



LACSW

P.O. Box 14153
Baton Rouge, LA 70808

Louisiana Association of Clinical Social Workers

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READ THIS NEWSLETTER AND PASS IT ON TO A NON-MEMBER.

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LACSW

P.O. Box 14153
Baton Rouge, LA 70808 or

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Send \$5.00 to the board for a copy of "The Rules, Standards, and Procedures of the Louisiana Social Work Practice Act- amended Oct.24, 2003.

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Volume 4
No. 4

LACSW Newsletter

Louisiana Association of Clinical Social Workers

President's Message MARCH 2006

By Judy Haspel

As most of you know and with great reluctance, LACSW has resigned from the CSWF. Most of the arguments for and against doing so have been voiced in this publication. CSWF is going through some internal struggles with reorganization and redefinition of its mission. LACSW has opted not to be a part of this process. For one thing, we want to conserve our resources and not obligate ourselves to support changes that we may not agree with. Had we stayed in, it would have cost us approximately \$3,000.00 in dues, money which at this time is more needed at home.

According to the CSWF by-laws, there was a deadline of March 1 by which we had to submit our resignation or be liable for next year's dues.

The board voted for a brief and to the point letter of resignation, which may be viewed in its entirety on p.4.

The decision by the board to resign was unanimous.

Among the concerns was centralized collection of dues with remittance of a portion (the amount to be determined) to the states. Another issue was the lack of response to our written request for reduction in dues for our members affected by hurricanes Katrina and Rita. We don't want the needs of this state to be lost.

At the same time we do see the benefits of belonging to a larger organization. Alan Walker, a Past President of LACSW, articulates this beautifully. Please see his "letter to the editor" on page 5.

Our fiscal year will begin again in July and renewal notices will go out in May. This year there will be a way to contribute to our scholarship fund. If you were directly impacted by a hurricane and it is affecting your decision to renew your membership, please contact our treasurer, Charlene Spears at (337) 237-9150. Your request will be confidential between you and Charlene. We do not want to lose anyone due to financial hardships.

Also new will be a speakers' bureau, as described on page 6. Our contact person will be Connie Konikoff. Please let her know if you are interested.

I want to thank all of you who have responded to various requests for input regarding the CSWF decision and the "Informal Survey". (Results are on page 2).

And again, to all of the Board members who have continued to contribute in your various ways despite difficult circumstances, your work is greatly appreciated.

LACSW Officers:

President—

Judy Haspel 504-891-5807

President Elect—

Carol Miles 985-893-1248

Secretary—

Marjorie Roniger 504-818-2886

Treasurer—

Charlene Spears 337-237-9150

Regional Board—Baton Rouge

Anita Evans, Deborah Fernandez, Maureen Powell, Justin Schleis, Larry Gooch, Dayle Malen

New Orleans— Anne Heard, Mimi Jalenak, Donna Lewis, George Morlier, Laura Myers, Myra Hidalgo

Slidell— Maria Klette-Ketchum, Sherry Merritt

Shreveport— Leesa Sitter, Peggy Salley

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MANAGED CARE REPORT

Submitted by Leesa L. Sitter

There was discussion at the last Board meeting regarding Board member Larry Gooch pursuing BCBS of Alabama paying social workers. Social Workers in Alabama are not licensed and until recently BCBS of Alabama had reported only Psychiatrists and Psychologists were listed as providers. They supposedly have reversed this decision and some claims have been sent in and we are waiting the status on this.

As many know by now changes have occurred with United Behavioral Healthcare and the authorization process. After contacting UBH for clarification, they report new patients are to fill out an initial survey/questionnaire (can be obtained from UBH and reproduced as needed) and mailed in by the clinician. This starts the authorization process and another survey is sent in 6 months from UBH directly to the patient and the authorization letter is sent to them. It sounds like different plans of UBH offer different amounts of sessions per year so it will still be important to contact the UBH division that the patient has listed on their insurance card to check out their session model, and for existing patients who do not require the new survey to continue the authorization process.

