



WASHINGTON STATE NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2009 WINTER EDITION

SSWLHC ADVOCACY,
PRIORITIES, ISSUES &
ACTIVITIES

- FRIDAY, SAT., JAN 30, 31
NASW—"THE BODY REMEMBERS:
THE PSYCHOPHYSIOLOGY OF TRAUMA
AND TRAUMA TREATMENT" 12 CEUS
CONTACT NASW AT
INFO@NASW-WA.ORG SEATTLE, WA
- FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2009
SSWLHC—"LATE STAGES OF DE-
MENTIA: A CREATIVE APPROACH TO
CLINICAL PRACTICE WITH APHASIC
INDIVIDUALS", 3 CEUS
JUTTA ATAIE, MSW &
JOHN CASTER, MSW,
QUALIS HEALTH, 10700 MERIDIAN
AVE. N., SUITE 100, SEATTLE, WA
- MONDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2009
NASW LOBBY DAY
- THURSDAY, MARCH 26, 2009
SSWLHC—"DISCHARGING THE
HOMELESS PATIENT: ACCESSING SER-
VICE RESOURCES" 6 CEUS
DESC AND OTHER PROVIDERS
2100 BUILDING, 23RD AND RAINIER
AVE. SO., SEATTLE, WA

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

HEALTH CARE FUNDING 2009	1
OFFICE OF PUBLIC GUARDIANSHIP	1
LEADERSHIP PROFILE AL CASALE, MSW	4
MEMBERSHIP ISSUES SSWLHC DUES INCREASE SSWLHC DEMENTIA SEMINAR	6
MESSAGE FROM PAST PRESIDENT	7
OLYMPIA LOBBY DAYS	9
DISCHARGING THE HOME- LESS, SEMINAR	11
NASW LOBBY DAY—FEB 16	12

SSWLHC SUPPORTS HEALTH CARE FUNDING: 2009 STATE BUDGET REPORT 'GRIM'

By Darlene Truong, UW BASW student, and Lynn Carrigan, MSW

The Annual SSWLHC Health Care Advocacy Forum, held the morning of December 2, was a resounding success, with 19 attendees who came to learn about pending issues affecting health care in the 2009 Washington State Legislative Session.

Cassie Sauer, former Director of Policy Advocacy and now VP of Communications at Washington State Hospital Association, again presented the current state legislative and budget context ("in a word, grim"), described anticipated budget cuts in health care, and outlined priorities for WSHA in maintaining funding for critical programs, such as health worker training,



Cassie Sauer, MSW,

Continued on Page 2

LEGISLATURE APPROPRIATES FUNDS FOR THE OFFICE OF PUBLIC GUARDIANSHIP: *A New Resource for Low Income Elderly*

By Shirley Bondon, Manager, Office of Public Guardianship

Two complete strangers, an aging homeless man and an aging widow are helped by a new pilot program.

Tom's face appears expressionless as he lies on his back in a hospital bed in a room that has been his home for the past two months.

Tom has always been a quiet, unassuming man. He has spent much of his life alone. He worked, paid his taxes and led a very simple but comfortable life. He married, but his marriage didn't last long and he never had children. He had few friends and saw family infrequently, mostly on holidays. Two years ago, Tom lost his job. Laid off from the job he had held for over 15 years, his comfortable life changed quickly. With no family or friends to support him, once the unemployment benefits

Continued on Page 10

SSWLHC SUPPORTS HEALTH CARE FUNDING

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

emergency department trauma care, mental health care, and the Apple Health Program for Children, the new name for the Cover All Kids by 2010 campaign.

Community Action Network: Three representatives of the Washington Community Action Network (formerly Washington Citizens Action Network) presented their agency history and approach to activism, and two items they will be supporting in the 2009 session.



Bill Daley, WaCAN! Director, provided an overview of the organization.

Bill Daley, former Deputy Insurance Commissioner for Washington and mayor of Olympia, currently Legislative Director for Washington CAN!, provided an overview of the organization and supported his team in presenting the background and current status of two specific initiatives. Fatima Morales, MSW, a 2008 graduate of the UW School of Social Work, now a Washington CAN! Community Organizer, presented on the Washington

CAN! initiative to support SB 6684 Language Access Services in Healthcare. Marigrace Becker, current MSW intern at Washington CAN!, gave information about the Health Insurance Partnership to help fund coverage for small business owners and employees. Information on Washington CAN! and their two priority issues follow the section outlining Cassie's presentation.

