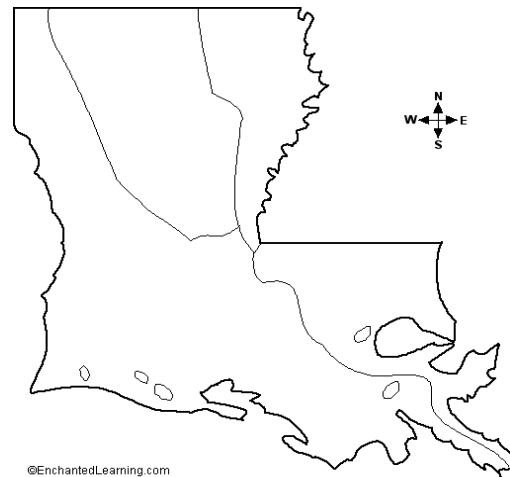
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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE SEPTEMBER 2008

BY CAROL MILES

Seems like just yesterday I was worrying about what it would be like to become president of LACSW, following in such tremendous footsteps of colleagues who I so admired. And here I am at the halfway mark of my two year term. I'm looking forward to another great year working with an outstanding board and fulfilling our mission - to define, represent, promote, and protect clinical social work as a knowledge-based, client-centered profession which provides quality mental health services to the general public.

In this volume, you will find part one of a two part series on legal and ethical issues in practice in an article from a recently returned to the state social worker, Deb Henson, who was one of the frontline leaders in the early fights to establish our rights to be third party reimbursers and a



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Our base is Louisiana—all the clinical social workers of the state

recent update on the status on Mental Health Parity for our country. (I hope you have been supporting the local and federal initiatives to address the inequities in the insurance systems.) You will also see our regular columnist, LACSW Abroad, Laury Bourgeois's inspirational article on self care. What are your plans to take care of yourself, working in this stressful world today?

LACSW has been invited to participate in an Inter Organization Meeting to address the Social Work

practice Act. LACSW (represented by myself and Gary Tiemann), NASW and numerous other social work organizations throughout the state will be meeting regularly for the next 18 months approximately to address any concerns regarding our Social Work Practice Act. If you or your colleagues have issues you would like to see addressed by this committee, please bring it to my or Gary's attention. We want to hear from you!

Congress Passes Mental Health Parity!

In a historic vote, the Senate and the House each passed the bill ensuring insurance-coverage parity for mental health and addiction services. This is the culmination of years of advocacy. To all of you who have supported this effort—and to all who took advantage of email alerts to contact your Representatives and Senators—thanks and congratulations! Thanks too to Congress, who acted courageously and resourcefully in making this bill a priority and finding the means to fund it.

Millions of people who did not have access to covered mental-health services will now do so as a result of this legislation. President Bush has said in the past that he would sign it if passed.

The Senate vote of **83 to 12** is posted as vote #204 at:

http://www.senate.gov/legislative/LIS/roll_call_lists/vote_menu_110_2.htm

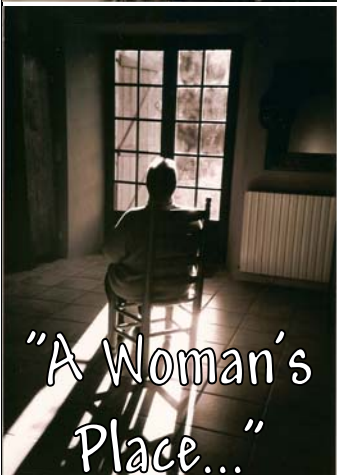
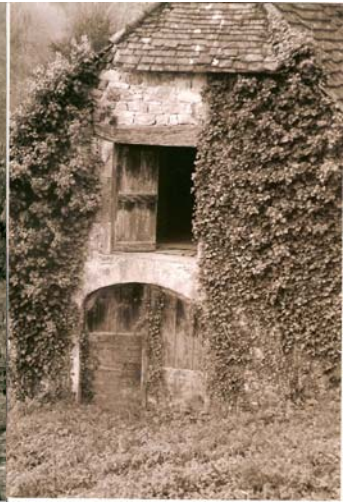
Floor vote to waive a Budget Act point of order against and pass the Baucus/Grassley amendment #5635, combining the House/Senate agreement on parity (the Paul Wellstone and Pete Domenici MH Parity & Addiction Equity Act of 2008) with tax extenders, AMT and disaster relief.

The House vote of **376 to 47** is posted at

<http://clerk.house.gov/evs/2008/index.asp>

House passage of H.R. 6983, the Paul Wellstone and Pete Domenici MH Parity & Addiction Equity Act of 2008.

We'll know more soon about plans for final reconciliation: because the bills to which Parity is attached are different in form, more voting is necessary. Congress evidently will continue its session, on October 2, beyond the original adjournment date. We are all keeping our fingers crossed on this one.



LACSW ABROAD by Laury Bourgeois MSW, LCSW

Over the last few months I've covered a lot of topics in my *Member Abroad* column, each with a different photo. This month I'd like to talk a little bit with you about self-care and share a dream with you the best that I can from way over here.