INFORMAL SURVEY RESULTS

The questions were:

1. Estimate the number of hours you worked for free.
2. Estimate the number of hours you worked at a significantly reduced rate (less than 50%)
3. What is your sliding fee?

1. Total of hours worked gratis:
1236
Average per Social Worker; 103 hours
2. Total of hours at reduced care (less than fifty percent)
584
Average per Social Worker:
49
3. These results were all over the place. I should have asked, "What is your lowest fee?" The results would have been for people who responded in dollars:
5, 15, 25, and 50
And for those who responded in %:
50, 75

Seventy-five questionnaires were sent out to those of you who have e-mail. My apologies to those of you who did not receive this survey. Twelve people responded, which constitutes a 16% return rate.

Just as it was difficult for you to quantify how much free care you gave, it was a challenge to try to tally the results.

Many people were vague as to how many weeks of free care they gave, or when the free care converted to half price fees.

However, to the best of my abilities, the results were as follows:

Although not scientific, these results are significant. Please keep records in case someone ever wants to look at this formally. The purpose of the survey was to prepare for a meeting, which at the time of this writing has been postponed.

**LOUISIANA ASSOCIATION OF CLINICAL SOCIAL WORKERS
PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP AND REFERRAL DIRECTORY INFORMATION**

MEMBERSHIP YEAR: July 1, 2005 to June 30, 2006

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

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 Charlene Spears, Treasurer, 1001 W. Pinhook, Bldg. 3, Ste. 102, Laf., LA 70503*

| | | | | |
|-------------------------------|-------|---------------|----------|---------------------------------|
| _____ Student Membership | New | _____ Renewal | \$ 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:

_____ Clin-Pac (Political Action Committee) - *Please make payable to Clin-Pac* \$ _____ Ck # _____

_____ 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: _____ Seminar Topics: _____

Please limit selections below to 8 primary areas of practice.

| (X) PRIMARY PRACTICE AREAS | (X) PRIMARY PRACTICE AREAS | (X) PRIMARY PRACTICE AREAS |
|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Adoption | <input type="checkbox"/> End of life issues | <input type="checkbox"/> Mood disorders |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Anxiety disorders | <input type="checkbox"/> Family violence-victims | <input type="checkbox"/> Parenting issues |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ADD | <input type="checkbox"/> Family violence-offenders | <input type="checkbox"/> Personality disorders |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chemical dependency | <input type="checkbox"/> Forensic | <input type="checkbox"/> Phobias |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Child/sex abuse - victim | <input type="checkbox"/> Gay/lesbian | <input type="checkbox"/> Physically challenged |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Child/sex abuse-offender | <input type="checkbox"/> General practice | <input type="checkbox"/> Sexual addiction |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Childhood abuse/trauma | <input type="checkbox"/> Grief/bereavement | <input type="checkbox"/> Sexual dysfunction |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Compulsive Gambling | <input type="checkbox"/> HIV | <input type="checkbox"/> Sexual trauma |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Custody Evaluations | <input type="checkbox"/> Home health services | <input type="checkbox"/> Thought disorders |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Developmentally disabled | <input type="checkbox"/> Marital/divorce | <input type="checkbox"/> Women's issues |
| <input type="checkbox"/> EAP | <input type="checkbox"/> Mediation | <input type="checkbox"/> Workplace issues |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Early child development | <input type="checkbox"/> Medical conditions | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Eating disorders | <input type="checkbox"/> Men's issues | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: |

Meeting dates 2005-2006

April 21, 2006

June 9, 2006

(Annual Meeting in New Orleans, location to be announced)

August 11, 2006

(Board Retreat)

Meetings are at Behavioral Hospital of Baton Rouge. All members are invited to attend.

COMING SOON

In keeping with this year's theme of Children and Families, our June Workshop will feature Carol Baskin-Kacer. We will hear about Anxiety and Depression in Children, as well as PTDS.