SSWLHC TAKES A POSITION TO PRESERVE HEALTH CARE FUNDING

As a result of their presentations, the participants recommended that SSWLHC take a position to support health care funding in these priority issues, especially those that prevent loss of health insurance coverage and human rights. **A position paper which can be duplicated for use in advocacy efforts is included in this newsletter.** Please lend your voice in the democratic

process of determining state policy and funding priorities by contacting your legislator frequently before and during the session. Refer to the following reports on the concerns and priorities presented by WSHA and Washington CAN! for more information.

WSHA REPORTS BUDGET CONTEXT AND WSHA PRIORITIES FOR FUNDING

With the upcoming 2009 year coming around the corner, the Washington state legislature will be writing the 2009-2011 biennial budget - and the outlook is grim. There is a projected \$4 to \$5 billion deficit on a \$34 billion budget that will occur and with health care being around 20% of the state's budget, it will undoubtedly be drastically affected. In looking at the breakdown of health care between the federal and state government, the federal government provides Medicaid funding and oversight, State Children's Health Insurance, and health care under the federal labor laws. The Washington state government is responsible for the balance of Medicaid funding and implementation, Apple Health for Kids, the Basic Health Plan, and health care for nurse staffing committees.

Currently there are 6.4 million people living in Washington state. A majority of Washingtonians (4.7 million) have private health care insurance. 995,000 people are under Medicaid and 827,000 are under Medicare leaving 593,000 uninsured people which includes 73,000 children.

In 2005 and again in 2007, Washington passed laws committing to work towards the goal that all Washington children will have health care coverage by 2010. It will offer:

- Sliding scale coverage for moderate-income children between 250% and 300% of the FPL
- Investment in outreach, health promotion, and enrollment efforts for *Apple for Kids*

SSWLHC SUPPORTS HEALTH CARE FUNDING

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

- Access to mental health services for all children
- Critical developmental screens for early identification and intervention for children with developmental delays including autism.

With the budget deficit and health care cost increase, the Washington State Hospital Association's (WSHA) top budget priority is make sure that there are no budget cuts to hospital or health care. In addition, there is a need in our state for increased funding for mental health, Apple Health for Kids, health worker training, and trauma care – although there is uncertainty if there will be any additional funds at all.

The WSHA's health care issues that are most at risk for cuts or being completely eliminated are the continuation of covering children's health care, Medicaid dental and vision, mental health services, and interpreter services.

With the legislature soon in session, it is that critical time to advocate and address to our representatives the importance of the health care issues at hand. There will be hundreds of other issues that will be considered, and we want to make sure that our policy makers know that hospitals and health care should be at the top of their priorities. You can get involved with advocacy in a variety of ways such as emailing policy makers, going to Olympia, or inviting policy makers to present at staff meetings. The most important thing is to let the policy makers know the issue you care about and why it is important that they care.

Many resources are available for information to find out about specific issues and bills and to find out who your legislators are: www.leg.wa.gov and www.access.wa.gov.

For more information on WSHA's positions, see www.wsha.org or contact cassies@wsha.org.

THE WASHINGTON COMMUNITY ACTION NETWORK PRIORITIZES HEALTHCARE

The Washington Community Action Network is committed to making democracy work through grassroots community activism. According to their brochures, Washington CAN! is the state's largest grassroots community organization, with over 30,000 members across the state. In addition to their membership base, Washington CAN! is also a coalition of statewide progressive organizations, including faith, labor, and community groups.

Born in the 1970's from the Seattle/Tacoma Light Brigade, they fought against electricity shut-offs for low-income families and against the taxpayer subsidization of nuclear power. During the 80's, the Light Brigade became Washington Fair Share, joining a national network of organizations fighting for consumer justice and worker rights, including an increase in the state's minimum wage. As Washington Citizen Action, between the early 1990's and 2006, they worked to pass the strongest Patient Bill of Rights in the country, the largest voter registration drive in Washington state history, and the nation's highest inflation-indexed minimum wage.

SB 6684 Language Access Services in Health-care: Introduced in the 2008 Legislative Session by Senator Shinn, this bill aims to expand and improve language access services by requiring private and state-funded insurers (Basic Health Plan, Public Employee Benefits Program) to reimburse providers for language access services throughout the health care system. According to a 2005 American community survey, at least 44,000 Washington residents speak a language other than English and need translation services for informed consent and communication with healthcare providers.

