



SOCIETY FOR SOCIAL WORK LEADERSHIP IN HEALTH CARE MICHIGAN CHAPTER Newsletter, Fall 2009

2009 Board Members

Dave Neal, President

Kathy Wade, President Elect

Sarah Allen, Secretary

**John Carey,
Membership Recognition**

Doug Dault, Nominations

Sarah Eisenberg, Membership

**Chris Henrickson,
Michigan Continuing Education
Collaboration Liaison**

Sandra Iaderosa, Education

Ellen Kachalsky, Treasurer

Carrie Ross, NASW Board Liaison

President's Message – Dave Neal

It does not seem possible that my terms as president will be ending in December and this will be my last message to you. These two years have flown by. They have been challenging with many rewards and many frustrations.

I believe that social work has so much to offer to the delivery of health care services. Individuals do this daily in providing clinical care and administration in their hospitals or other settings. It requires an organized structure to participate in the larger health care debate, in establishing health care policies, and in establishing best practices. The Society and the Michigan Chapter have so much potential in contributing in these ways and in providing assistance for individual members. I want to thank each and every one of you for being a member and supporting the work of the Michigan Chapter the past two years.

We have accomplished a lot in the past two years. The major issue has been the challenge of affiliation with the National Society. A commitment has been made and we are now working on the mechanics of making this happen. You will be learning soon about how you can become a national member in January at no cost to you. Affiliation will continue to be a challenge. The strengths of the two organizations must now be integrated to better serve members.

We have established a working relationship with the Michigan Chapter of NASW. We were able to develop a Health Care Policy Statement on health care reform with NASW which has been sent to our US Senators and Representatives. Its guiding principles have been used in other health care reform discussions. There are other joint committees and on going discussions on how we can partner together to better utilize our resources and represent Social Work.

The Chapter has become a member of the organization supporting parity in Michigan. Speaker Dillon has committed to a vote this fall once the budget is resolved. The Chapter has also taken positions on other issues in the state.

The Chapter has developed a new web site. This is enhancing communication and getting information about the chapter out to members and the public. There is lots of work to be done to better utilize it as a communication tool.

A major frustration is the failure to have a fall conference this year. The Board appreciates that our annual conference is important for members. I have spoken with Kathy Wade and she has assured me that it will be a priority to have a conference in the winter.

The conference experience is a good example of the challenge facing the Board. Working in a health care setting is very demanding these days and members are not getting strong support from their employers to conduct Chapter business and attend meetings. Projects seem to take longer than anticipated and some do not get accomplished.



SOCIETY FOR SOCIAL WORK LEADERSHIP IN HEALTH CARE MICHIGAN CHAPTER Newsletter, Fall 2009

President's Message - continued

A major positive for me has been the opportunity to meet several new persons and to work with them on the Board. I want to thank all of the folks who have served on the Board or in other ways during the past two years. It has been fun working with everyone and I appreciate the contributions everyone has made.

I will remain on the Board as Past President and look forward to working with Kathy Wade as the new president.

State Financial Crises

Since Governor Granholm was elected, 1m jobs have been lost in Michigan and 700,000 individuals added to Medicaid rolls with no expansion of eligibility. In the coming year half of the children born in Michigan will be on Medicaid.

The stimulus money will expire on December, 2010. The 2010-11 budget will then face a 3B deficit at today's revenues. State revenues continue to fall and it is not clear when it will end. When it does, there will be no rapid increase in revenue as has happened in the past. Michigan has not paid over 3B in unemployment costs to the federal government. Michigan has gone from one of the wealthiest states to one of the poorest. Citizens must come to appreciate this and decide what services they want and to the extent taxes should be increased to support them.

Janet Olszewski pointed out that there are only four state departments with large General Fund (GF) support to make up the deficit. They are: The Department of Community Health, Department of Human Services, Education (K-12 and Higher Ed), and Department of Corrections. Within the Department of Community Health there are only three budgets with large amount of GF dollars. They are: Medicaid, Community Mental Health and state facilities. It is easy to appreciate that all of these places are budgets which effect social workers and consumers we serve. As Janet said, she does not like making cuts in any of these services. The reality is that more cuts will come in next year's budget.

Health Care Reform may help some in the **future**. Even if it passes this year, it will not have an effect for a couple of years. The good news is that all of the bills that have come out of committees in both the House and Senate include mental health and substance abuse parity. All have an increase in Medicaid eligibility to approximately 133 per cent of poverty.

I believe that the Chapter needs to be involved in these debates especially as it relates to health care. In doing so, the Board needs your help! First we need your ideas and recommendations for potential cuts and revenue increases. We also need you to be advocates for issues as they arise. It can be talking to family and friends about the issues to help them understand the crises we are in. Talking and writing to legislators will also be important.

David Neal's summary of presentations at the Community Mental Health Board Association Conference in Traverse City, October, 2009.



**SOCIETY FOR SOCIAL WORK
LEADERSHIP IN HEALTH CARE
MICHIGAN CHAPTER
Newsletter, Fall 2009**

New Resource for Veterans

The U-M Depression Center, in conjunction with the Michigan Army National Guard and Michigan State, has developed an outreach program called Buddy-to-Buddy, which trains veterans to be peer support to military service members who served in Iraq and Afghanistan. These trained veterans help Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom veterans overcome stigma issues associated with asking for help, assist the service member with adjusting to life outside the military community and link those who need services to mental health and other resources. The Depression Center is actively recruiting veterans with mental health experience to be volunteers in this program. Training and ongoing supervision will be provided.

If you are interested in the program or in volunteering, please contact Jennifer Di Falco, Program Manager at difalco@umich.edu. There will also be a link to the Buddy-to-Buddy program through the Chapter's web site <http://buddytobuddy.org/>.

**The Impact of Health Care Reform on Social Work Practice:
A Forum for Discussion**

Speakers: Michigan State Representative Pamela Byrnes

Marianne Udow-Phillips, Director, Center for Healthcare

Research and Transformation Center, Ann Arbor

Rick Bossard, Government Relations Officer, University of Michigan

Topic: How the pending health care reform bill(s) are expected to impact all areas of clinical social work practice. An open discussion forum will follow brief presentations by the Guest Speakers.

Thursday, December 3, 2009, 4:30 to 6:30pm

Rachel Upjohn Building, 4250 Plymouth Road, Ann Arbor

(approx 1/4 mile east of US-23...free, plentiful and accessible parking)

FREE to NASW, SSWLHC Members and UMHS staff; preregistration requested (email: byronm@med.umich.edu) by December 1, 2009. Refreshments and small door prizes.

Cosponsored by NASW-MI, the Society for Social Work Leadership in Health Care and the UM Health System Dept of Social Work.