

WASHINGTON STATE NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2009 SPRING EDITION

SSWLHC ADVOCACY, PRIORITIES, ISSUES & ACTIVITIES

- **THURSDAY, MARCH 26, 2009**
SSWLHC—"HOMELESSNESS & MEDICAL / MENTAL HEALTH DISCHARGES IN KING CO.", THE 2100 BUILDING, 2100 24TH AVENUE SO., SEATTLE. 6 CEUS, 8:00AM — 4:30PM
- **TUESDAY, JUNE 19, 2009**
SSWLHC—"CHILDREN AND GRIEF", WITH BEVERLY GOLDSMITH. MSW, COORDINATOR, SAFE CROSSING GRIEF SUPPORT PROGRAM FOR PROVIDENCE HOSPICE OF SEATTLE, CHILDREN'S AUDITORIUM, 4800 SAND POINT WAY NE, SEATTLE, WA 8:00 AM TO NOON 3 CEUS

ACT NOW IF YOU SUPPORT SOCIAL WORK TITLE PROTECTION

If you think that no one should be able to call themselves a social worker unless they have a degree from a School of Social Work accredited by the Council on Social Work Education or a social work license, now is the time to contact your senator and the members of the Senate Human Services and Corrections Committee, where HB 1357 will be heard within the next two weeks. It has already passed the House.

The Senate companion to this bill, SB 5220, died a merciful death in its Rules Committee last week. Although the bill as proposed by NASW/WA and written by NASW lobbyist Bob Cooper repositioned title protection legislation in the Higher Education statutes, the initial Senate bill put it back into RCW 18.225, which governs licensed social workers. Since licensed social workers already have title protection, the WA State Society for Clinical Social Workers opposed that location for a general social work definition, and the Department of Health also voiced opposition due to concerns about enforcement.

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ON-LINE UW JOURNAL ACCESS NOW AVAILABLE

<http://heal-wa.org>

The University of Washington on-line journal access program, HEAL-WA, supported by your increased WA State Social Work licensing fee, is now available. This on-line journal can be accessed by securing a UW NetID and proceeding with the following instructions.

The HEAL-WA web site address is:
<http://heal-wa.org>.

Licensed resources (those shown with the lock icon) are not available unless you are logged in to HEAL-WA. In order to log in, you first need to set up your HEAL-WA user id and password. This is done by following the



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ACT NOW IF YOU SUPPORT SW TITLE PROTECTION

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The Senate Human Services Committee will now have the opportunity to review House Bill 1357, which positions the designation of social workers under Higher Education laws. It suggests that social workers are professionals with specific educations that uniquely prepare them for work with high risk, vulnerable, and marginalized populations. The bill asks that the title of social work, like that for doctors and nurses, be dependent upon higher education preparation, enforceable under the Consumer Protection Act. In short, under the newly proposed RCW 28B.85 Higher Education statute, it would become fraudulent for someone without a social work degree to call themselves a social worker.

The House hearing process amended the NASW-proposed language by asking for an effective date one year after the bill is passed, rather than the 90 days requested, in order to adjust any other references to social work in the law and presumably provide state agencies with adequate time for implementation. A grandfathering clause was inserted into the initial bill to exempt anyone currently with the title of social work, but after April 2010, no one without a social work degree or license could be designated a social worker. This compromise prevented opposition from agencies who have hired those with different backgrounds into jobs titled 'social worker' and from unions representing both degreed social workers and others with the title.

Should the Human Services Committee decide to move on HB1357, they will hold a hearing soon, and hopefully vote it out onto the Senate Floor before the session ends. Now is the time to comment on this bill. Members of the Senate Human Services Committee are

listed below.

Please take a moment to voice your opinion on this professional issue critical to the public trust and safety. Don't clients deserve to know who is serving them in social work capacities? Please don't hesitate. Call or email your senator and committee members now. The hotline is 1-800-562-6000; and the email formula is last-name.firstname.leg.wa.gov.

SENATE HUMAN SERVICES AND CORRECTIONS COMMITTEE

Hargrove, James (D) Chair LEG 411 (360) 786-7646
Regala, Debbie (D) Vice Chair JAC 233 (360)786-7652
Stevens, Val (R) * INB 105 (360) 786-7676
Brandland, Dale (R) INB 203 (360) 786-7682
Carrell, Mike (R) INB 102 (360) 786-7654
Kauffman, Claudia (D) LEG 414 (360) 786-7692
McAuliffe, Rosemary (D) LEG 403 (360) 786-7600

For information/comments, contact Lynn Carrigan, MSW, carrigan2006@yahoo.com



Children and Grief Workshop Scheduled Friday, June 19, 8:00 to Noon



Beverly Goldsmith, MSW, Coordinator, Safe Crossings Grief Support Program at Providence Hospice will present the SSWLHC seminar 'Children and Grief'.

