

Social Work Leaders in Health Care
5/13/08

Business Meeting Agenda:

Report on National Conference in Montreal: Beth and Dana attended. They were pleased that it focused on medical social work. Attendees shared innovative ideas for community resources. They found they were encouraged and felt supported by their colleagues for their roles. The International focus was excellent. Many global health issues were presented. Charles Robbins, President of the Society recognized 900 social workers recently at the UN for Social Worker Month. Sheila Thorn was an international speaker and focused on minority representation in our society. Soon 50% of the US population will speak Spanish or another language and/or will be a person of color. The next conference will be April 22nd – 25th, 2009, in New Orleans. It is hoped that we will be able to send two delegates again for this conference.

Treasurer's Report: Jackie reported she has distributed 2 checks. One for the cost of bagels at our last workshop and one for \$1000 for the conference cost. Balance in account is \$1720. Tax ID # is 31-1278197.

Website: Dana and Chris will be working together on upgrading the website.

Health Alliance Report: Christ Hospital and St. Luke Hospital are continuing their separation from the Health Alliance. The reported merger of St. Luke and St. Elizabeth is still in the works.

Association for the Blind: A grant was received for a social worker to do outreach in stressed socio-economic areas such as Over the Rhine and lower Price Hill for the assessment and treatment of eye sight problems.

Home Care Services: The price of gasoline is affecting home care companies. Hospice staff are very pleased to schedule around their patients' wishes and believe this enhances the quality of life. However, with the increase in the price of gasoline, it has become more stressful if a geographical schedule is not maintained. It is unknown at this time whether the availability of RNs for homecare will decrease as gas prices climb.

Long Term Care Insurance: Hospital and home care social workers are encouraged to inquire about long term care insurance with their 50 + year old patients who are likely to need increased care in their future. The cost of long term care is still relatively manageable at that age. Hospice staff are finding that very few people have opted for this insurance and patients and families continue to be horrified to find out that they will be obligated to pay over \$250 per day for 24 hour in-home care and up to \$365 for high end nursing home care. Policies should be looked at closely to see if they have a per day ceiling (i.e. \$150 max per day) or a per month ceiling (\$4500 per month). The latter may provide more flexibility for patients but likely will cost more. Also note how inflation is considered in the policy. The State of Ohio recently sent out letters to all Ohioans about this issue. It was also discussed that discharge planners include social work visits on the homecare plan when patients are leaving the hospital.

Presentation by Karen Stamper, RN of Vitas: Predicting Prognosis: The Clinically Appropriate Hospice Patient

Next Meeting: **Tuesday, September 9th, 2008 at 8:00am for Business Meeting and 9 am for Training on Supervision by Dana.**

Respectfully submitted: Jan Holloway, LISW 5/13/08