These costs are currently borne largely by individual medical facilities, per the 1964 Civil Rights Act requiring health care providers who serve patients in federally funded programs to provide language access services to patients with limited English proficiency.

Continued on Page 8

IN FOCUS: LEADERSHIP PROFILE



AL CASALE, MSW, LICSW, GMHS

Al Casale has been a part of the social work community in the Pacific NW for more than 40 years.

Raised in the Bronx, and educated on the East Coast, Al arrived in the Northwest area in the mid-50's, when he initially accepted a position in a Vancouver, BC school, and afterward in the Seattle area, where he taught elementary and junior high school. He fondly remembers that his first teaching experience was the first grade. He was pleased with the opportunity to work in the PNW, as it permitted him to spend much time in the out-of-doors: fishing, hunting, skiing, camping and backpacking. However, as he gained experience as a teacher, he noted that many of his students were having social and emotional issues which required other attention for support and guidance. He realized that in addition to teaching, he was also interested in providing services to people who were vulnerable and alienated, and who required a focus that could not be met in the classroom. He left teaching, an art for which he still has a love, and deciding to move on to Social Work.

EDUCATION: Al began his higher education at Iona College in New Rochelle, NY, where he graduated in 1955 with a major in Spanish. He also minored in Scholastic Philosophy, Religion, Education and English. He subsequently entered La Universidad Inter-Americana, in Saltillo, Coahuila, Mexico where he graduated with a Masters degree in Spanish Language and Latin American Culture in preparation for a career as a high school teacher. Shortly thereafter, following his teaching experiences, Al returned to New York and entered Fordham University, New York City, where he received his MSW in 1962.

Al returned to the Northwest and worked as a social worker providing residential treatment services for adolescent dependent and delinquent youth, and foster home and adoption placements. Much of his work also entailed relationships with DSHS, the Juvenile Court and Catholic Community Services. Then, in the late 60's, he went to work as a therapist for the Alcoholism Treatment Clinic operated by the Seattle/King County Health Department. This position provided him with the opportunity to earn a certificate in Alcoholism Studies at Rutgers University in New Brunswick, NJ. Concurrently, Al worked part time for the King County Family Court as a social worker in custody investigations, and then briefly as an Alcoholism Counselor for the Eastside Community Mental Health Center.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR MENTAL HEALTH NORTH: In the summer of 1970, Al accepted a position as Executive Director at Mental Health North, a position he held until 1989. During this period, he was also a part time instructor at North Seattle Community College and a field instructor for the University of Washington, School of Social Work. During his almost twenty years as a community mental health administrator, Al developed numerous programs for the mentally ill. He is particularly proud of the number of residential programs he developed for the chronically mentally ill, programs that continue to operate today.

MORTGAGE LENDING: As is common knowledge, very major changes in mental health funding and programming began to occur in the late 1980's and early 1990's. Al began to re-think his position at Mental Health North. He realized he was exhausted and he further realized he needed a change from the professions he so diligently sought all of his life. He resigned his position and turned his interests to a new field: mortgage lending.

BACK HOME AGAIN: By 1996, Al returned to social work and felt he was like the Prodigal Son. He was glad to be back home! He returned to Social Work with an opportunity with Psychiatric Services for the Elderly, a private consultation business, in a position as a clinician and nursing home consultant. He consulted in several nursing homes throughout King County from 1996 into 2001, where he was charged with performing mental health evaluations and treatment recommendations for patients in nursing homes with mental health and behavioral issues. His last nursing home consultation position was with Seattle Mental Health. Notable for Al, he took the appropriate courses to become a Geriatric Mental Health Specialist.

ACUTE CARE: As Al has moved through his journey in life, he has found that continuing to work provides him with more satisfaction than any other thing he could imagine. In 1998, he went to work as a per diem psychiatric social worker in the Stevens Hospital Emergency Room helping to sustain a newly implemented program as Intake Specialist for the psychiatric unit. He found the work fascinating as he began to understand the complexity of medical illness and its impact on the individual. Consequently, Al has re-focused his professional activity to include crisis intervention and short term psychotherapy with persons suffering from developmental neglect, trauma and abuse, and their impact on physical health, social/family and occupational dysfunction and their further impact on social and/or situational disorders. Due to the nature of the settings in which he works, Al's services extend to persons of all ages and to most population groups.

