

NASW Florida Chapter Bulletin

Spring 2017 Edition

Message from Chapter President

by Katharine Campbell, PhD, LCSW

Greetings everyone! The Social Work Month theme of Social Workers Stand Up is continuing to shine here in Florida as NASW Florida has been quite busy during the past several months. I was so proud to see the several hundred social workers standing up at this year's LEAD. What an amazing turnout and everyone was so engaged and prepared. LEAD coordinator Seth Berkowitz and Legislative Chair Dawn Brown worked hard to keep communication going throughout LEAD with on-site communication as well as securing a shout out on the floor to social workers by Rep. Daisy Baez from District 114. If you missed LEAD or want to get more involved, there are a lot of opportunities, just talk to your local unit chair or contact the state office (<http://www.naswfl.org/local-units.html>).

Additionally we have been planning for the upcoming 2017 Social Work Conference. You should have received your conference brochure in the mail. The Conference Committee has done a great job of offering a variety of workshops and this is one packed conference where you can get up to 19 contact hours. You will find at the conference the new required courses "Laws and Rules Update" (a 3-hour course), "Supervision Update" (a 4-hour course) for qualified supervisors and some great pre-conference intensives.

We continue to work with a variety of other tasks that

ensure your voices are being heard as well. For example, our Delegate Assembly will be meeting shortly and we have elections coming up for a number of units. Our chapter is strategically developing a social media



Katharine Campbell, PhD, LCSW
NASW-FL President

plan
(have you
signed

up for our text messages or liked our Facebook page yet?) along with continuing work on ensuring diversity is addressed within the profession.

I want to take a moment to recognize the chairs of NASW Florida Units. They are each volunteers that work hard to ensure that opportunities are

being offered across the state for members, such as networking events and continuing education opportunities. NASW Florida is a very active chapter that has a lot happening that impacts you whether you are in private practice, an aging agency, medical social work, children's social work, educational social work or any other field.

Please take a minute to read about all the active work happening and consider getting involved. It is when Social Workers Stand Up that we accomplish so much more.



Now you can call or TEXT NASW-FL at 1-800-352-6279.

Plus, you can sign up to receive periodic text alerts. Text 'NASW' to 1-800-352-6279 to sign up today*!

*Message and data rates may apply.

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Elizabeth Ferguson, LCSW
Volusia/Flagler Unit

Executive Director's Update

by Jim Akin, ACSW, NASW-FL Executive Director



Jim Akin, ACSW
NASW-FL Executive Director

The NASW-FL Board of Directors met March 24-25, 2017. Highlights from the Board meeting include:

1. The financial health of the Chapter is positive, the income from July 2016- February 2017 continues to stay ahead of expenses. The 2015-2016 Audit was reviewed with an increase in unrestricted net assets, no operational problems noted.
2. The Chapter, primarily through the units has offered over 125 workshops serving 2,000 participants.
3. The 18 units all celebrated very successful social work month events with 900 people in attendance and 61 social work awards presented.
4. Membership continues to improve with a slow growth in the last two months. Unit leadership, board leadership and staff will work on informing membership on what the Chapter is doing to benefit social work practice in Florida.
5. 2017 LEAD was very successful with 800 participants. Please see the article on LEAD on page 6.
6. 2017 Legislation was reviewed and more information on the session is found on page 7.
7. The Diversity Task Force presented a membership survey which will be sent electronically to the membership to record their views on what NASW-FL should be doing to promote diversity.
8. The Supervisor Leadership in Aging grant was funded by the Hartford Foundation and NASW National. The Florida Chapter completed its second and last year of training at the end of April.
9. The Supervision Task Force presented NASW-FL course outline for the Supervision Update workshop and the plan to rewrite the supervision guidelines.
10. NASW-FL will be updating the required CE information sheet for 2017-2019.
11. Two areas, the need for more school social workers and increasing the passage rate of the LCSW exam, need to be reviewed for action in the future.
12. The Chapter Committee on Nomination Leadership Identification (CCNLI) is reviewing unit award winners to select the State award winners and establishing the 2017 election slate.
13. A social media plan was reviewed by the Board for Chapter improvements for the website, texting, Facebook, tweeting, email and other types of electronic communications.
14. Plans to have a social work leadership summit were discussed.