Whenever I offer my supervision workshops, I always include a section on the importance of supervisors role-modelling self-care in their supervisor/supervisee relationships. This is the section of the workshop that participants either love or hate. Reactions can be shocking. I've asked myself where the venom comes from and if there's something I could be doing differently here. But then, I remember my own response to the self-care issue. During my 25 plus years of 60 hour work weeks, evenings and weekends of volunteering and political campaigning I would have said: "I don't have time to take care of myself, and don't try to tell me that I'm stressed out and need a stress reduction workshop!" A very wise man asked me how long I had been doing crisis work and what I would suggest to others as the length of time that is "healthy"? At the time, I had been involved in crisis related work for over 15 years. My honest recommendation to others would have been no more than 5. I began to look at my life, my work and my priorities and slowly began to do more things that I loved. Self-care isn't just a topic for supervisors and supervisees. It touches each of us. I don't know how many times I've heard people say: "You can't be there for others, if you can't be there for yourself." If we were in a workshop, supervisory session, or therapy session together, I might say: "Tell me what you do to take care of yourself." Think about it. It's important. **Self-care is not a luxury.**

One of my passions is photography. The first thing that popped into my head when I opened the door to my cave (a room in the bottom floor) was: "What a great place for an art gallery!" I've been pondering an exhibit here since 2002 and had laid the groundwork for 2007. I was forced to delay my 2007 plans when all of the arrangements to complete the repairs on my house and apartment in New Orleans fell apart and required my intense stateside attention.

But since then, my photos are hanging in the library of our village Mairie, I have 3 huge photo collage panels hanging in the conference room, I've offered a free collage class to the village, and on Sunday evening, August 10, 2008-my show "A Woman's Place...is in France," will hang in my cave with all of the photos you see on this page. I hope you enjoy them and can share a bit in this dream.

The time is right. Sometimes the surprises are better than anything we could have planned. Thanks for sharing a little of my dream!

The Louisiana Association of Clinical Social Workers (LACSW) is a voluntary association of clinical social workers whose mission is
“to define, represent, promote, and protect clinical social work as a knowledge-based, client-centered profession which provides quality mental health services to the general public.”

LACSW offers its members the following benefits:

- A Board of Directors with state - wide representation to oversee the concerns of clinical social workers across the state of Louisiana.
- The only active presence in the Louisiana legislature through a full-time lobbyist who promotes clinical social work issues for the consumer and the social work practitioner.
- Discounts for workshops on clinical social work skills sponsored by the Continuing Education Committee within the Association.
- A clearinghouse for concerns of clinical social workers that are beyond the influence of the individual practitioner.
- Listing in a membership directory made available to health care companies and consumers to market the clinical social work services of the members.
- A Bi-monthly newsletter to keep members informed of the actions of the Association on their behalf.
- Staying abreast of national concerns via LACSW's membership in the Council of Social Work Organizations created in 2006 by the American Board of Examiners in Clinical Social Work.
- Representative interaction with managed care companies in Louisiana to assure high clinical practice standards and appropriate fee structures.

LOUISIANA ASSOCIATION OF CLINICAL SOCIAL WORKERS

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP AND REFERRAL DIRECTORY INFORMATION

MEMBERSHIP YEAR: July 1, 2008 to June 30, 2009

IDENTIFYING INFORMATION: Please list the information you wish to be used in the Membership Referral Directory for members and the

public and as a marketing tool for approaching managed care companies.

NAME: _____

(Last, First, Middle Initial or Nickname) - Please Print

CREDENTIALS: (Please circle all that apply) GSW LCSW Diplomate Bd. Approved Supervisor

Other Certifications: _____

PHYSICAL ADDRESS: _____

(Street, City, State, Zip)

MAILING ADDRESS: _____

if different from above (Street, City, State, Zip)

E-MAIL: _____ Website: _____ OFFICE PHONE: () - _____

FAX: () - _____ HOME PHONE : () - _____ List Home In Directory: Yes No

How do you prefer to be contacted? ___ Mail ___ Fax ___ Email ___ Office Phone ___ Home Phone ___ Any listed

LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION: Please use your Voter Registration Card to complete the following:

State Senator: _____ Senator District Number: _____

Representative: _____ Representative District Number: _____

MEMBERSHIP DUES: Please make payable to LACSW c/o Connie Konikoff, Treasurer, 110 Nathalie St., Laf., LA 70506

_____ Student Membership _____ \$ 20.00 \$ _____ Ck # _____

_____ GSW/MSW Membership _____ \$ 75.00 \$ _____ Ck # _____

_____ LCSW Membership _____ \$195.00 \$ _____ Ck # _____

_____ Retired Membership _____ \$ 50.00 \$ _____ Ck # _____

_____ Agency/Corp. Membership _____ \$300.00 \$ _____ Ck # _____

CONTRIBUTIONS:

_____ Donation For Lobbying Efforts - Please make payable to LACSW \$ _____ Ck # _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