Other per diem positions followed with Providence Hospital in Everett, and Valley General

Continued on Page 9

DEMENTIA WORKSHOP SET FOR FEBRUARY 6, 2009

The SSWLHC's first seminar for 2009 will focus on late stage dementia. Jutta Ataie, MSW and John Caster, MSW, staff members at Providence Hospice of Seattle, will present information on the Late Stages of Dementia and a method by which they have been able to establish meaningful relationships and to address the psychosocial needs of aphasic individuals more effectively.

Through many years of clinical practice, Jutta and John have developed multi-sensory stimulation kits that are appropriate to the individual with whom they are working. The individualization that they can attain through the use of a personal history questionnaire and development of a multi-sensory stimulation kit can increase interdisciplinary communication and teamwork with individuals experiencing dementia.

Jutta works for Providence Hospice of Seattle. She presents at conferences and teaches educational workshops targeting professionals working in geriatric/mental health settings and family caregivers.

John, also a social worker for Providence Hospice of Seattle, has been instrumental in developing a wide assortment of items to use when working with patients with end stage-dementia and patients who are often basically non-verbal. He also teaches within the agency and at state and national conferences.

The conference will be held at Qualis Health, in the Whidbey Room, 1st Floor, 10700 Meridian Ave. No., Suite 100, Seattle, WA.

For further information, contact Stacey Jones, MSW, Program Chair at 206-749-7355 or Stacey.jones@providence.org

SSWLHC DUES INCREASE TO \$30.00 Effective 1/1/09

A dues increase from \$20.00 to \$30.00 was approved by the SSWLHC Board of Directors at the November Board meeting. Effective January 1, 2009, all new memberships and renewals will be charged \$30.00 for the calendar year.

The dues increase has been necessitated by increasing printing and postage costs, and increasing costs of online communication with the members. The 2009 Budget requires an income of approximately \$7500/year. Our membership has remained relatively stable at 100 + members and the dues support about 40% of the Society's yearly expenses including Newsletters, the annual Student Scholarship, and other communications. The balance of the budget is supported by conference fees and vendor sponsorships. We attempt to make all conferences at least self-supporting. If you have budget questions, please contact Sandi Johnson, President, at: SandraJ.Johnson@swedish.org

President: Sandra J. Johnson, MSW

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MESSAGE FROM THE PAST PRESIDENT

Dear Chapter Members,

Earlier this year I wrote to you of the proposal the national SSWLHC group was developing to merge the local chapters with the national society. At the time, the national group believed that such a change would require a change in their bylaws, and hence a vote of the membership.

Since then, they have consulted with legal counsel and determined that a vote will not be necessary. They plan to implement the change starting in 2010. That year, anyone who joins our chapter will be granted membership to the national society without paying national membership dues. That will be a good chance to try out membership in the national society to see whether it is useful to you.

In 2010, the local chapter will be required to submit 40% of the membership dues we collect to the national Society. The following year, the local chapter will stop collecting dues and those who wish to maintain membership in the Society will pay dues to the national group at national rates. Fifteen percent of those dues will be returned to local chapters.

Our local board discussed this development in December. We were not in favor of this change, and are concerned about the effects it will have upon the local chapter. We expect to lose membership because national dues are significantly higher than local dues.

We hope to continue to offer relevant workshops at reasonable prices and to provide a forum for social work leaders in Wash-

ington State healthcare settings to come together and share information and resources. We are considering various strategies to adjust to the upcoming changes. We have two years before the new structure will be fully implemented. Please be in touch with your ideas.

Kathleen Fellbaum is the outgoing Chapter President for 2008 and will serve as Past President and Membership Chair for 2009. She can be reached at kath@fellbaum.com



**JOIN SOCIAL WORKERS
IN OLYMPIA**

**2009 SOCIAL WORK LOBBY
DAY**

PRESIDENT'S DAY, 2/16/08

8:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

United Churches of Olympia

110 - 11th Avenue SE, Olympia

across from the Capitol Grounds

SSWLHC SUPPORTS HEALTH CARE FUNDING

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

providers lack systems and financial resources to provide these services. In a 2006 survey of hospitals, 48% cited cost and reimbursement concerns as a primary barrier to providing language services. While in Washington State Medicaid and the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) reimburse providers for interpreter services, private insurers and the Washington Basic Health Plan do not.