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Call 1-800-742-4089 or <http://www.socialworkers.org/join.asp>

Statement: NASW Strongly Opposes Legislation to Repeal Affordable Care Act

The National Association of Social Workers (NASW) strongly opposes legislation to repeal the Affordable Care Act because it would have a devastating impact on the health of our nation's most vulnerable citizens and make it more difficult to provide affordable health care for poor and low-income Americans.

The House narrowly passed a revised version of the American Health Care Act (AHCA) by a vote of 217-213. The revisions included new amendments that were fashioned to appeal to both conservative and moderate members of the Republican majority.

A change which is being referred to as the Upton Amendment – named after the Congressman who introduced the new language — adds \$8 billion to cover costs for the “risk pool” of persons with pre-existing medical conditions.

While the changes were successful in garnering sufficient votes to pass AHCA they did nothing to alleviate the devastating impact of AHCA on the nation's most vulnerable citizens. In fact, the bill passed will likely exacerbate the challenge of providing affordable health care for poor and low-income Americans.

The following helps to explain why:

- The \$8 billion in the Upton-Long Amendment is woefully insufficient to cover high-risk pools. According to the Center for Budget and Policy Priorities, over a 10-year period the \$8 billion increase would not be enough to cover funding shortfalls for the states of Michigan, Missouri, and Colorado, let alone being able to take care of the risk pool shortfalls for the remaining 47 states.
- In its current iteration, AHCA allows states to choose to “opt-out” of covering pre-existing conditions of enrollees. In the states that choose not to guarantee coverage for pre-existing conditions, persons with life-threatening ailments, pregnant women, and older adults would have to pay exorbitant premiums for insurance coverage or not be able to obtain coverage at all. The AHCA segregates sick people in high-risk pools with those who are even sicker. In the past, such

approaches have led to coverage with very high premiums, benefit exclusions, annual and lifetime limits, and other problems.

- The bill also decimates Medicaid allocations to states with more than \$800 billion in budget cuts. This will deeply limit access to health insurance for individuals between the ages 55 and 64, younger people with disabilities, and children. We should be reminded that Medicaid subsidizes care for half of the children born in America in each year.
- The House version of AHCA continues to be committed to discontinuing Medicaid enhancements and Medicaid expansion after 2019. This will mean that most of the 31 states (and Washington, D.C.) that have ACA's Medicaid expansion will soon drop it. The 11 million people who were covered through Medicaid expansion will likely become uninsured.
- In the face of the opioid overdose and suicide epidemics, it is essential there be equitable access to a full continuum of mental health and substance use disorder treatment services. Substance use disorders and mental illness should also be covered on par with other medical conditions.

The House passed their version of the AHCA without it being “scored” by the Congressional Budget Office (CBO). Therefore, we have no idea of the cost of this legislation.

More importantly, we do not have a CBO analysis of the human impact of the provisions in AHCA.

Without a doubt, the gutting of \$800 billion from Medicaid will leave millions of single adults uninsured, as well as greatly reduced access to health care for millions of low-income children and their families.

We must now turn to the United States Senate to right the wrong caused by the House version of AHCA. NASW and other health care advocates must use their resources and energy to ensure the Senate strips out provisions in AHCA that are most devastating to vulnerable Americans.

Unit Updates



On March 28, the **Big Bend Unit** greeted over 100 guests on the top floor of the Florida Capitol! The Social Work Month Celebration and Awards Breakfast recognized

the outstanding contributions of fellow social work practitioners, educators, students and Public Officials. The attendees reflected diverse agencies, government entities and representation from Florida State University and Florida A & M University. The event speaker, Professor Keithen Mathis, shared inspiring remarks focused on the importance of "Standing Up" for what is right, fair and just.

