



LEAD Training

Presented By:
NASW-FL Chapter





What is LEAD

Legislative Education & Advocacy Day

Each year, the NASW-FL Board of Directors approves its overall advocacy agenda that reflects our overall goals for the session and what we stand for as an association.

As bills are filed with the Florida Legislature, this agenda is our guide for what bills to support or oppose.

It also helps direct our action when the Governor's office or other executive agencies create new policies that impact our profession or our clients.





Understanding the Social Worker's Role

6 Core Values of Code of Ethics:

SERVICE

SOCIAL JUSTICE

**DIGNITY AND
WORTH OF THE
PERSON**

**IMPORTANCE OF
HUMAN
RELATIONSHIPS**

INTEGRITY

COMPETENCE





Code of Ethics 6.04

Engage in social/political action

Be aware of impact on practice

Advocate for changes in policy to improve social conditions

Promote social justice





Why should social workers and social work students be involved?

Unique Perspective & Skills:

- Understanding of complex social environments;
- Unique person-in-environment perspective;
- Ability to bring a “face” to an issue;
- Good at relationship building.





Social Work Legislative Advocacy: Our Professional Heritage

- **New Deal:** Social Security, Medicare – Frances Perkins, Harry Hopkins, etc.
- **Civil Rights Act of 1965:** Whitney Young and Dorothy Height
- **Florida:** Social Work Title Protection, Florida Institute for Child Welfare, Child protection and child welfare personnel





Understanding The Basics of Florida Government





LEGISLATIVE



EXECUTIVE



JUDICIAL

Branches of Government



The flowchart illustrates the legislative process in the state of Texas, starting with a bill's introduction and ending with its final status. The process is divided into two main chambers: the Senate and the House of Representatives.

Senate Process:

- LEGISLATOR, CITIZEN, or group suggests legislation** (Image: A man in a suit speaking at a podium).
- SENATOR decides to introduce bill** (Image: A woman in a yellow jacket speaking).
- BILL DRAFTING SERVICE** either writes bill or reviews for style (Image: A man in a suit working at a desk).
- BILL FILED WITH SECRETARY**, numbered, printed (Image: A woman in a purple jacket sitting at a desk).
- FIRST READING** by publication in Journal; President refers to committee(s) (Image: A man in a suit speaking at a podium).
- COMMITTEE HEARING(S)** bill reported:
 - favorably
 - favorably, with amendment(s)
 - favorably, with committee substitute
 - unfavorably
 (Image: A group of people in a meeting room).
- CALENDAR** Calendar Group sets Special Order Calendars for Chamber consideration (Image: A group of people in a meeting room).
- CHAMBER** Special Order Calendar bill read second time; engrossed, if amended (Image: A man in a suit speaking at a podium).
- CHAMBER Third Reading** bill read third time; debated; roll call vote on passage; engrossed, if amended (Image: A man in a suit speaking at a podium).
- If passed, delivered to HOUSE CLERK** (Image: A man in a suit speaking at a podium).

House of Representatives Process:

- COMMITTEE HEARING(S)** bill reported,
 - favorably
 - favorably, with amendment(s)
 - favorably, with committee substitute
 - unfavorably
 (Image: A group of people in a meeting room).
- BILL READ FIRST TIME** Speaker assigns to committee(s) (Image: A man in a suit speaking at a podium).
- SECOND READING** bill read, may be amended (Image: A man in a suit speaking at a podium).
- THIRD READING** bill read, debated, may be amended, roll call vote on passage (Image: A man in a suit speaking at a podium).
- Return to SENATE** without amendment(s) or with amendment(s) (Image: Two men in suits walking).

Final Steps:

- SENATE concurs** or **SENATE refuses to concur** (Image: A man in a suit speaking at a podium).
- TO SENATE ENROLLING** (Image: A man in a suit speaking at a podium).
- TO SENATE ENROLLING (as act)** (Image: A man in a suit speaking at a podium).
- TO GOVERNOR** (Image: A man in a suit speaking at a podium).
- signs act** or **without signature** (Image: A man in a suit speaking at a podium).
- vetoes** (Image: A man in a suit speaking at a podium).
- TO SECRETARY OF STATE** (Image: A man in a suit speaking at a podium).
- two-thirds vote in each house overrides veto** (Image: A man in a suit speaking at a podium).
- BECOMES EFFECTIVE** on 60th day after adjournment sine die or on specified date or upon Governor's signature (Image: A man in a suit speaking at a podium).

Prepared by the Office of the Secretary of the Senate





Legislative Branch

House of Representatives:

- 120 Representatives
- 2 year terms – Term Limit: 4 terms

Senate:

- 40 Senators
- 4 year terms – Term Limit: 2 terms

Key Players:

- Committees & Committee Chairs
- Leadership Positions





Reviewing Issues and Legislation





Researching and Reading Bills

- Search by bill text or bill number;
- Read bill summaries;
- UNDERLINE = addition,
~~STRIKETHROUGH~~ = deletion;
- Anything written in normal text is just there for context.





Evaluating Bills

Signs of likely bill passage:

- Is introduced early, in both houses;
- Has multiple sponsors;
- Has bi-partisan support;
- Assigned to few committees;
- Moves through process;
- Has support of governor and/or state agencies;
- Has influential people working to pass bill.





