



SOCIETY FOR SOCIAL WORK LEADERSHIP IN HEALTH CARE

Newsletter, Spring 2008

Society for Social Work Leadership in Health Care - Michigan Chapter

2008 Board Members

Dave Neal, President
Katherine Beck-Ei, President Elect
Kathy Wade, Past President
Sara Allen, Secretary
Ellen Kachalsky, Treasurer
Jennifer Plarske, Nominations
Daug Dault, Nominations – Elect
Andrea Muladore, Education
Lisa Kolinski, Membership
Gladys Seedorf, Social Policy
Karen Neuman, Publications
Chris Henrikson, Michigan Continuing Education
Collaboration Liaison
Jamie Roberts, Membership Recognition
Audrey Matisoff, NASW Board Liaison

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dave Neal

Greetings!

As I begin this year as your president, I feel fortunate to have good hard working folks on the Board who are committed to making the Society a meaningful organization. The Board has dedicated themselves to making the Society more relevant to our members and to becoming a significant social work organization in the state.

The first goal is probably the most important. The Society needs to become relevant for social workers working in health care. The majority of social workers are not current members and we have many areas of the state that are not represented. The Society should be an organization that social worker in health want to join. We need to hear from you about what your needs are and what you would like the Society to become. Please talk with Board members you know or you may email me at: dneal@umich.edu.

Education has always been a priority for the Society. Our conference last fall received excellent ratings from attendees, yet attendance was down. The Education committee is looking for suggestions that can make our conference more attractive. The Committee is also exploring options for distance learning which would save time and allow more educational topics to be presented. Is there a need for more educational opportunities and would you like this type of offering?

(con't)

President's message, con't

Recognition of our members who are doing good things is very important for individuals and for the profession. Please look around and nominate folks for our awards.

The Board is exploring a web site and how it can be helpful to social workers. This may be an area where we could partner with NASW. How would you like a web site to assist you?

The Society has never been active in the dialogue around health issues in the state. Our professional code of ethics requires us to be advocates for our clients. What issue is any more important in our society today than how we are going to provide or not provide health care to citizens in this country? I believe that the Society should be involved in this dialogue. NASW has indicated that they would like to have a stronger relationship with the Society and welcomes our advice on health care issues. Members of the Board are exploring how this might be accomplished.

At our February Board meeting the Board voted to support mental health and substance abuse parity. Within weeks of doing so, the US Senate and House have both passed parity legislation. Now these bills need to be reconciled. It looks very promising that parity on the national level will be a reality. Unfortunately, it does not look so promising in Michigan. This is an election year and there is always the budget for them to fight over. It is never a bad time to talk to your senator or representative about passing this important legislation. And do not forget to bring it up to those running for election this fall.

The Society is an all volunteer organization. It is only as strong as the members are. I encourage all of you to dialogue with us. We need your ideas, suggestion, and commitment to make the Society an organization that is meaningful to social workers in health care.

Kathy Wade wins Eleanor Clark Award!

The Eleanor Clark Award was established in 1985 as a fitting way to honor the memory of SSWLHC leader Eleanor Clark who served as the thirteenth President of the SSWLHC in 1978 and received the Ida M. Cannon Award in 1979. The primary purpose of the award is to recognize SSWLHC members for the development of patient clinical or social action patient care programs that emulate Eleanor Clark's spirit of innovation. A second purpose is to promote the implementation of innovative and valuable new programs throughout the field.

Our 2008 recipient: is Kathleen Wade, PhD, LMSW, ACSW. Kathy is the Director of Social Work and Associate Hospital Administrator for the University of Michigan Health System. As Director of Social Work, She has been tireless in her work to develop new and innovative programs at the Health System, all of which have had an extremely positive impact upon patient care. Kathy is the Assistant Dean for Hospital Social Work at University of Michigan School of Social Work. She teaches master's level classes and participates in governance of the School of Social Work. She received her Masters of Social Work from New York University. In 2004 she received her doctorate in Philosophy and Social Welfare from the City University of New York, Graduate Center.

Kathy is clear and focused in her leadership and her mantra is always "what's in the best interest of patient care?" This is carried out not only with instilling this in her staff, but as evidenced in the development of the aforementioned programs. Kathy's ability to have a vision and then produce a product of incredibly high quality is very impressive. Kathy is an exceptional leader and valued throughout her organization. She is innovative in her approach and able to create a shared vision for new programs.