Congratulations is extended to the following award recipients and we thank them for making a difference:

- **Andree Aubrey**, MSW—Social Worker of the Year - Nominees: Lisa Bretz, Christopher Collins
- **Victoria Verano**, MSW—Social Work Educator of the Year - Nominee: Stephen Tripodi
- **Heather Smith**—Social Work Student of the Year - Nominees: Lisa Panisch, Sonnie Mayewski
- **Gil Ziffer** - Elected Official of the Year - City Commissioner

Student Leadership Awards:

- **Aliyah Vanduyne**, FAMU and
- **Samantha Rust**, FSU

Monthly Networking Breakfast

The Big Bend Unit continues to host a monthly Networking Breakfast on the 4th Tuesday of each month from 8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m. You are invited to come and learn more about community resources, local agencies and network with your social work colleagues. All social workers are encouraged to attend our networking breakfasts, even if you are not a member of NASW.

The event is held at Tapestry Senior Living of

Tallahassee - 2516 W. Lakeshore Drive, Tallahassee, FL 32303 - and they have graciously agreed to donate breakfast each month.



Congratulations to the 2017 **Central Unit** Social Work Month Awardees



Photo by Charles Rutterbush

(Pictured L-R) **Alexis Davis** – Social Work Student of the Year; **Christine Leinonen** – Public Citizen of the Year; **Honorable Judge Gisela Laurent**– Elected Official of the Year; **Dr. Ana Leon** – Social Work Educator of the Year; **Lt. James Young** – Public Citizen of the Year; and **Katherine Payares** – Social Worker of the Year.



The **Emerald Coast Unit** held their regular monthly lunch meeting April 14 at Emerald Coast Hospice. Matthew Standish (USAF retired) outreach worker discussed many interesting aspects of the Bay County Vet Center and its excellent services to veterans, family members and active duty members.

Emerald Coast Unit is happy to provide a summer educational offering of interest to therapists and school social workers. Please join us for a morning of useful, creative techniques.

The Unit will host a June 16 continuing education workshop from 9:00 am – noon at FSU Panama City. The presenter is Mike Carns, Ph.D. in Counseling,

whose extensive career has been in the area of experiential interventions, specifically sand tray work with adults, children and family systems. Dr. Carns currently teaches at Troy University in Panama City and volunteers at Bethel Village after many years in Texas. We are pleased to offer this "hands in the sand" three-hour workshop free to NASW members and students, only \$20.00 for nonmembers. Registration is available online (<http://www.naswfl.org/emerald-coast-unit.html>) and at the door the day of the workshop. Registration begins at 8:30am on Friday, June 16. Tentatively Dr. Carns' presentation will be in Room #108 of the Holley Building; subject to change after the beginning of the summer session.

The **Heartland Unit's** Social Worker month event was extraordinarily beautiful. The energy was elevated with gladness and awe filled the room. The many exhibitors captured the interest of the almost 200 networking attendees at their unique table displays. This high-spiritedness was emphasized even more so when Erica Serrine, LCSW, PHD, lit up the atmosphere with her dynamic keynote message!

Our Heartland Unit also congratulates the following award recipients who were honored at our annual gathering. We salute the achievement attained by **Theodora Garriss Oyelowo**, MSW, deemed Social Worker of the Year. Her passion is truly visible in the lives of troubled teens and their families which she incessantly seeks to improve.

Nancy Anderson, MSW, deemed Social Work Educator of the Year. Nancy is the Director of the Social Work Program at Warner University in Lake Wales. She has also served as the Chairperson of the Heartland Unit for the past three years and has an unprecedented collage of professional achievements.

Ruby Williams deemed Public Citizen of the Year in recognition of her powerful voice for people and her passion to help others.

