

CLINICAL PERSPECTIVES

The Clinical Social Work Association of Savannah

May 2009

MIRACLES DO HAPPEN!!

We all know that miracles can happen for those who believe and who work hard for a good cause with a pure motive of care and concern for others. The Save our Services (SOS) Collaborative has received its miracle. Dr. Frank Shelp, the Commissioner of the newly created Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities, announced at the NAMI Summit that the plans for mental health services were being modified. As a result, Georgia Regional at Savannah will be maintaining 20 acute psychiatric hospital beds and also have 32 crisis stabilization beds.

The announcement brought cheers from the large group of stakeholders assembled to continue regional strategic planning. It not only makes a huge difference in the lives of our citizens in Region 5 who might need an acute hospital bed, but it positively affects our communities and the many stakeholders such as Sheriff's

New Department of Behavioral Health Commissioner

Dr. Frank Shelp has been named Commissioner of the newly created Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities. Dr. Shelp came to Georgia a few months ago from North Carolina, and had been working at Georgia Regional Hospital. Dr. Shelp is a member of the

Department, the City and County Governments, mental health providers, advocates, and even other communities in Georgia who host regional hospitals.

Had we not banded together and asked tough questions, wrote letters to the Governor, made calls to key leaders, held rallies, put our cause on front page of Savannah Morning News and even in AJC and other papers, aired our need on all TV and Radio stations, got 11,000 signatures on Petition to Save Our Services, our much needed regional hospital would have already been closed by now. With the sincerest gratitude to Dr. Shelp and to each of the fine people who made up the SOS collaborative, it truly demonstrates what is possible when you have faith and believe in miracles.

-June DiPolito

American Psychiatric Association and the American Association of Geriatric Psychiatry, where he also serves on the clinical practice committee. His academic interests include pharmacology and medical, psychological and social issues of aging. (ZoomInfo)

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Calendar of Events:

- 05/15-16/09: LCSW exam prep at Hospice Savannah by Jackie Pray, PhD, ACSW, LCSW. 8:30am to 5:00pm. For more information, please contact Mary Hill at (912) 355-6192.
- 05/27/09: Monthly Meeting at the Gibbons Chapel in the rear of Riverview Health & Rehabilitation. 11:30am to 1:00pm.



News and Events

Monthly Meeting

The CSWA-S would like to extend its gratitude to Yvonnia Brown, director of the Chatham County Department of Family and Children Services. Her presentation concerning the restructuring process of the Georgia Department of Human Resources and its impact on DFCS was thorough, informative, and well-received by the membership. We wish her continued success in what must be one of the most challenging positions in all of Chatham County.

This month's colloquium will be presented by Christopher H. Warner, MD, MAJ, MC, U.S. Army, the Chief, Department of Behavioral Health, Winn Army Community Hospital, Fort Stewart, Georgia. Maj. Warner will be discussing the studies of deployment-related stress during the current conflicts in Afghanistan

and Iraq which have focused on the post-deployment symptoms experienced by military members following their return from deployment, and the rates of posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and depression. The meeting will be held at the Gibbons Chapel in the back of Riverview Nursing Home on May 27th at 11:30am. Please RSVP Andrea Liverman no later than May 22nd at:

andi0309@yahoo.com

From the Membership Chair:

The CSWA-S would like to welcome Sheila Bell, LPC, Gaynell "Denise" Hill, LMSW, Amy Perkins-Murphy, LCSW, and Vanetta Thompson, LCSW. In addition, Sherri Schumacher, LMSW has renewed her membership with the organization.

We're Going Green

In an effort to save a tree or two, and to reduce the overhead of publishing this newsletter, the Clinical Perspectives will no longer be printed in circular form. Starting July '09, the newsletter will only be available online at:

<http://socialworksavannah.freeyellow.com/id2.html>

Those members who are unable to access the CSWA-S website on the internet are encouraged to contact the newsletter editor for support. Michael Mack can be reached at:

harkonan@aol.com

Member Participation

Contributions to this newsletter are encouraged and can be sent to:
harkonan@aol.com

Community Announcements

The Clinical Social Work Association of Savannah Annual Meeting

This year's Annual Meeting will be held June 24th in the main ballroom/meeting room at the University Village at Savannah State University. Seating will begin at 11:00 am. In addition to our regularly scheduled luncheon activities, the 2009-2010 Board members will be introduced, the Community and Clinical Social Workers of the Year awards will be bestowed, and this year's recipient of the Mary Jane Stinson Scholarship will be announced.

Community Social Worker & Clinical Social Worker of the Year

We are looking for nominees for this year's Community Social Worker of the Year and Clinical Social Worker of the Year. The awards will be announced during the Annual Meeting. Please e-mail Helen Schandolph, CSWA-S president with your recommendation(s) at:

hschandolph@gmail.com

Mary Jane Stinson Scholarship

The CSWA-S is looking for nominees for this year's Mary Jane Stinson Scholarship. The award goes to an outstanding graduate student in a MSW program who not only demonstrates need, but leadership ability and a unique vision which will further the cause of social work practice and education. Please e-mail Dr. Irma Gibson at **gibsoni@savannahstate.edu** with a nominee, or for more information.

We are Experiencing Growing Pains!

The CSWA-S has grown to the extent that we now require office space and a part-time administrator to maintain our records. If you or anyone you know has any suggestions for a location, please e-mail Helen Schandolph at: **hschandolph@gmail.com**

A Friendly Reminder:

The RSVP date for this month's meeting at Riverview Health & Rehabilitation is Friday, **May 22, 2009**. Please email Andrea Liverman at **andi0309@yahoo.com** and be sure to include in your message whether or not you will be eating. As the recent trend in last minute RSVPs or showing up to meetings without reservation has resulted in some attendees not receiving lunch or CEUs, those who do not RSVP will only be able to audit the meeting without guarantee for lunch. That is, do not expect CEUs and please bring a meal with you. Thank you for your cooperation.

Clinical Social Work Association - Savannah

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We're On The Web!

<http://www.socialworksavannah.com>



Social Worker/Therapist Spotlight

Andrea Liverman, LPC

Andrea received her Bachelor degree in Psychology from Armstrong Atlantic State University in 1998, and a Master degree in Psychology with a Specialty in Counseling from Argosy University in 2002.

She has worked at Gateway Community Service Board as an Adolescent Substance Abuse counselor, and as a therapist with Morningstar Treatment Services. From 2005 to 2007, Andrea served as the director of Treutlen House, a group home in Effingham County for

boys ages 5 to 17 who reside in the foster care system. During this time, Andrea became fully licensed as a Licensed Professional Counselor. In 2007, Andrea worked as a Regional Coordinator for Morningstar in Savannah. Subsequent to her position as Regional Coordinator, she became the Region 5 Supervisor for Morningstar. In December 2008, she obtained a position with Family Intervention Specialists, Inc. as a Clinical Supervisor.

Ms. Liverman resides in Savannah, Georgia with her husband, Marc, and their two boys, Dysten and Gavin.