Fatima Morales, MSW, presented her work on the Washington CAN! language access campaign at the SSWLHC Legislative Seminar.

With a commitment to the human rights of immigrants and refugees, WashingtonCAN supports translation and interpreter services as an essential element of high quality care called for by the State's recent Blue Ribbon Commission. For more information: contact Fatima Morales at 206-389-0050; Fatima@washingtoncan.org.

HEALTH INSURANCE PARTNERSHIP

This legislation to enact this partnership was established by the State Legislature in 2008 to assist small businesses (those with 2 to 50 employees) in providing health care to their employees by providing subsidies for premiums for low wage workers. The program is funded only for the last quarter of this budget year. WashingtonCAN has been organizing a Coalition of Small Businesses for Secure Health Care, now with over 950 members, to educate members about options and advocate funding for this program for the coming two year budget period.

WaCAN reports that 75% of small business employees are without insurance; they are often unable to

enroll in state programs like Basic Health Plan and may qualify for Medicaid funding only in cases of severe medical emergencies. This forces workers into emergency rooms for high-cost routine care at hospital expense, and impacts health outcomes by the neglect of preventive and primary care. This bill was opposed by those who believe in health care as a free-market commodity and do not want government to expand their role in the health care system. For more info: Mari Becker or Kevin Knutsen at 206-389-0050 x 224 email:



Marigrace Becker, MSW Candidate, presented her work on the Health Insurance Partnership with small businesses.

mari@washingtoncan.org or Kevin@washingtoncan.org.



19 attended the Legislative Conference coming from the Seattle and Bremerton areas. A big thank you to Cancer Lifeline for the use of their conference facility.

Al Casale, MSW, LICSW, GMHS,

Continued from Page 5

Hospital in Monroe. Al gradually terminated his nursing home work as new opportunities became available.

For several years Al has worked at Valley General Hospital where he performed pre-admission assessments for the psychiatric unit and concurrently did utilization review. His per diem position at Providence then became a part time position in 2006 where he now works in the Emergency Department as a psychiatric social worker performing crisis intervention, mental health and chemical dependency assessments and other tasks appropriate for an ER social worker. And, this year, as Valley General has changed its structure to meet the changing times, Al's position there has also changed. He now works as the roaming mental health specialist throughout the hospital covering the ED, the medical/surgical floor, critical care and the Birth Center providing consultation, crisis intervention and the necessary mental health and drug and alcohol assessments. And if these are not enough, Al also provides services at work sites as part of employee assistance programs where critical incidents may have occurred. Among his specialties are medico-psycho-social assessments of geriatric patients and consultation to their families, care givers, nurses and physicians. Al is certified to provide clinical supervision to individuals who are working on licensure. In 2007-2008 Al also took on the responsibility of becoming a field instructor for a student in the School of Social Work at Walla Walla University.

When asked if he is going to retire any time soon, Al says he would not know what to do. He finds that his work provides him with mental stimulation, emotional support, socialization, and an opportunity to continue learning. It is a source of his energy and vitality. He says that his work sustains him, keeps him mentally sharp and that by providing services he receives more in return - the least of which is the gratification he gets when he knows he has helped someone to move on in life. →

SELECTED LOBBY DAYS IN OLYMPIA:

JAN—February 2009

DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES ADVOCACY Wednesdays, Jan 28—April 15

Location: United Churches of Olympia

Contact: Diana@arcwa.org

Jan 15— NATIONAL ALLIANCE ON MENTAL ILLNESS DAY

Contact: Nancy Cole director@nami-greaterseattle.org

Jan 28—ANNUAL DISABILITY LEGISLATIVE RECEPTION

Contact: Emily Rogers, Emily@arcwa.org

Jan 28—Headstart/ECEAP Contact: Katy,

katy@mail.wsaheadstarteceap.com

Feb 4—Joint Lobby Day AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY, AMERICAN LUNG ASSOCIATION & AMERICAN HEART ASSOCIATION