It is because of committed individuals like these who so freely give of themselves that truly embraces what it means to facilitate positive change by helping others daily! The Heartland Unit thanks you all for everything you do!

The **Lake/Sumter Unit** celebrated Social Work Month in March with a dinner at Brookdale Place at Freedom Pointe. Three awards were presented: Social Worker of the Year, **Ann Westin**, longtime NASW member; **Lloyd Thorne** with The Veterans Organization of Resource and Recovery for the Homeless in Eustis; and Elected Official **Judge Brian Welke**, Lake County.

The Lake/Sumter Unit members meet on the 4th Monday of the month at 4:30 at the Leesburg Library.

A second meeting for the Lake/Sumter Unit is held at 2:00 on the 3rd Thursday of the month in The Villages at the SeaBreeze Rec Center. Both meetings offer a speaker and one contact hour credit. NASW members please check your email as meeting notices are sent by email.

The **Volusia/Flagler Unit** held their annual Social Work Awards dinner Friday night, March 31 at the LPGA International Country Club in Daytona Beach. The Awards Dinner honors selected community members who are committed to bettering the lives of their fellow citizens as well as one Social Worker who exemplifies Social Work goals. This year, five individuals were honored:



PUBLIC CITIZEN OF THE YEAR - Patricia Oaks, Prevention Specialist & Counselor for The House Next Door in Deland; **PUBLIC CITIZEN OF THE YEAR - Gary Wandelt**, Retired Police Officer and Community Volunteer; **ELECTED OFFICIAL OF THE YEAR awards - Judge Dawn Fields**, Seventh Judicial Circuit; **ELECTED OFFICIAL OF THE YEAR - Andrew Spar**, President of Volusia United Educators; and **SOCIAL WORKER OF THE YEAR - W. Randolph (Randy) Herman**.

LEAD Wrap Up

by Seth Berkowitz, LEAD Chair and Dawn Brown, NASW-FL Legislative Committee Chair



Dawn Brown, MSW
Legislative Committee Chair



Seth Berkowitz
LEAD Chair

Not even the rain storms and tornado watch could keep our social work students, faculty and practitioners from their mission to advocate on behalf of the individuals, families, communities and profession they serve. On April 3 & 4 close to 800 social work students, faculty and practitioners from around the state came together to **Stand Up!** The training at the Tallahassee Automobile Museum was highlighted by Representative Daisy Baez discussing her journey from being an immigrant to becoming a social worker to being elected this past year as a legislator and demonstrated

why it is important for social workers to **Stand Up.** We also heard from Alan Abramowitz, Executive Director of the Florida Guardian Ad Litem program, who discussed the impact of social workers serving in that role.

Prior to meeting with Legislators on the morning of April 4, Representative Carlos Guillermo Smith energetically welcomed us to the Capitol.

An update on the LEAD legislative bills may be found at <http://www.naswfl.org/legislative.html>.



Our work has just begun. Although the Florida Legislative Session came to an end on May 8th, we invite all of you to reach out to your legislators as they return to their local offices. We encourage all of you to continue to Stand Up! Here are some ways you can do that:

1. Reach out to your unit Legislative Chair to see how you can get involved locally;
2. Go to flsenate.gov or myfloridahouse.gov and become familiar with your legislators;
3. Schedule a time to meet with your legislators in their local offices; and
4. Attend your county's delegation meeting.

Special thanks to NASW Assurance Services, Guardian Ad Litem of Florida, the Department of Children & Families and the Children's Network of Southwest Florida for having informational tables to offer students volunteer and employment opportunities. We also would like to thank Mike Cusick, our NASW-FL Lobbyist, for all of his support throughout the year, the members of the LEAD Planning Committee, NASW-FL Legislative Committee, the Schools of Social Work who worked hard to organize and make sure their students could participate and our wonderful volunteers who helped out. A special thank you to NASW members who participated from home and called their state senators and representatives.