(con't)

Kathy Wade, con't

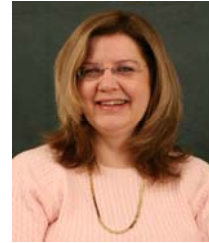
Kathy was selected as the Health Care Social Worker Leader of the Year by SSWLHC in 2006. Kathy Wade is a unique, talent and dedicated social worker. She is the consummate visionary who is able to articulate ideas and dreams and engage others*and administrators* in the formulation o programs. Dr. Kathy Wade is an exemplary model of the qualities and skills honored by this award in the name of another extraordinary social worker, Eleanor Clark. It is an honor well deserved for a social work leader of distinction and vision.

MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE DUE

Lisa Kolinski, our membership chair reminds us that our dues should be paid by April 15, 2008. The cost is \$35.00. Membership runs from January 2008-January 2009. If there are questions please contact Lise Kolinski Membership Chair at Munson Medical Center, Traverse City, Mi. 49684, Telephone 231-935-6380 or email lkolinski@mhc.net. The membership form is included in this newsletter for your convenience.

For those of you who don't yet know Lisa, she is the Assistant Manager of Medical Social Work at Manson Medical Center in Traverse City. She's been with the organization for 27 years and was recently recruited by the Society to be the membership chair. Lisa admits it's been a bit of a challenge but she is doing a great job. She hopes to increase the membership by pulling in social workers throughout the state and from various health care settings.

Michigan Continuing Education Collaborative - Meet Chris Henrickson!



Did you know that the Society has a liaison to the Continuing Education Collaborative?

Chris Henrickson represents us at the multidisciplinary social work consortium known as the Michigan Social Work Continuing Education Collaborative. This includes attending all meetings of the Collaborative, representing health care practice needs, issues, and concerns associated with the development, promotion, and maintenance of appropriate and competent health care SW practice, as well as SW practice in general in the state of Michigan, in accordance with the statutory requirements of licensure. Chris:

- Attends and participates in all meetings of the Collaborative,
- Reviews of proposed continuing education programs as per the requirements and procedures of the Collaborative,
- Serves on related Collaborative project groups or committees to ensure representation of the health care SW practice perspective,
- Communicates concerns to the Collaborative pursuant to those articulated by the SSWLHC-MI Board and membership.
- Communicates developments, requirements and concerns for SW continuing educations to the SSWLHC-MI Board.

For further information check out the website at: <http://www.socialworkcec.com/>

MEET Andrea Muladore, our Education Chair

I'd like to talk about what you're planning for the distance learning piece, as the Education Committee is planning to send out a membership survey that will address the same.

Andrea has been a member since 1987 and on the board since '88 (so much for new blood!!). She's served as Regional Rep, Membership Recognition, By-Laws Chair and Education Chair, several times, and is currently serving in that capacity. She's also been Secretary (again, numerous years), Nominating Chair Elect and Chair, President Elect and President. Andrea, is there any board position that you haven't held? Andrea says that she has found this organization to be pivotal in my development as a leader in health care social work, and continually gain from the networking and collegiality offered.

Andrea's hope this year is to better understand the needs of the membership related to the offerings of this organization. She believes that with the inception of required CE's, there are many opportunities for education, and the Society needs to determine what unique gaps we can fill. She'd also like to see us develop some new leaders, as many of the "old guard" are moving on to other activities. Thirdly, I would like to see us expand our membership (active) to the northern and western sides of the state. Andrea believes that there are many skilled medical social workers in these areas, and we need to draw them in to the organization - both for the skill sets they offer to the society, and to see what the society can do for them! Andrea plans to send out a membership survey on educational programming needs, so look for that in the near future!

Andrea's entire career has been in medical social work. She has been at MidMichigan Medical Center-Midland since 1981 where she "grew up" to management since '87. She currently is responsible for Social Work & Transition Planning, Spiritual Care and Employee Assistance (EAP) departments. She also coordinates the SCAAN efforts for the health system, and am a liaison to several community boards and task forces related to human services.

Ellen Kachalsky, our treasurer

Ellen has been serving as our treasurer for a number of years, and our financial integrity is due in large part to her careful diligence and attention. Ellen is current the Social Worker for Hematology and the Adult Hemophilia Treatment Center at Henry Ford Hospital, where she has been for the past 10 years, She previously worked at St. Mary Hospital, Providence Hospital, Sinai Hospital and Harper Hospital, where she worked in the Oncology unit with Breast Cancer, GI Cancers, and Bone Marrow Transplants. She has a special interest in pain and pain management, and is part of a multi-disciplinary team conducting a study about acute and chronic pain in the Bleeding Disorder Community. Ellen has spoken on pain management recently at one of the Society's continuing education programs.

As Treasurer, Ellen would like to see our chapter continue to grow and remain a viable means for health care social workers to connect and address issues of common concern and provide relevant continuing education.