Contact: Carrie.Glover@cancer.org

Feb. 9—SERVICE EMPLOYEES INTERNATIONAL UNION LOBBY DAY—SEIU 775

Contact: Misha Werschkul, Misha.Werschkul@seiu775.org

Feb 10—REFUGEE AND IMMIGRANT LEGISLATIVE DAY

Contact: Someireh Amirfaiz, someireh@rewa.org

Feb 10—WASHINGTON COALITION OF SEXUAL ASSAULT PROGRAMS

Contact: Marilyn Turnbow, marilyn@wcaspp.org

Feb 11—MARCH OF DIMES Contact: Lisa Talbott,

LTalbott@marchofdimes.com

Feb 17—2009 WA STATE SENIOR CITIZENS' LOBBY DAYS

Contact: Karren Bowen, seniorlobby@qwest.net

Feb 18—AIDS Awareness & Action Day Contact: advocate@ltaa.org

Feb 19—ENVIRONMENTAL LOBBY DAY Contact: Rein Attemann, People for

Puget Sound rattemann@pugetsound.org

Feb 22—23 JUNIOR LEAGUE OF WA CAPITOL DAYS

Contact: Jennifer Metsker, jmetsker@att.net

Feb 23—REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH, RIGHTS, AND JUSTICE LOBBY DAY, co-sponsored by **NARAL Pro-Choice WA, and Planned Parenthood of WA**

Contact: Rosa McLeod, rosamcleod@prochoicewashington.org

Al is in love with life. In addition to his commitment to his profession and his addiction to the out-of-doors, Al enjoys opera, Broadway musicals, entertaining, reading and travel. His most creative self is in his "Cucina Italiana".

The Office of Public Guardianship, Cont. from Page 1

checks stopped coming he found himself homeless and was forced to live in a shelter. Several weeks ago, after months of living hand to mouth, he had a stroke. Tom's home is now the local hospital. He is tube fed, non-communicative and his prognosis isn't good. Physicians believe they have done all they can and that medical equipment is prolonging Tom's life in a less than humane way.

Decisions must be made—Should life sustaining treatment be administered? If Tom recovers, where will he live? How will he be cared for? Tom has no family or friends, no health insurance, and no money. Who will make these decisions?

Each day, Elsie enjoys the company of her four-legged friend, Kitty. Confined to her home, Elsie has few pleasures.

Elsie shuffles throughout the home she shared with her husband Ed for 40 years. Ed passed away last year and Elsie misses him every day. Ed and Elsie had a traditional marriage. Elsie took care of the home; she cooked and cleaned, worked in the home, and never received a paycheck. Ed was a good husband; he worked, managed the family finances, and made sure Elsie had everything she needed.

Since Ed's passing, Elsie struggles to pay bills and her utilities are often disconnected. She has spent several nights huddled beside an electric heater during a winter storm. Her heat was turned on after a concerned neighbor intervened with the utility company. After several incidents, neighbors, who are concerned for her safety, contacted Adult Protective Services (APS). APS investigated and determined that Elsie is often not eating, forgetting to pay bills, and sometimes mis-

places her limited funds. Elsie needs help with activities of daily living.

Until very recently, finding help for Tom and Elsie was difficult. Thanks to a dedicated group of advocates concerned about the elderly and persons with disabilities, **the 2007 Washington State Legislature passed a bill with the *potential* to provide quality care for individuals eighteen (18) and over statewide who are poor and alone and need the assistance of a professional guardian.**

Senate Bill 5320 established the Office of Public Guardianship (OPG) within the Administrative Office of the Courts to promote the availability of guardianship services for individuals who need them and for whom the services may not otherwise be available.

Legislators appropriated \$1,483,000 to establish the OPG and develop pilot programs to determine if these services can improve the quality of life for low income elderly persons and persons with disabilities. **In June 2008, the Office of Public Guardianship began providing public guardianship services in Clallam, Grays Harbor, Okanogan, Pierce, and Spokane counties.** The program plans to begin providing public guardianship services in **KING COUNTY EARLY IN 2009.** Public guardians are expected to help incapacitated persons enjoy self-determination by providing individuals with adequate opportunities to be the causal agent in their lives, make choices, and learn self-determination skills, enabling them to maximally participate in their lives and communities.

Continued on Next Page

The Office of Public Guardianship: *Cont. from Page 10*

Everyone can probably think of someone the OPG might help. It may be a family member, your next door neighbor, or possibly those found living in deteriorating, deplorable conditions in their own homes. Making this help available should be a priority for each of us.