We look forward to start planning LEAD 2018! Please feel free to contact info.naswfl@socialworkers.org with any suggestions for LEAD 2018. We wish you all a wonderful summer.



LEAD Wrap Up

by Dawn Brown, NASW-FL Legislative Committee Chair and Mike Cusick, NASW-FL Lobbyist

The Florida Legislative Session began on March 7th and was scheduled to end on May 5th; however the FL Legislative Session reconvened on May 8th to vote on the budget. During this Legislative Session 3,052 bills were filed between both chambers. There were a total of 231 bills passed by both the FL House and Senate. NASW-FL along with the insight and guidance of Mike Cusick, NASW-FL Lobbyist, monitored the progress of 179 bills, including bills related to the budget. These bills were selected based on our NASW Code of Ethics and the 2017 NASW-FL Legislative Agenda.

As a part of LEAD (Legislative Education Advocacy Day) we provided 4 drop sheets for bills reflecting the 2017 NASW-FL Legislative Agenda so that those who met with their legislators and their aides could share information on why those bills were important. All of the bills associated with these drop sheets did not pass. Thank you to everyone who called their Senators to get SB 196 passed, unfortunately it was merged into HB 301 which was indefinitely postponed and withdrawn from consideration the last day of the Legislative Session. Thanks to feedback from some of our members, we also provided a drop sheet on the importance of maintaining funding based on proposed budget cuts in areas such as Memory Disorder Clinics and a drop sheet on why we need a comprehensive mental health treatment system.

Please visit www.naswfl.org/legislative.html for a review of the status of bills NASW-FL followed and a summary of 15 bills which passed both chambers and await the approval of the Governor. Please check back at our legislative page for final updates on the budget.

Even though the FL Legislative Session has ended, our work has not. We invite members from all levels of social work practice to participate on this advocacy journey with us. Please reach out to the Legislative Chair in your unit to see how you can collaborate and support outreach at the local level. Now that

our Legislators are back home, try to schedule a time to meet with them in their local office.

A special thank you to everyone that honored the stories of an individual, family or community we serve; attended a delegation meeting; made a phone call; sent an email; met with a legislator or their aide; attended a march or rally; signed a petition; or showed up this past legislative session. Your work is important and needed as we continue to partner with others and advocate for a society that is socially, economically, and environmentally just and held accountable.

Please feel free to contact Dawn Brown at legchair.naswfl@socialworkers.org with any ideas, questions or concerns. Have a wonderful summer!

Florida Senate Websites

- Florida Senate: <https://www.flsenate.gov/>
- Florida Senators: <https://www.flsenate.gov/Senators>
- Florida Senate and Joint Committees: <https://www.flsenate.gov/Committees>
- Florida Senate Bills: <https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bills/2017>

Florida House Websites

- Florida House of Representatives: <https://www.myfloridahouse.gov/>
- Florida Representatives: <https://www.myfloridahouse.gov/Sections/Representatives/representatives.aspx>
- Florida House Committees: <https://www.myfloridahouse.gov/Sections/Committees/committees.aspx>
- House Bills: <https://www.myfloridahouse.gov/Sections/Bills/bills.aspx>

Save the Date:

January 9, 2018, will be the first day of the next Florida Legislative Session.

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**Florida Atlantic University
Receives \$7 Million Gift**



Florida Atlantic University announced a \$7 million gift from longtime benefactors Phyllis and Harvey Sandler to name The Phyllis and Harvey Sandler School of Social Work within the College for Design and Social Inquiry.

“I am extremely passionate about improving the well-being of all, especially the lives of the students and faculty at Florida Atlantic University,” said Phyllis Sandler.

The gift also will establish two new Centers within The Phyllis and Harvey Sandler School of Social Work – the Robin Rubin Mindfulness and Wellness Center and the Substance Misuse, Mental Health and Research Center.