The WA State Chapter of the SSWLHC is sponsoring a workshop on 'Children and Grief', to be held at Children's Hospital Auditorium in Seattle on June 19, from 8:00 to Noon. Three CEUs will be offered. Principal faculty member will be Beverly Goldsmith, Coordinator, Safe Crossings Grief Support Program of Providence Hospice of Seattle.

Beverly received her Masters Degree in Social Work from the University of South Carolina in 1982. Prior to receiving her Masters degree, she worked extensively with children in a variety of medical, social service and school settings. Upon graduation, she became the Director of a Hospice Program in Greenwood, S.C., which encompassed clinical intervention with patients and their families, volunteer training and management, and the creation of cooperative relationships with local public and private nursing resources for the provision of hospice care in a six county area.

Beverly became the Director of Social Work for the Upper Savannah Health District in 1983, then moved to the Seattle WA area in 1984, where she became a Medical Social Worker for Providence Hospice of Seattle. Beverly provided clinical case management and support to hospice patients and their families, as well as fulfilling several team leadership roles. In 2002, Beverly participated in "Parish Connections", one year grant, in which she offered end of life and bereavement education and support to a number of parishes in the Archdiocese. Since this time, Beverly has provided consultation services, as well as in-services and bereavement group opportunities to Catholic parishes through the Consoling Grace program.

During 2002, Beverly made the decision to focus her primary professional career toward children and their families by joining Safe Crossings, the Children's Grief Support Program of Providence Hospice of Seattle. She has since assisted with the development of a rapidly growing program over the last 7 years, as well as fostering an increasing collaborative effort with other existing children's grief programs in the King County, WA community. Beverly currently provides clinical supervision and guidance to three Safe Crossings counselors, the coordinator of Camp Erin, the weekend children's bereavement camp for kids and teens in King County, and an administrative assistant.

For additional information, contact: Selena Bolotin at selenab@qualishealth.org

IN FOCUS: LEADERSHIP PROFILE



SANDRA S BURGA MSW, LICSW

Sandra Sanchez Burga is a woman whose entire professional career has been in service to others. The last 27 years have been spent at Harborview Medical Center where she has been involved in many of the social work roles. However, it is her current role as social worker to the homeless in Harborview's Pioneer Square Clinic, that she has found her passion.

Sandy began providing services to people when she accepted her first job in 1970 at the West Seattle YWCA. She was the program Manager for their after school and summer day care programs, where she developed a day program for school-age children, ages 6 – 12. She also supervised a staff of two YES interns.

Following her job at the West Seattle 'Y', Sandy, whose mother was an operating room RN, entered Seattle Central Community College's Certified Operating Room Technician program. Following that certification, Sandy's next job was at Stevens Hospital in Edmonds, WA where she put those skills to work. She cites this job as helping her develop her 'team skills'. The precision that was required, and the careful listening and communication skills that were exhibited by other staff members, were a lesson well learned.

Balancing marriage and the parenting of their two children, Elida and Rafael Martin, Sandy went back to school. In 1978 and earned an Associate of Arts Degree at North Seattle Community College. In 1980, Sandy entered the University of Washington as a junior, and by 1982, had completed work on her BSW. By this time, Sandy had identified Death and Dying as a specific field of interest. As she was looking for work in her field, she was referred to Harborview Medical Center by Sue Fouts, a former student colleague, who had learned of a social service assistant position available in Harborview's new geriatric clinic. Sandy says she did not get that job, but immediately found another job in Harborview's Medicaid Unit, where she assisted patients and families with Medicaid applications. The Geriatric position opened again within the year, and Sandy was right where she

wanted to be, providing inpatient social work services for the 'Senior Care Program', with mentoring by Sue Tomita, Ph.D, who later authored several early works on Elder Abuse.

In 1984, Sandy returned to the University of Washington, and entered the three year evening program at the School of Social Work, graduating in 1987 with her MSW. She continued to work at Harborview on a part time basis and upon graduation, returned full time to work in Geriatrics with an expanded role. Sandy was now working the Internal Medicine inpatient unit with its wide sweep of inpatient roles. She was responsible for assessments, discharge planning and implementation; she provided counseling on various healthcare issues including grief and loss, assisted with financial resources for healthcare and solved the usual myriad of problems.