This will be a great way to start off the hurri-

MEMBERS ONLY WORKSHOP

When: Friday March 31, 2006

9am-12pm

For Members Only and One (1) Guest

Members \$45 and Guests \$50 (lunch will be provided)

At the home of our newest board member, Myra Hidalgo, LCSW

1407 Louisiana Avenue

Limited to 20 participants/Register Early

Mail Check to Charlene Spears, LCSW

1001 W. Pinhook Rd. Bldg.3, Suite 305, Lafayette, LA 70503

Title: Fun with Social Work Ethics, Laury Bourgeois, LCSW, BACS, RSW (GB-UK)

JOIN THE SPEAKER'S BUREAU!

Please notify the LACSW if you would like to be listed as a member of our newly formed speaker's bureau. A notice will be sent to various newspapers, television and radio stations throughout the state publicizing this service. All forms of the media request a Clinical Social Worker to comment on mental health issues of the day or special topics. Placing your name on the list does not commit you to engagements, but will provide the opportunity for you to be contacted by the LACSW to establish your interest at the time that an interview or talk is requested. Not only will you be helping your own professional standing, but your efforts will bring clinical social work as a profession to the forefront of the public eye, helping to project the wide-ranging competence of private practitioners in a variety of areas.

If you have a particular area of expertise, please consider signing up for the speaker's bureau. Please indicate your name, phone number, address, and the topic of expertise along with your background as you wish it to appear on the speaker's bureau listing. You may e-mail this information to Media Chair: conniekonikoff@aol.com or fax it to Connie at 337-234-4653

FEBRUARY BUDGET REPORT

COMMITTEE/CATEGORY BUDGETED INCOME ACTUAL INCOME BUDGETED EXPENSE ACTUAL EXPENSE

| | | | | |
|--------------------------------|--------|------|--------|------|
| Administration | 0 | 16 | 2100 | 1227 |
| CSWF | 0 | 0 | 3102 | 0 |
| Continuing Education Committee | 200 | 75 | 0 | 0 |
| Education | 0 | 700 | 0 | 500 |
| Executive | 0 | 0 | 700 | 0 |
| Legislative | 0 | 220 | 10,300 | 5000 |
| Legislative Contingent Fund | 0 | 0 | 2000 | 0 |
| Managed/Unmanaged Care | 0 | 0 | 100 | 0 |
| Media | 0 | 0 | 1800 | 314 |
| Membership | 3000 | 5410 | 350 | 97 |
| Mentoring | 0 | 0 | 500 | 0 |
| Nominations | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | 3200 | 6421 | 20952 | 7138 |
| Accessible Funds to Date | 19,640 | | | |

Louisiana Association of Clinical Social Workers

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February 10, 2006

Abigail Grant, President

Clinical Social Work Federation

12667 Cedar Road

Cleveland Heights, Ohio 44106

Dear Abbie:

Effective immediately and according to the by-laws of the Clinical Social Work Federation, the Louisiana Association of Clinical Social Workers does hereby resign from the Clinical Social Work Federation.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Judith Haspel, President

Louisiana Association of Clinical Social Workers

Please be thinking about whom you may know who might be interested in serving on the LCSW Board. There is currently an opening for Public Member, and in July there will be two vacancies, one for Graduate Social Worker and the other for Registered Social Worker. Your input is important.

Our website is www.lacsw.org. Website ID is "LACSW", and your password is "strength". If any LACSW member would like to post a short clinical article on our website (no charge), crediting yourself and with a link to your website if you have one, contact Charlene Spears at 337-237-9150

Dear LACSW Board:

First of all, I want to thank each of you on the LACSW board for all your time and effort in shouldering the burdens of representing our profession. The development and protection of our professional standards and vigilance against threats which might harm us and our clients as we try to do our work is a lot of responsibility, and you guys have been there for us. As a past officer and president of the group, I am well aware of the costs and the pressures you face from within and without.

