

# CLINICAL PERSPECTIVES

The Clinical Social Work Association of Savannah

September 2009

## 2009 Legislative Luncheon

The Clinical Social Work Association of Savannah will hold its annual Legislative Meeting on September 23, 2009 at 11:30 to 1:30 at the Johnny Harris Conference Center on Victory Drive. Sue Fort, Executive Director of NASW's Georgia Chapter, will speak on licensure, the issues of Social Work diagnosing, loan forgiveness for social work/ health professionals, and the state budget.

Kris Rice has agreed to present children's issues especially in regards to DFCS workers. Diane Reeder and John Richards of NAMI will present on the recommendations of the Mental Health Summit, which is specifically

about community and hospital behavioral services in our area. In addition to our presenters, several area legislators have accepted our invitation to attend the colloquium.

Meal reservations to this event are required, and should be forwarded to Helen Schandolph at [hschandolph@gmail.com](mailto:hschandolph@gmail.com) prior to September 16<sup>th</sup>. The lunch will be served buffet style, and the cost will be \$10. If you have any questions or concerns, or wish to have a vegetarian/vegan meal alternative, please contact Helen as soon as possible.

## Monthly Meeting: October 28, 2009

The CSWA-S would like to extend its gratitude to Deborah Kearney, PhD. Dr. Kearney's discussion about taking care of your self as a therapist was educational, enjoyable, and well attended. Most memorable was her topic of "sand in our sandboxes," and how often our duties as social workers can deplete our personal and emotional resources. It was an excellent meeting with a refreshing perspective, and the new location at

the Memorial Hospital Hoskins Center could not have been more ideal.

In October, Susan Lamb PhD will be our speaker. Dr. Lamb will be presenting her lecture, "Depression as a Symptom of Despair." She will be discussing hopelessness and helplessness, and its effects on individuals and interpersonal relationships.

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### Calendar of Events:

- 09/23/09: Legislative Luncheon at Johnny Harris Conference Center at 11:30am.
- 10/28/09: Monthly Meeting at Class Room 3, Hoskins Center, Memorial Hospital at 11:30am.



## News & Announcements

### Help Us Help You

If you are in private practice, new to the area, or would just like to let other clinicians know about the work that you are doing, now is your chance! Contributing to the CSWA-S newsletter is a great way to introduce your services to area social workers. Please e-mail your information (name, specialty, etc.) so that it can be listed in the next newsletter. Contact Michael Mack at:

[harkonan@aol.com](mailto:harkonan@aol.com)

For additional networking opportunities, contact Lisa Seago at [lkseago@yahoo.com](mailto:lkseago@yahoo.com). She will be putting together a column in this newsletter which will feature people and programs in Savannah.

### Our New Digs

We would like to express our gratitude to Pat Neither, LCSW, Social Work Case Manager at

Memorial Hospital for not only helping us secure our new meeting location at the Hoskins Center, but also working with the schedulers at the facility to allow us the use of the larger Mercer Auditorium for most of the 2009-2010 monthly meetings. Pat has gone above and beyond our wildest expectations, and her efforts are greatly appreciated.

### The Cost of Education

CSWA-S membership has its rewards. In the past few months, it has come to our attention that non-members have been receiving CEUs after attending our monthly meetings. While this in itself is perfectly acceptable, the board has come to the decision to charge non-members an additional \$5 to receive credits. This will help offset the burden of having to generate additional certificates without prior notification.

### Membership Dues

After considerable outreach efforts, some members of the CSWA-S have not made any attempt to bring their membership up to date.

Unfortunately, we are forced to drop them from our rolls. As a result, these people will no longer receive the newsletter in any form, and they will be required to pay an additional \$5 at monthly meetings in which CEUs are provided.

If this action has affected you, and you believe this is in error, please contact Sister Pat Brown, SSMN at:

[PMBrown@diosav.org](mailto:PMBrown@diosav.org)

Don't cry because it's over.  
Smile because it happened.  
-Theodor (Dr. Seuss) Geisel

## For Your Consideration:

### Media Discovers Furloughs of DFCS Staff

Several state news outlets and child advocacy groups have discovered furloughs of child welfare and family independence staff. This information was shared by GCWA last fall in press releases to every major media outlet and was generally not reported. It is apparently more newsworthy if the offices are closed instead of spreading furloughs out through the month. I have received calls regarding the impact of furloughs on families and children this afternoon. GCWA is not critical of the choices made in the DHS budget (furloughs are better than layoffs), the larger question is that the needs of families and children increase during these difficult times and reductions in service to our most vulnerable citizens should not be required by across the board percentage reductions that give the same value to children as potholes.

I am heartened by the increased public awareness of the impact of the lost time to serve families. This coverage will not equal the firestorm of publicity coming from the potential loss of 3 furlough days from a child's 12 year education; which is obviously less severe than 12 days of waiting for protection, reunification, access to medical care, and access to adequate nutrition. A copy of the DHS Budget as adopted by the DHR Board on 8/27/09 is now available on our website, [www.gcwa.us](http://www.gcwa.us)

-Wayne Drummond, Georgia County Welfare Association, [gactywelassoc@earthlink.net](mailto:gactywelassoc@earthlink.net)

### From the Program Committee:

The Program Committee is working hard to finalize this year's program. In October, Susan Lamb PhD will be our speaker. Dr. Lamb will be talking about "Depression as a Symptom of Despair." Last month, Debbie Kearney, PhD helped us kick off the year with our first program at our new meeting location at the Hoskins Center. Her talk "Sand in Your Sand Box" should be very helpful in keeping us focused on our own self care. Anyone interested in working on the Program Committee is welcome. Contact Maggie Lee at [maglee53@hotmail.com](mailto:maglee53@hotmail.com) if you are interested.

The cost of lunch for our monthly meetings at the Hoskins Center will be \$5.00 and reservations must be placed the Friday before the meeting date. However, this month, the cost of lunch for the September Legislative Meeting at Johnny Harris will be \$10.00. The price quoted to us by Johnny Harris was \$13.95 per person, but the CSWA-S is helping to defray the cost as a benefit to its membership. As a result of this arrangement, reservations also must be made by the Wednesday prior to the Legislative Luncheon. -Maggie Harris Lee

Clinical Social Work Association - Savannah

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**We're On The Web!**

<http://www.socialworksavannah.com>

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## Social Worker Spotlight

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### **James Williams, PhD, LCSW**

An Assistant Professor of Social Work with the Department of Social Work at Savannah State University, Dr. Williams received his PhD and MSW at the Jane Addams College of Social Work, University of Illinois at Chicago.

Dr. Williams is a member of the Advisory Board at the SSU Department of Social Work, a board member of the Latin American Service Organization (LASO), a Steering Committee member of the Chatham County Mental Health Court, a Strategic Planning Committee member of Pinewoods Treatment Center, a board member of the Savannah Rape Crisis Center, and a member of the Nominating Committee of the State Chapter of the NASW. He is an avid supporter of the

National Alliance for Mental Illness, and has provided Community Intervention Team training of police officers.

Prior to moving to Savannah, Dr. Williams spent many years in Chicago as a Substance Abuse Counselor at the Martha Washington Hospital Treatment Center, a Pretrial Services Supervisor at the Department of Pretrial Services, Cook County Circuit Court, an Adjunct Instructor at the Jane Addams College of Social Work, and as a Supervisor of the Mental Health Unit at the Cook County Circuit Court Department of Adult Probation. Published in several scholarly journals, Dr. Williams is also a Manuscript Reviewer of the *Journal of Offender Counseling* and a Contributing Editor of *Families in Society*.