Credit Card: . Visa . Mastercard

Account # _____ Exp. Date ____/____ Signature _____

Group Name or Place of Employment: _____

Practice Setting: ___ Private Practice ___ Agency Setting ___ In Patient ___ Clinic Consultation Services: Yes No

Work Schedule: ___ Full-Time ___ Part-Time ___ Days ___ Evenings ___ Saturdays

Populations: ___ Children ___ Adolescents ___ Adults ___ Geriatric

Cultural Issues: ___ African American ___ Asians ___ Hispanics

Modalities: ___ Individual Therapy ___ Couple Therapy ___ Group Therapy ___ Family Therapy

Specialty Groups: _____ Therapeutic Models: _____

Please list clinical specializations (Maximum 6): _____

Are you interested in participating in the Speaker's Bureau? _____ If yes, please list topics below:

Check with your C.P.A. for your particular tax situation regarding business expense deductions. Dues used for lobbying are not tax deductible. The LACSW uses the vast majority of dues every year for legislative lobbying expense in order to protect your vendorship law and the Licensed Clinical Social Work credential. We are an all volunteer organization here to protect your profession. Please join! Thank you!

Legal & Ethical Issues in Clinical Practice: Protecting Yourself and Your Clients

PART ONE OF A TWO PART SERIES:

The clinical office is more likely than ever to be invaded these days by various aspects of litigation: subpoenas for records, for depositions or for the therapist to testify at trial, or due to a disciplinary complaint or malpractice lawsuit. Sometimes our clients want us to comply with demands for their records, but other times they refuse to authorize us to release their confidential information. Worse yet, sometimes clients bring professional malpractice suits against therapists and/or file ethics complaints with licensing boards. Responding ethically and professionally to lawyers' demands for confidential information is not taught in most graduate programs, nor is defending oneself if a disgruntled client files a suit or complaint.

The Louisiana State Board of Social Work Examiners' web site - socialwork@labswe.org - is the source for the rules and regulations of our profession. Most of us, however, do not regularly peruse the forms that govern our practice, but for reference, they are: (1) the Louisiana Social Work Practice Act, enacted in 1972 and amended periodically, and (2) the Rules, Standards, and Procedures. These publications instruct social workers, including clinical practitioners, on the standards by which we will be held accountable when and if clients complain to the Board.

When lecturing in the area of legal and ethical issues of concern to clinical social workers and other mental health disciplines, the most common areas of concern are as follows: (1) how to ethically respond to subpoenas if clients do not give permission to release the confidential material compelled; (2) what are some of the high-risk situations that can precipitate client licensing complaints and/or malpractice suits, and how to practice ethically and self-protectively in this increasingly litigious society; and (3) how to respond (and how **not** to respond) to licensing board complaints and/or malpractice lawsuits. The next newsletter will explore two "tips" regarding subpoenas and disciplinary complaints or malpractice lawsuits to help clinicians avoid the latter nightmares.

Deborah (Deb) Henson, LCSW, JD, LL.M., is a practicing clinical social worker and mental health/ethics lawyer. Deb just recently returned from Austin where she and her family had been living following Katrina. She is rebuilding both her clinical and law practices in New Orleans. Deb began private practice in 1981 (Tulane MSW-1977) and began practicing law in 1991 (Loyola JD; Univ. of California, Berkeley LL.M.). She has represented clinicians and lawyers in disciplinary matters since 2000. Deb lectures locally and nationally in the area of legal and ethical clinical practice. She is also available for consultation if needed. www.deborahmhenson.com or 504.232.8884

BACS TRAINING

Just a quick note to those of you who missed the supervision training last spring—Laury Bourgeois will be back! And this time with a new format for the BACS supervision training as per the new guidelines from LABSWE. She will provide the BACS Supervision training November 21, 2008 for 6.5 CEUs

MANAGED CARE NOTE

Effective December 1, 2008, allowable charges for Licensed Clinical Social Workers will change. If you are a BlueCross BlueShield provider of Louisiana, you should have received a list of the changes to allowable charges. Those changes include:

90801 \$127.78, 90806 & 90846.....\$83.33, 90847 \$95.56.

Who knows what will happen next!!!

Center for Clinical Social Work
the national voice of the profession, guardian of its values, and champion of its rights

“WELCOME ALL ASSOCIATION MEMBERS”

 You Help Others...
But Who is Helping You?
Let us open the doors of
opportunity for YOU.

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★ **\$20 Discount for Association Members** ★

Founded by the American Board of Examiners in Clinical Social Work

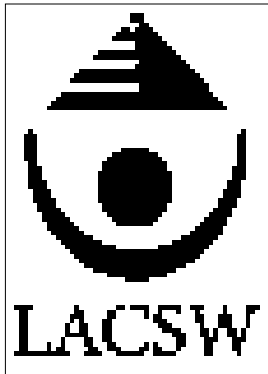
LACSW

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www.lacsw.org

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**SPECIAL THANKS FOR OUR
BOARD MEETING LOCATION:
Baton Rouge General Hospital
Mid-City Campus**

**October 10th
December 12th
Breezeway Conference 1 10 am-2 pm**