

## NASW Oregon Chapter Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

May 3, 2008

**Attendance:** Joella Anglin, Donna Arriaga, Catherine Beckett, Luana Berens, Larry Betcher, Victoria M. Bones, Bill Eldridge, Dennis Heath, Ralph Holcomb, Andrea Miles, Dave Olson, Liz Stuart, Sara Westerfeld. **Staff:** Stacey Skala Orr.

**Excused Absence:** Luan Carone, Don Didier, Mark Wheeler

**Resigned:** Corliss McKeever, Lydia Rivera

The meeting was called to order at 10:10 AM.

**Consent Agenda:** Bill moved that consent agenda be approved as presented. Victoria seconded. Action: Unanimous Approval

### President's Report:

1) Luana reviewed her correspondence on the proposed rule changes considered by the OR Board of Clinical Social Workers. Because the issue is contentious, she urged the BCSW to step back and study the issue especially related to record keeping. Ralph re-emphasized his concern that this body not be seen as supporting any proposal to weaken our commitment to psycho-social-environmental assessments. The rules changes were approved by the BCSW except for the part about record keeping. That will be taken up again late summer or early fall with input to be solicited from licensed folks who can help draft rules that reflect all the concerns presented.

2) Mental Health Association of Oregon/Portland is looking for support for a movie on James Chassey. Larry proposed that the Board send the organization \$100 and a letter of support. Catherine seconded the motion. The board agreed that letter to be sent by Luana ask that the movie should focus on the incident and positive steps, not trashing the cops.

3) ED Evaluation. Dave sent out a survey to elected & appointed leadership soliciting reviews of Stacey's performance. Results will be compiled and shared w/ Stacey. She has also done a self-evaluation. Personnel committee will meet w/ her to review, discuss next year, updates to contract, raises, etc. later in May w/ all updates to her contract to be finished prior to June 30<sup>th</sup>.

### Membership Report:

Currently we're at a seven-year high: 1756 members. More specifically, we're at an all-time high for regular members: in '07 we had 1299, today we have 1376. Our student membership has gone down since last year: 117 in 2007 vs. 93 today. This was a matter of consternation for the Board. Stacey said that she will speak to BSW and MSW program directors for overall relationship building between SSWs and NASW, and to solicit their involvement and discussion of NASW w/ students to help raise this statistic. Luana said that although the membership numbers fluctuate, they seem to be "creeping up."

Donna spoke enthusiastically about the accomplishments of the Membership Committee. The committee has been revitalized and is presently assessing "benefits and barriers" to membership. It is planning for strategic outreach. The primary audience is *students and early career folks*. Toward that end, they're engaging in tutoring, self-care workshops, a licensure event, and are considering an ethics workshop, all aimed at students. The committee plans to hone its outcomes, concentrating on specific concrete goals. There was some discussion of Lobby Day. Larry suggested we may not put it on because without a

student intern to coordinate it, we lack the volunteers to pull it together next March or April. Also there needs to be more leadership/board involvement in Lobby Day.

**Executive Director's Report:**

1) Social work month recap: Stacey reported lots of activity: the conference drew 185 people this year, a big increase over last year, when we drew 105 people. The conference made a \$10,000 profit. Various activities occurred across the state: in Rogue Valley (35-40 people), in Columbia Gorge (10 people), in the Metro area (25-30 people), and a University of Portland Legislative Advocacy Day which we co-sponsored.

2) Public education campaign had some activity including TriMet & MAX train ads in the Portland metro area; as well as Rogue Valley bus ads co-sponsored by PSU SSW. Potentially in 2009, NASW will approach additional co-sponsors.

3) SWRI: National coordinator has been hired. Oregon Chapter new staff member came on board May 1. The new hire's name is Don Schweitzer. He'll be working 30 hours a month until June 30, 2009. His first tasks will involve labor force identification, staffing SWRI meetings w/ public partners, etc. The SWRI task force is busy brainstorming ideas. Legacy Health Systems have now joined SWRI meetings.

Gordon Smith endorsed the federal legislation creating a fund to reinvest in the profession of social work. If passed, it will fund national research center and demonstration grants, among other things.

4) Stacey reviewed the Chapter FY 07-08 Strategic Action plan, as part of overall SWRI plan.

5) Stacey reported on our meeting w/ BCSW staff and our lobbyist re: the proposed Social Work Practice Act. BCSW clearly wants our support and lobbying, but there are issues around exemptions for public employees. BCSW is aware that we have not yet taken a position to support or not support the proposed BCSW Practice Act, and the possibility we would remain neutral owing to our concerns. There was long discussion by the Board on Title Protection for Oregon social workers.

*The board took a 10 minute break.*

**Treasurer/Finance Committee Report:**

1) Ralph and Stacey reviewed the March financial statements. The only concern is the investment income being down as part of overall stock market fluctuations this year. Victoria made a suggestion to get a Certified Financial Planner to review our investments. If we use one who is "fee-only" and doesn't also sell investments, stocks, etc., we'd get a more unbiased perspective.

2) The FY 08-09 Chapter budget was presented and reviewed. Chapter is budgeting for a small deficit. Each of the past 2 years budgets with deficits have ended in a surplus and this year we will likely break even. Catherine moved and Dave seconded the motion to accept the budget.

Action: Unanimous approval of FY 08-09 budget.

3) There was much discussion on the mileage and travel policy revisions including increase in mileage deduction to 50 miles per event and the lowering of reimbursement rate to 75%

of federal mileage rate. Dave motioned to accept travel policy as written, seconded by Dennis. Action: Unanimous approval. Policy will take effect July 1, 2008.

4) The Board reacted enthusiastically to Stacey's proposal that the Chapter revise its website to reflect the norms of the younger generation of social workers, labeled "Web 2.0." Dennis moved and Victoria seconded a proposal to use \$10,000 from our reserves to create a Web 2.0 website that would be a national standard which also includes some funds for a branding campaign.

Action: Unanimous Approval. Work will commence in FY 08-09.

**Ad Hoc Personnel and Finance Committee Joint Report:**

There was consensus approval that these items remain on the Board's radar. Any office relocation would be in FY 09-10 or later. Staffing expansion options were reviewed. Consensus approval to go forward w/ ad hoc committee suggestion: start discussion with current staff that the positions as re-written and with increased hours will take effect July 1, 2009. The expansion is subject to financial review of sustainability in FY 09-10 budget. Also subject to financial review is the 2 year pilot project of ED being fulltime which ends June 30, 2009. Continuing ED full time and the staff hours expansion will need to be decided in spring 2009 as FY 09-10 budget is put together.

**Retreat Follow-Up:**

Larry, Dennis, Catherine, Don and Stacey will meet to begin planning retreat format/schedule for Sept. 13-14, 2008. Also to begin looking for 2009 site. Board evaluation forms handed out, filled in and returned to Stacey who will compile and send us the results which may also help guide FY 08-09 board meeting format.

**Recognition Certificates** were awarded for those ending their term of service on the board.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:15 PM.

Presented by Ralph Holcomb, volunteer note taker for this meeting.

Next meeting: July 12, 2008 which will include Orientation for new board members.