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.



A photograph of the Florida State Capitol building, featuring a large dome and classical columns, with a flag flying on top. The image is partially obscured by a dark blue overlay on the right side of the slide.

Legislative Agenda

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.





Legislative Agenda

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.





Preparing for Advocacy – Making Appointments





Who to Visit

- YOUR representative
- YOUR senator
- Committee members from your area
- Committee members from outside your area





Before LEAD

- Find your legislators online
- Call your legislator(s) and set up an appointment. You'll probably be speaking with an aide or assistant.



Sunday, January 10, 2016



Find Your Elected Officials in Florida

The 'Find Your Representative' system will take your address supplied and deliver your State House Member, State Senate Member, United States Congressional Member and supply details on the United States Senate members.

Please supply your street address and your city to locate your elected officials:

Street Address:

City:

Find Your Elected Officials

Disclaimer: The information and data that is supplied to you from the 'Find Your Representative' is supplied dynamically via 3rd Party systems. We strive to provide current and accurate information; however, the information provided is not warranted.

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2 LEAD EVENTS

LEAD TRAINING

January 27, 2020

LEAD RALLY & CAPITOL ADVOCACY

January 28, 2020





LEAD TRAINING

January 27, 2020

*Donald L. Tucker Civic Center
Tallahassee, FL*

3:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

*Dress Code: Casual/School & Social
Work Spirit*



A photograph of the Florida State Capitol building, featuring a large dome and classical columns, with an American flag flying on top. The image is partially obscured by a dark blue overlay on the right side of the slide.

What to Expect at LEAD Training

At the LEAD training you will:

- Meet students from all social work programs serving Florida students.
- Hear from your statewide NASW elected Student Representatives.
- Learn about each bill NASW has identified as our social work priority.
- Hear from the statewide LEAD Committee Members as well as members of the NASW Board Of Directors and the Legislative Chair.
- Have an opportunity to ask questions about bills and/or LEAD.
- Receive important information about LEAD at the Capitol.





LEAD Rally & Capitol Experience



Legislative Education and Advocacy Day Rally & Capitol Experience

January 28, 2020

*Waller Park at the
Florida Capitol
(dolphin fountain)*



8:00 a.m. Registration & Breakfast

8:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. LEAD Rally

9:00 a.m. – afternoon – LEAD Capitol Experience
Legislative Appointments and Committee
Meetings

Dress Code: Business





What to Expect at the LEAD RALLY & CAPITOL EXPERIENCE

At the LEAD Rally and Capitol Advocacy:

- Represent the social work programs that serve Florida students
- Use your voice and your presence to express our social work commitment to social justice and advocacy, especially for oppressed and marginalized populations.
- Meet with legislative staff or legislators to share our legislative agenda and position on bills.
 - Appointments of around 5 minutes, though some are much longer;
 - Go in groups of 3–5, designate a lead spokesperson;
 - Cover only 1 or 2 issues.
- Attend committee hearings and observe the process.
- Visit tabling set up by social work programs.





Getting Around During LEAD

- Make sure you leave enough time in your schedule.
 - Lines to get into Capitol building/through security
 - Capitol complex is... complex. Expect to get lost.
- As much as possible, group your appointments by location.
- Watch the signs for the elevators... not all go to all floors.





Session Committee Meetings

- You may have the opportunity to attend session or committee meetings during LEAD.
- House and Senate Calendars available online.
- Agendas/packets for Committee meetings are final a few days before the meeting.
- Can sign up for bill tracking online and be notified when your bill is on the agenda.





Legislative Visits

Relationship-Building:

- Schedule appointments in advance;
- Find *something* to thank them for;
- Mention that you live in their district, but do NOT threaten your vote;
- It helps to know your legislator (values, etc.), but...
- Don't make assumptions about legislator;
- Start where the "client" is.





Legislative Visits

Practical Pointers:

- Be prepared and to the point;
- Discuss how a bill will impact you personally;
- Be polite and friendly;
- Tell them you are participating in NASW LEAD;
- Say “I don’t know” if needed;
- ASK your legislator if you have their vote on the legislation you are advocating for.
 - Whether they say yes or no, thank them for their time.
 - If they say THEY ARE UNSURE, ask what other information you can provide for them. Legislators who are unsure can be swayed. You can help do that by providing them with more information.
 - Be prepared that they might say no and **don’t take it personally**. It is all part of the process and they can’t always say yes. Thank them for being direct and honest with you.
- But, most of all, ***don’t underestimate yourself or your impact!***





Keep it moving

- Advocacy does not end because you go home
- Tweet, E-mail, Write and call your legislators
 - Thank them for their time and their service
 - Remind them of your visit and position
- Visit them when they return home from session





Resources

IMPORTANT WEB SITES

- www.myfloridahouse.gov
- www.flsenate.gov
- www.leg.state.fl.us
- <http://www.naswfl.org/legislative.html>





- "It is better to be prepared for an opportunity and not have one than to have an opportunity and not be prepared."
-- Whitney M. Young, Social Worker
- "I am not anxious to be the loudest voice or the most popular. But I would like to think that at a crucial moment, I was an effective voice of the voiceless, an effective hope of the hopeless."
-- Whitney M. Young, Social Worker