In addition, Sandy developed a protocol for working with the Med/Surg patients during their Involuntary Treatment Act (ITA) confinements. She also provided a social work orientation for medical interns, and to students within other ancillary services. In addition, Sandy provided coverage to other inpatient services as needed, including Physical Rehabilitation, Burn/Plastics, Orthopedics and Surgery Services. She also provided coverage in the Harborview Emergency Room, completing mental health evaluations, sexual assault assessments, grief and trauma support and counseling.

In 1989, the social work position at the Pioneer Square clinic became available. Sandy said that she asked a number of people if they were going to apply for the position, and no one seemed to be particularly interested. Feeling the need for a change, "to somehow get closer to the water" and to stretch her knowledge base, Sandy completed the application and was hired. She states "it is absolutely the best job I have ever had". After 12 years, she continues to describe it as 'fun'. Instead of a three day hospital stay, Sandy describes being able to get to know her clientele well, being able to talk with them, establish a relationship, assisting them with the problem solving that homeless living brings in a setting where the entire team is also focused in this direction. Most of her clients are men, over 50 years of age, who seem displaced and lost. Sandy states that the women in this population seem to have more survival skills. In addition, most of her clients are of geriatric age which works well with her earlier training and interests. "I feel absolutely passionate about this population and this clinic. I have never worked in a situation where team work and communication have been so strong."

Sandy is a native North westerner, born in Seattle, WA at Swedish Hospital, and raised on Capitol Hill. She attended Holy Names Academy, local Community Colleges, and the University of Washington. Sandy and her husband Rafael, continue to live in the Seattle home where they raised their two children. Sandy and Rafael are grandparents to two grand daughters, Sophia and Nicole, ages 6 and 4, children of Elida. The grandchildren live close by and their lives are happily intertwined. Sandy and her husband recently completed the construction of a new home on the property of a long-time family owned summer vacation property, and now spend many happy weekends with the grandchildren and family friends in a very relaxed atmosphere. Sandy finds it a perfect antidote to the fast-paced professional responsibilities that she has at Pioneer Square Clinic.

NEW MEMBERS WELCOMED

Dementia Seminar Draws New Members to SSWLHC

As a direct result of the December Legislative and February Dementia workshops, the SSWLHC WA Chapter is pleased to welcome 12 new members to the Chapter.

Vera Akulov, Fairfax Hospital, Kirkland, WA

Patricia Alvarez, Social Services Director, Shelton Health and Rehab, Shelton, WA

Anne Bagdon, Social Worker, UWMC, Seattle, WA

Karin Brook, Social Worker, Yakima Regional Medical Center, Yakima, WA

Chris Browning, Social Services, Shelton Health and Rehab, Shelton, WA

Amber Ford, Oncology Social Worker, Skagit Valley Hospital, Oak Harbor, WA

Kris Fredrickson, Seattle VAMC, Seattle, WA

Becky Hancock, Social Work Supervisor, NW Hospital Care Management, Seattle WA

Jo Laboff, Geriatric Care Manager, Care Force, Lynnwood, WA

Dana Neil, Social Worker, MCGs Hospice & ARMC Geropsych, Tacoma, WA

Linda Tatta, Social Worker, Northwest Geropsych, Seattle, WA

Jennifer Walchak, Social Worker, Providence Hospice, Olympia, WA

We are pleased to invite you to participate in any of the committees that we support including Education, Membership, Newsletter, Student Scholarship, and Social Health Policy. For additional information, please contact membership chair: Kathleen Fellbaum at kath@fellbaum.com

ONLINE JOURNAL ACCESS

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UW NetID instructions that are on the Getting Started page of HEAL-WA, at <http://heal-wa.org/resources/getting-started>.

The next step is to log in to HEAL-WA by clicking on the "HEAL-WA access" button at the upper right hand side of the screen, and entering your UW NetID and password. If you have set up your UW NetID and password, and are not able to log in to HEAL-WA using that button, you would need to contact UW Technology for further help. Their number is 206.221.5000.

Once you are logged in to HEAL-WA with your UW NetID and password, you should be able to access any resource contained there without additional passwords or login requirements.