The OPG has the potential to improve the quality of all guardianship services, improve guardian oversight and reduce pressures to institutionalize individuals who, with needed help, could live in more independent settings. These improvements can occur while providing cost savings to the state through reductions in costs associated with institutionalization, decreasing participant's repeat involvement with law enforcement and the courts, and facilitating access to governmental funding.

You can help by sharing the good news about the establishment of the OPG and the availability of services in Clallam, Grays Harbor, King, Okanogan, Pierce and Spokane counties, and by encouraging legislators to continue to support and expand these services throughout the state.

For more information please contact Shirley Bondon, Manager, Office of Public Guardianship at shirley.bondon@courts.wa.gov or 360.705.5302.

A guardian is a surrogate decision maker appointed by the court to make either personal and/or financial decisions for a minor or for an adult who the court has determined has a significant risk of personal or financial harm based on a demonstrated inability to adequately provide for nutrition, health or physical safety or to manage property or financial affairs.

'DISCHARGING THE HOMELESS' SEMINAR SET FOR MARCH 26, 2009

The SSWLHC will present "Discharging the Homeless", an all day seminar scheduled for Thursday, March 26, 2009. The seminar will take place at the 2100 Building, in the Rainier District, with catering services provided by FareStart. This seminar is designed to assist the social work / case management clinician in finding the appropriate resource for the homeless patient who is being discharged from a hospital or other medical facility with continuing critical medical and/or psychosocial needs. Objectives include:

1. Understanding the structure of services available to the homeless in King Co.
2. Identifying medical/mental health resources and the purpose for which they are structured and available to the homeless in King Co.
3. Making appropriate referrals for patients discharging from medical institutions who are in needs of continuing medical/mental health supervision and programming
4. Assuring proper Medicaid application for patients requiring aftercare services.

Bill Hobson, Executive Director of the Downtown Emergency Services Center, will keynote the seminar. The morning session will be devoted to a discussion of available housing, medical, mental health and drug and alcohol services, and how to assist your homeless client in accessing the appropriate resource. The afternoon session will discuss subgroups of the homeless population, such as veterans, sexual minorities, youth, corrections, families with children, and methadone maintenance.

Registration brochures will be mailed in early February. Questions? Contact

Jacqueline Durgin, jackiedurginbeck@comcast.net
or Kathleen Otis, kotis@highlinemedical.org

NASW LOBBY DAY SCHEDULED

FEBRUARY 16, 2009

**JOIN SOCIAL WORKERS IN OLYMPIA
FOR 2009 SOCIAL WORK LOBBY DAY
PRESIDENT'S DAY, 2/16/08**

8:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

United Churches of Olympia

110 - 11th Avenue SE, Olympia

across from the Capitol Grounds

Join NASW/WA and the Schools of Social Work across the state in our Annual Lobby Day to advocate for social work title protection and other health and human services. Between 9 a.m. and approximately 11:30 a.m., legislators, aides, lobbyists, and advocates for specific issues will present on pending bills and budget items under review in the 2009 Legislative Session and tips on effective communication with legislators.

Speakers who have been confirmed include Erik Pettigrew, MSW, Democratic Representative for the 34th District, and sponsor of the SW Title Protection bill, as well as NASW President Celeste Carey, Executive Director Hoyt Suppes, and Bob Cooper, new NASW/WA lobbyist. Others are being contacted so that we have representation from around the state to learn about a variety of health and human services issues.

Late morning educational sessions are being scheduled to provide more comprehensive

information about specific issues of interest, such as title protection, and packets of helpful information and position papers will be provided to attendees. Light refreshments will be available in the morning, and lunch will be on your own at either of the two Capitol cafeterias.

We encourage members to attend and to call their district legislators before the session begins to set up an appointment between 11:30 and 2:30 to review issues of interest. We also hope to have appointments arranged with key committee chairs that anyone may join.

For information about your legislator and contact information, see the website for the Legislature: www.leg.wa.gov, or call the Legislative Hotline at 1-800-562-6000 between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m. Monday - Friday or between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. on Saturday. The Hotline is also a great way to phone in your opinions to your legislators on issues of importance during the session.

For information on the United Churches location, see www.theunitedchurches.org, or call (360) 943-1210. Driving directions are easily obtained through their website.

For purposes of planning food and beverages and meeting space setup, please register as an attendee with NASW, by sending an email to hoyt@nasw-wa.org.