I have followed with some interest the developments in the organizational scene of our representation for clinical social workers. I am disappointed but not surprised that the CSWF has voted to change from a federation of state societies to a membership based organization. There are abundant reasons to do this, but the greatest is probably the opportunity to have a more stable membership (and revenue) base through individual members as opposed to up to 50 or more always fickle and self-serving state societies. From my earliest involvement in the organization back in 1978 this has been an issue which provoked heated debate at the national level. I can recall more than one stirring speech by the late Sam Lewis advocating "state's rights" over the centralized management form exemplified by NASW which we felt had neglected and betrayed clinical social workers time and again.

In those days the main issues on the national front were achieving and maintaining licensure status, national certification, and vendorship rights. We were a gadfly to make NASW and others pay attention to our issues in a helpful way. We in Louisiana could take pride in our leadership position in both of these areas. While many consider LA to be a backwater area with nothing but banana republic politics, we were among the first to achieve licensure and vendorship rights. Our licensing act has been recognized as a model for the best to which any state could aspire.

Today we have licensure in all jurisdictions of the USA. This is no small feat in an era in which the political establishment eschews regulations for businesses and professions. The American Board of Examiners in Clinical Social Work is nearly 25 years old. Even NASW has maintained its Diplomate in Clinical Social Work. These would not have happened without our united strength in our national organization for clinical social work.

Vendorship continues to be a struggle. While we had early victories in achieving legally recognized vendorship status in Louisiana law, it was regularly flouted and disregarded. The discovery by insurance companies of loopholes in the federal ERISA has provided legal exemption from state insurance regulations for so-called "self-insured" businesses. This has proven to be a boon for insurers who are now free from all but a fraction of regulations which had been painstakingly developed state by state to protect consumers. They make the valid argument that having fifty different sets of insurance regulations in fifty different jurisdictions was prohibitively complex and expensive to manage. That's all well and good, but at the same time it makes it considerably more easy to focus their lobbying largesse on the 535 individuals who make our laws and assure that there is no meaningful federal regulation either. ERISA (the Employee Retirement Income Security Act) was passed by congress in 1974 following years of complaints about abuses by large union leaders of pension funds, so the focus of the regulation was on pension management and assurance. However, it also covered other "welfare benefits" including health insurance. That part of the act was merely an afterthought of the act's authors who had no way of seeing how it would hijack state authority in less than fifteen years. About the only insurance plans which no longer can hide behind ERISA are group health plans established or maintained by governmental entities, churches for their employees, or plans which are maintained solely to comply with applicable workers compensation, unemployment, or disability laws. There have been a few amendments over the years to ERISA, chiefly the Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act (COBRA) and the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA). ERISA is also the vehicle for our attempts at the Mental Health Parity Act.

Back to my primary focus. I have been a staunch supporter of our clinical social work organizations for nearly thirty years. From 1982-91 I was on the boards of LACSW and ASCWV, the predecessors of this current incarnation as LACSW. We have been our strongest when we had a clearly defined threat to our profession. As we have achieved, at least in part, many of our goals, many of us have lost our zeal, resolve and strength. We now have the modest security of tradition and legacy to sustain us, but that kind of support is, as they say, a mile wide and an inch deep. I'm disappointed in CSWF's decision to disband and reorganize as a membership based organization. However, I strongly believe that this fight is never over and if we don't hang together, we shall surely hang separately." (Apologies to Ben Franklin!) It is my fervent hope that Louisiana will not be a state to "go it alone" and ignore the needs of our profession at the federal level. The world is shrinking and it is foolish to become chauvinistic and provincial. It may seem hopelessly mired now, but passions shift. The consumer protection revolution we witnessed in the 1970's and lately victim to the antiregulatory blitzkrieg of the neoconservatives can and will eventually be resuscitated. We must be part of that national effort.

There is much more to be said on this, but I don't want to further obscure the main point with more digressions. Please maintain our affiliation with the Clinical Social Work Association. Make sure that the new organization takes the strongest and most efficient and effective form to promote and safeguard our clinical social work profession. Let's work from within.

Cordially,

Alan Walker, MSW, LCSW

Board Certified Diplomate in Clinical Social Work