Karen Neuman, Publications

I recently got corralled into helping with the newsletter, after successfully hiding from board responsibilities for few years. It's ok though, I think is a great group, and I'm exciting about strengthening our relationship with NASW so that together, we can strengthen our efforts in advocating for health care reform. I'm currently in academia, serving as the Director of Oakland University's Social Work Program. Prior to teaching, I worked as a hospital social worker for many years, primarily in PM&R and then as the Director of Social Work at Garden City. I'd like to see more collaboration between universities and social workers in health care, and with Oakland's new medical school and partnership with Beaumont, I think new opportunities will be emerging. I'd like to see our members contribute to the newsletter but also to the professional knowledge base, and I'd be glad to help anyone interested in professional writing and publication. Email contributions to: Neuman2@oakland.edu

Update from the Michigan Social Work CEC

During the past three months, 449 Provider applications were reviewed. Since the onset of the CE course review process, there have been 2,019 continuing education courses offered with the approval of the Michigan Social Work Collaborative. In the past quarter (January - March, 2008), the Collaborative Education Coordinator received an average of 15 phone calls per day regarding continuing education. The Collaborative maintains a website that in general has been an effective tool and has served both providers and social workers seeking information. The website received 1,772 inquiries this quarter, alone, and the number of individual visits (or "hits") to the CEC website for the same period was 305,302! So the CEC website the volume of activity is quite high, and is time-intensive for the CE Coordinator to manage, along with the phone calls and other demands upon her time. However, while challenging, it is wonderful the number of quality program offerings is growing as well! The Collaborative is also examining trends in educational programming offered to date in order to ensure that high quality offerings are available throughout the state in the future.

The contact person for Continuing Education is Robin Mingus and she can be reached via the NASW website under Continuing Education or by phone at 517-487-1548. She is terrific at her job. She somehow manages to keep the website updated and the process of reviews timely, while remaining calm and gracious!

Audrey Matisoff and Chris Henrickson

Social Policy Update

Sens. Jay Rockefeller (D-WV), Olympia Snowe (R-ME) and Ted Kennedy (D-MA) yesterday introduced the Economic Recovery in Health Care Act (S. 2819), which would delay by one year Medicaid rules expected to strip billions of dollars in funding from the program. Like the AHA-backed Protecting the Medicaid Safety Net Act (H.R. 5613), the Senate bill would extend the current moratoria on payments to public providers, graduate medical education, school-based services, and rehabilitative services, and halt impending or existing regulations that cut funds for targeted case management, allowable provider taxes, outpatient clinic and hospital services. In addition, the Senate bill delays implementation of a Children's Health Insurance Program directive that would affect access to the program for low-income children, and provides targeted fiscal relief to help states deal with shortfalls in the current economic downturn. In an alert to members today, AHA asked hospital leaders to urge their senators to co-sponsor the bill.

Meet Audrey Matisoff. LMSW, NASW Liaison

Audrey has been on the Board since December 2006. In addition to being the alternate for the Continuing Education Collaborative, she is the NASW Liaison. In this role, she attends both Board Meetings to keep both groups updated and aware of each other's efforts and concerns. One of her responsibilities is to help educate other Social Workers in the state about the importance of both groups and the benefits of affiliation. Audrey would also like to get more people in the Lansing area aware of the SSWLHC. She has been the Clinical and Deputy Director of the Lansing Area AIDS Network (LAAN) for nearly 10 years. The network serves about 10 counties and interfaces with many Social Workers in health care while coordinating holistic care for our clients. Prior to my work at LAAN I worked in Geriatric Mental Health and Hospice.

continued

Education:

Degree

University

License/Registration Type

Standing Committees:

Please indicate interest in serving on any of the following Committees.

By-Laws **Long Range Planning** **Nominations**
 Publication **Annual Conference** **Scholarships**
 Social Health Policy

Board Positions:

Please indicate interest in any of the following Board positions.

President **Education Chair** **Secretary**
 President-Elect **Membership Recognition** **Treasurer**
 Publications Chair **Nominations Chair** **Membership**

Comments: Please specify if you are interested in hosting a regional presentation at your organization, if you have an area of expertise, which you would like to present, or have any other suggestions or comments you think we should know.

Mail To: **Lise Kolinski, Membership Chair**

Medical Social Work
Munson Medical Center
1105 Sixth St.
Traverse City, MI 49684

For additional membership information, please contact Lise Kolinski at lkolinski@mhc.net or 231-935-6380.

For Chapter Use Only:

Dues Received (Check # _____)

Date

Membership Card Mailed

Date

Information forwarded to Committee Chair

Date