The website will be adding some mental health databases (Psychological Info, Social Work Abstracts) by April 1, 2009 and will be evaluating the addition of some full text journals in the coming months.

President: Sandra J. Johnson, MSW
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MARCH 2009 IS SOCIAL WORK MONTH



Letter from the President:

Congratulations to all of us as we celebrate national social work month!

This year's theme: ***SOCIAL WORK: purpose & possibility*** reminds us that we have the unique training and education to see the purpose and possibility in the lives of those we touch. The long and prestigious history of social workers working in health care system dates back to 1905, when social work advocate Ida M. Cannon launched the first hospital social work department at Massachusetts General. A large percentage of the nations' social workers work in medical setting – 20% practice in hospitals and 12% in medical clinics.

In the current economical crisis, we are seeing people losing their jobs; losing their homes and having to make choices whether to pay for food, rent, utilities, or to simply let go of one's health insurance coverage in order to have the most basic life necessities. We will most likely see a rise in medical illnesses over the coming months and years. We, as social workers, will be there to help and guide people in re-establishing their routines; providing financial counseling; providing grief counseling and help sorting through fears and concerns about the future. The purpose and possibilities lie in believing that there are no limits to human potential and we will work towards helping others create better lives for themselves and their families.

The Washington Chapter of the Society of Social Workers in Healthcare Leadership looks forward to a year of exploring the purpose and possibili-

ties of who we are and what we contribute to health-care in Washington. We do this best by coming together for continuing education events... we learn from the experts and share our knowledge.

This month we have a continuing education opportunity on Health care and the homeless. Come and learn from the local experts working with the homeless as they share the purpose and possibilities in services for this group of individuals. The planning committee, led by Jacqueline Durgin and Kathy Otis, have volunteered countless hours in pulling together this seminar. A big thank you for their planning and service!

Other educational events: Children's Loss and Grief presented by Safe Crossings through Providence Hospice and Joan Golston returns with ethics in boundaries and documentation

As you have heard from Kathleen Fellbaum, Past President, the national SSWLHC is moving towards incorporating all local chapter memberships into the national membership roster. The decision from National to move towards a more NASW structure will have an impact on our chapter. At this time the board is sorting through the ramifications. Kathleen and I will learn more at the April National Conference and will present to you our options as a chapter. We will keep an open mind as to the purpose and possibilities of Washington's chapter of healthcare social work.

The best to all of you during this month and throughout our future as healthcare social workers!

Sandra Johnson is 2009 SSWLHC WA Chapter President and can be reached for comment at: SandraS.Johnson@swedish.org

DEMENTIA SEMINAR PROVIDES NEW TOOLS FOR COMMUNICATION

The WA Chapter of the SSWLHC, greeted 30 participants to the half day Dementia Seminar held on February 6. The Seminar, titled "Late stages of Dementia, A Creative Approach to Clinical Practice with Aphasic Individuals" was led by Jutta Ataie, MSW and John Caster, MSW, of Providence Hospice of Seattle.

Within the Western World, Descartes' concept 'I think therefore I am' has a specific consequence: 'I can-not think, therefore I am not'. As a consequence, much of the interaction for a patient with dementia is in the



Small work groups focused on the development and use of the multi-sensory stimulation kit.

'third' person.

In order to enhance direct communication with the demented patient, Ataie and Caster have

developed a 'multi-sensory stimulation kit'. With the assistance of family members and others who provide

the patient's history, the kit is developed. In it is a collection of familiar objects, with which the patient has some earlier experience. Communication with the patient is enhanced as the clinician discusses the patient's history and experiences related to the objects in the toolkit.

The conference rated an overall evaluation score of 4.65 on a scale of 1 (low) to 5 (high). There were no category 1 or 2 responses.

Comments elicited on the evaluation form included: "Very well done—especially good in involving the participants—presented very sensitively—good models!", "Excellent! Even as experienced pros, there is always something useful to learn, Thank you!", "I look forward to bringing these concepts back to my organization". "Very helpful, having practical tools to apply. This has been motivating, encouraging new ideas and approaches to use in my own setting. Thank you endlessly."

Many thanks to our sponsors for this event: Providence Hospice of Seattle for the faculty, Qualis Healthcare for the meeting space, and to CareForce for their monetary sponsorship. The Society very

much appreciates the assistance of these organizations.

For more information on the scheduling of this event for your agency, contact Stacey Jones at: stacey.jones@providence.org



The attendees represented local hospitals and nursing homes. There was also registration from other Puget Sound area counties.