

Association of Baccalaureate Social
Work Program Directors

Council on Social Work Education

Group for the Advancement of
Doctoral Education

Institute for the Advancement of
Social Work Research

National Association of Deans and
Directors of Schools of Social Work

National Association of Social Workers

Society for Social Work and Research

ANSWER Activity Report May 21 - July 27, 2007

Social Work Reinvestment Initiative Update

NASW Chapters have been compiling their state reinvestment plans and are set to submit them at the end of the year. NASW Chapters can apply to the national office for funds to help pay for development and implementation of the plan.

The SWRI team at NASW has been meeting regularly with Anita Estell and Elizabeth Powell, MSW, to strategize on the legislative components of SWRI. Anita has invited staff to attend a meet and greet with Rep.

Barbara Lee (CA-9) on July 31. BPD Policy Fellow, Chasity Well-Armstrong will be joining NASW and IASWR staff at the event.

Social Work Unification

June 18-20 Jeanne Anastas represented ANSWER at the Wingspread Conference. As a result of the conference, "Leaders of ten professional social work organizations convened at Wingspread to address the future of the profession. Participants signed a resolution: We resolve to create a unified profession with one social work organization by 2012. This historic agreement sets the stage for an organizational structure inclusive of all sectors of social work. It reflects the diversity of our profession and addresses the concerns of the United States and the global society.

The social work profession requires a strong unified voice to enhance its ability to serve, to educate, to develop research and to influence social service, social policy and social change. The challenges of the 21st Century, identified by the Social Work Congress of 2005, compel a vibrant, proactive, nimble, flexible organizational structure that reflects collective vision and ensures impact. A Transition Team will address implementation issues and will be guided by the Leadership Roundtable with ongoing input from constituents over the next five years."

The Transition Team that will work on the process over the next year includes Jeane Anastas, Katherine Briar-Lawson, Betsy Clark, Ricky Fortune, Kay Hoffman, Mit Joyner, Linda Moore, Jean Quam, and Julia Watkins.

SWRI Policy Priorities

Loan Forgiveness and the Higher Education Act (HEA)

Continued lobbying and grassroots efforts have kept loan forgiveness active during the 110th Congress. Alerts on loan forgiveness in the Higher Education Act and Head Start Act have activated the membership. See alerts through the links below.

- [Support Loan Forgiveness for Social Workers!!](#) (7/10/07)
- [Support Loan Forgiveness for Social Workers in the Higher Education Act!!](#) (6/26/07)
- [Get Loan Forgiveness for Social Workers in the Head Start Bill!](#) (6/26/07)

Title IV-E

Staff continue to work with the Child Welfare Workforce Workgroup on improvements to training programs for social workers in child welfare.

Clinical Social Work Medicare Equity Act, S. 1212

Staff continue to work on securing additional co-sponsors for S. 1212. On June 12, Sen. Tim Johnson (SD) signed on as a co-sponsor.

Social Work Safety

NASW sponsored a briefing on Capitol Hill with Congressman Dennis Moore (KS-3) on HR 2165, The Teri Zenner Social Worker Safety Act. Original co-sponsor Congressman Ted Poe (TX-2), Dr. Clark, Matt Zenner, widower of Teri Zenner, and Dr. Molly Davis, Associate Professor and Director of BSW Field Education at George Mason University spoke at the briefing.

Currently H.R. 2165 has 102 co-sponsors. Rep. Moore is seeking additional co-sponsors. NASW posted an action alert on July 27. You can view the alert at <http://www.socialworkers.org/advocacy/alerts/2007/072707.asp>

You can view the press release about the briefing at <http://www.socialworkers.org/pressroom/2007/071607.asp>

Field Activity

Through the NASW Web site, social workers sent 700 letters and e-mails to their members of Congress from May 8 – July30, 2007 on issues related to ANSWER priorities. See table below for activity by issue area.

Activity by Issue

Letter Name	Total	Letters	Emails
Protect our Nation's Social Workers	40	7	33
Mental Health: Restore CSW Medicare Payments	131	39	92
Support Mental Health Services for Nursing Home Residents	221	59	162
Restore CSW Medicare Rates	308	105	203

Reminders to Steering Committee Members

Next Meeting

The next ANSWER meeting is Monday, October 1, 2007, 9:00am-2:00pm at the NASW National Office in Washington, DC. If you have any items for the agenda, please submit them by September 1 to dzarella@naswdc.org or 202-336-8218.

Steering Committee Membership

If your organization has only one steering committee member for ANSWER or a member is rotating off, please recruit a second member by August 15 and furnish their contact information to Dr. Jeane Anastas, ANSWER convener, at jeane.anastas@nyu.edu or 212-992-9711.