

NASW Oregon Chapter Board of Directors
May 2009 Meeting Packet
Reports

Aging Network Update

Submitted by Stacey Skala Orr, Staff

The Chapter has re-activated the *Aging Network* (formerly known as the Aging & Disability Council), and has appointed Cindy Rapp and Sibelia Chaiyahat as the Co-Chairs. The Aging Network is planning a launch event on May 15th – a free breakfast forum featuring networking and a 1 CE presentation. To date, the event has over 20 RSVPs. We secured a sponsor for the event, so it is budget neutral. Next steps are to have regular planning meetings to coordinate quarterly breakfast forums and other activities. The network will not be staffed, but will be supported by the Chapter in terms of office space for meetings and communications to membership about the network's activities. At this point, the network does not have a budget and may approach the Board about establishing a designated fund if they choose to plan events/activities that generate revenue for their activities.

Ethics Committee Update

Submitted by Krystal Ashling, Ethics Chair

The ethics committee has provided approximately ten ethics consultations to members in FY 08-09. After an ethics committee member is assigned to a consultation, each case is reviewed during ethics committee meetings and discussed as a group. Members are also referred to the national office, who provides free consultations twice per week.

The committee recently discussed possible ethics training topics that NASW could potentially sponsor. Ideas included ethical and legal issues as they pertain to child custody cases, managing ethics in the workplace, and managing emotional attachment to clients.

Gary Loomas has agreed to contact the Investigator at the Oregon Board of Clinical Social Workers to join our next meeting to help us understand trends and the most cited reasons for Board complaints / ethics violations to help guide our education & outreach efforts.

We also discussed putting together a letter to the Dean at PSU SSW and proposing mandatory ethics course for first year MSW students, as opposed to the infused/integrated approach of ethics education into other courses. We plan to look at what other social work MSW programs offer in the way of ethics courses, as well as CSWE requirements. In addition, we discussed education & training opportunities for field instructors on integrating ethics into supervision and how NASW might support this.

Our next meeting is scheduled for June 5th from 9-10:30 a.m.

Legislative Committee Report

Submitted by Jessica Ritter, Legislative Chair

Our activities over the last few months have included the following:

- During session, the legislative committee meets every three weeks in order to strategize and to get updates on legislation of interest from lobbyist, Maura Roche.
- Monitoring and tracking 50 bills of interest to NASW.
- Sending out legislative updates and alerts to members of the legislative committee and the membership at large to request that they get involved by testifying in Salem or contacting their legislators.

- Being active on a number of bills this session. We provided testimony in Salem on the following bills: SB 177 (Title Protection Act); HB 2407 (Student Loan Relief bill); HB 3205 (School social worker bill); HB 2461 (the beer tax); HB 2391 (established aging and disability resource center program in DHS); and SB 966 (paid family leave).
- Social Work Day of Action in Salem. Social work students, faculty, and practitioners converged at the state capitol on March 5th, 2009 to receive advocacy training and to lobby on behalf of various bills that were identified as priorities for NASW. This was a very successful event!
- Monitoring the budget crisis in Oregon and keeping the membership informed (see below write-up, which will be featured in the next newsletter).

Update on the DHS Budget Cuts

This is a grim time for social workers due to the national economic crisis and the budget shortfall facing our state. According to the last revenue forecast, the state was \$3.1 billion short of continuing all current General Fund and Lottery Funds programs for the next two years, nearly 20% less than needed to maintain these existing programs. The next revenue forecast is scheduled to be released in mid-May. Representative Buckley and others on the Ways and Means Committee are anticipating a \$4.4 billion budget reduction in order to balance the State's budget.

The State Legislature is expected to take a balanced approach to budgeting for 2009-2011 by using federal stimulus dollars and the state's reserve funds. Lawmakers will have to balance the remainder of the budget through program reductions or possibly revenue enhancement.. The Co-Chairs of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means asked state agencies to submit reduction option lists totaling 30% of the amount needed to continue their existing programs through the 2009-11 biennium. These lists were posted on the Legislative Fiscal Office web page on April 3rd for review by the public and all interested parties.

As you can imagine, a 30% cut would have severe implications for Addictions, Mental Health, Child Welfare, and services for seniors and the disabled.

While the subcommittees of the Ways and Means Committee are looking into fundamental changes to the state's program delivery structure, the Co-Chairs have produced a budget outline that describes three different scenarios for balancing the budget. These budget scenarios can be summarized as follows: 1) a budget relying basically on all reductions; 2) a budget using a combination of some reserve funds, some revenue enhancement, and program reductions; and 3) a budget using all of the reserve funds, more revenue enhancement, and fewer program reductions.

In order to obtain public input on these three options, the Joint Committee on Ways and Means held a series of road shows in eight communities across the state in April.

The Human Services Coalition of Oregon (HSCO) is telling lawmakers that human services are critical in this struggling economy and that human services dollars stimulate the economy. They are also calling for a fair and balanced approach which would seek additional revenue enhancement from those most able to pay, Oregon's wealthiest individuals and corporations. The following messaging/talking points are recommended for all HSCO partner organizations:

1. Fully utilize Federal Stimulus Money
2. Use all existing state reserves
3. Support revenue enhancement from those most able to pay
4. Minimize budget reductions, especially to health and human services

Past President's Advisory (PPA) Council Report

Submitted by Tom Hogan, PPA Council Chair

Summary of Accomplishments/Activities During FY 08-09

- Continued to meet on a bi-monthly basis & network with past Presidents.
- Practice/Title Protection Act: Continued discussion, support and input. Current bill SB 177-A, with Chapter and Board amendments, is before the Legislature. Consider work in this area to be a priority for social work in Oregon.
- History Project: Progress here this past year. There are three parts discussed:
 - Oral history piece
 - History of SW in Oregon
 - History of SW Education in Oregon

On oral history Joe Gallegos, University of Portland Bachelor's program Director, had students complete two interviews. This was coordinated with the SWR Taskforce and a presentation was part of event on Feb. 20th. Oral history gathering has great potential and can continue. On second two pieces, Tom Hogan met with Nancy Korloff at PSU. She has archives at PSU and the RRI for both earlier days of SW in Oregon and also SW education. Basically the discussion at this point is that both of those topics are the subject for books. She will do some work on them. The PPA is willing to have a coordinating role as necessary.

