National Association of Social Workers, Florida Chapter
2020 Legislative & Policy Advocacy Agenda

The **National Association of Social Workers, Florida Chapter (NASW-FL)** is part of the world's largest organization of professional social workers, and represents approximately 4,300 professional social workers in Florida.

2020 Legislative Priorities
- **Mental and Behavioral Health Services:** Support legislation for additional funding and services.
- **Social Work Workforce:** Recognize the importance of the social work profession, workforce challenges, wages and employment trends.
- **Social Justice:** Advocate for just and fair criminal justice system, immigration policies, employment, 2020 census and prevention of gun violence.

Legislative Agenda

I. MENTAL, BEHAVIORAL AND MEDICAL HEALTH SERVICES

* Support funding for mental health services in schools.
* Support accessible and affordable health care for all families
* Promote legislation that encourages smart decarceration, and uses mental and behavioral health treatment options rather than prison.
* Ensure involuntary commitment procedures that best protect the clients and the public.
* Support the expansion and improvement of mental health and behavioral health services available to veterans and their families.
* Allow licensed clinical social workers to provide and be reimbursed for Medicaid mental health services independently.
* Increase mental, behavioral and medical health services for people who are aging, people with disabilities, their caregivers and individuals marginalized based on their sexual orientation, gender identity, race, ethnicity, lack of access to care and immigration status.
* Oppose any legislation that restricts access to patient health care.

II. SOCIAL WORK WORKFORCE

* Support hiring school social workers to provide mental health services.
* Support fair and marketable reimbursement rates for social workers providing mental and behavioral health services through public and private insurance carriers.
* Support the Florida Legislature in their efforts to manage case loads for case managers and recruit, train, and retain qualified child welfare staff.
* Explore the need for licensure and /or certification for bachelor's level social workers and non-clinical master's level social work, and assure greater licensure mobility for licensed social workers.

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III. SOCIAL JUSTICE

* Promote juvenile diversion programs to decrease the disproportionate representation of marginalized populations in the juvenile justice system and those sentences or referred to the adult court system..
* Support programs that reduce homelessness or assist people who are homeless, and that enhance affordable housing options.
* Advocate for legislation and policies that encourage voter engagement, such as voter registration, and discourages legislation that limits opportunity and accessibility to voting, such as voter suppression efforts.
* Promote legislation which allows services and employment for all people regardless of their race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender, age, marital status, political belief, religion, immigration status, or mental or physical disabilities.
* Support the reproductive rights of women.
* Advocate for fair and just immigration policies, to include opposition to family separation, detention center and criminalizing asylum seekers.
* Support legislation that decreases gun violence.

NASW is a membership organization that promotes, develops, and protects the practice of social work and social workers. NASW also seeks to enhance the effective functioning and well-being of individuals, families, and communities through its work and through its advocacy.

NASW Florida Chapter
Carol Campbell Edwards, LCSW· President
Jim Akin, ACSW · Executive Director
Dawn Brown, MSW · Legislative Chair

1931 Dellwood Dr., Tallahassee, FL 32303
1-800-352-6279 / (850) 224-2400
www.naswfl.org / info.naswfl@socialworkers.org

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