- Child Custody Guidelines: Continued discussion and support of guidelines developed by the Oregon Chapter Ethics Committee, being used as a model. National Office has a process for developing guidelines at the national level and has developed a work group, so the ball is in their court. Would consider this another priority and would support in any way we can.
- Social Work Month: Sponsored a service opportunity in 2007. Discussion this year, but no time to plan an event(s).
- Event. Discussion of some type of social or educational event.
- Media and Public Pulse: Connection with media discussion & development; Tom Hogan obtained producer designation at Willamette Falls Cable TV.

Rogue Valley District Report

Submitted by Gretchen Thiel, District Chair

Accomplishments/Activities:

- We continue to host a monthly Social Night for NASW members at a local restaurant on the 2nd Friday evening of each month.
- On March 18th, the Rogue District held a Social Work Month celebration which included presentations from Don Schweitzer on SWR and Stacey Skala Orr on legislation related to our profession. Approximately 40 social workers attended the complimentary luncheon. Several current MSW students also attended.
- Victoria Bones continues to coordinate CEU opportunities utilizing the Fred Reamer DVD training on Ethics to social workers in the community, including a large group of social workers at Rogue Valley Medical Center.

- Steve Neuberger, MSW, who is the Southern Oregon organizer for Health Care for American NOW!, attended our April meeting to talk about his organization's efforts to secure affordable health care for all. He provided information about local events in the next few months to educate and mobilize community members. Several members in attendance agreed to serve as "captains" in disseminating "Action Alerts" from Steve and his organization to people in the community who may desire to support their efforts.

Current Projects/Goals:

- Continuing Education: We will be offering a three-hour training by Roxanne Rae, LCSW, on sandtray/sand play on October 9th, from 9-12, at Smullin Center in Medford.
- We will be taking nominations for the positions of District Chair and the district's Treasurer at our next meeting.
- We plan to offer another CEU opportunities in 2009.
- Nan Gunderson, LCSW, and two other social workers in the Rogue Valley are interested in increasing mental health resources for people in the valley on Medicare/Medicaid. Nan is one social worker in private practice who accepts Medicaid/Medicare for her services. While this is not a current project of the district, we have lent our support to their efforts and offered to assist in concrete ways, if appropriate, to support their efforts.

Social Networking Project Report

Submitted by Emily Noack, BSW Student Representative

Our online social networking profiles have been a success this year, connecting with 400 friends on Facebook and 214 friends on MySpace. I received e-mails from non-members asking about NASW and how to join, advertised upcoming chapter events, posted photos taken at chapter events, managed the events calendar so friends could easily view events each month, and recruited interest in activities such as the CE book club.

The profile pages were also helpful for members to connect with each other, creating a sense of community and common interest. Over the course of this past year, Facebook has become the favored networking site. While the number of friends on MySpace hovered above 200, the Facebook site is continually growing, reaching 400 thus far. The layout of Facebook seems easier to use. Specifically, completing bulletin reminders, providing links to websites and current updates, and sharing photos from events are uncomplicated on Facebook.

Overall, the networking sites have proven useful in connecting with other social workers and people interested in what NASW Oregon has to offer. I would suggest continuing these profile pages in effort to continuing building the online community as web 2.0 sites become increasingly popular and more widely used by people of all ages. Our profile pages are a convenient way to carry out our mission and promote all chapter activities for today's internet-driven consumers.

Social Work Reinvestment (SWR) Initiative Report

Submitted by Don Schweitzer, SWR Coordinator

The spring has been an exciting time for SWR and its taskforce members. Graciously moderated by Emily Harris of OPB's Think Out Loud, the Future of Social Work forum on February 20th was big hit with many attendees requesting more forums such as this one to continue the discussion on how the profession needs to respond to the challenges and opportunities of the 21st Century. We are currently looking at ways to make a video of this event available to members, schools, chapter districts, and others so we can sustain these types of discussions lest Flexner rears his ugly head again.

Additionally, the 2009 NASW Day of Action was another huge success with over 175 social work students and practitioners in attendance. With the state's economic hardship and threats of budget cuts to social services coming from all directions, creating this level of social work presence in the state capitol, meeting with legislators, and advocating for the profession and those we serve was critical. Working collectively as a profession is important now more than ever. Thank you to everyone who participated!

Additionally, NASW leadership has been meeting with the other healthcare professional organizations and the Oregon Healthcare Workforce Institute (OHWI). We feel it's critical that as momentum for healthcare reform continues to build that our profession is at the table insuring that social work is firmly planted in any reform that occurs. We simply feel you cannot talk about healthcare without talking about social work. I'm pleased to say those at the center of this debate understand this, and will help insure we are at the table.

Much has been accomplished over the past 9 months of the SWR Initiative here in Oregon, but alas, my time is short. With just 2 months left in my contract, it's time to begin wrapping up the work we've done. Priorities between now and June 30th include finalizing the Oregon Social Work Workforce Survey findings into a succinct/useful report, and a full day retreat in June for SWR Taskforce members to engage in strategic planning for carrying this initiative forward.