

CLINICAL PERSPECTIVES

The Clinical Social Work Association of Savannah

April 2010

News and Announcements

Annual Conference

“It was wonderful!” “Thank you so much!” Evaluations clearly showed the 24th Annual Julius Hornstein Professional Conference was a success! The keynote speakers, LTC Paul Bliese, PhD, from Washington, DC, and Teresa Arata-Maiers, PsyD, out of San Antonio TX, were a tremendous hit. Led by Coordinator of Speakers MAJ Chris Warner, MD and with the expert input of CPT Jessica Parker, the more than 24 presenters at this conference were nothing less than exceptional. From FL, to SC over 160 professionals came. This was made possible by the hard work and hours of dedicated preparation given by the outstanding

Conference Committee of Dr. Cathy McRae, Helen Schandolph, Maggie Lee, Linda Richardson, Sr. Pat Brown, and the support of the entire Board of the CSWA-S. The evaluations for the Conference have been reviewed and thus the planning for next year’s conference has already begun! Please answer the call for volunteers for the planning committee. Those who wish to serve on the annual conference committee should contact Cathy McRae mcra1452@bellsouth.net

Thank you all for contributing to this year’s success!

-Mary Hill

Social Work for the Hearing Impaired

The Georgia Hands and Voices, The American Deafness and Rehabilitation Association (ADARA), and the Gallaudet University Regional Center at Flagler College are hosting a breakout conference entitled *Effective Mental Health Services for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Persons* on June 17-19, 2010 at the Westin Atlanta North Hotel at Perimeter, Seven Concourse Parkway, Atlanta, GA. The goal of the

conference is to provide training and networking opportunities for mental health professionals serving deaf, deafened, and hard of hearing adults and/or children who have severe mental illness or emotional disorders. For more information, the registration form is on the web at:

www.gahandsandvoices.org/files/Breakout_Registration_Form.pdf

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Calendar of Events:

- 04/20/10: TBI Symposium: “The Journey Back to Life” at Memorial Hospital Mercer Auditorium from 8:50 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
- 04/28/10: Monthly meeting at the Hoskins Center of Memorial Hospital. Topic is “Current Trends in Gerontology” by Dr. Richard St. Pierre, AASU. Lunch is scheduled for 11:30am.



For Your Consideration

Licensed Therapists/ Assessors Needed

Non-profit CORE Provider for Child/Adolescent and Adult Services in business since 1999 is hiring for Bulloch County /Statesboro Area. Candidates must live in the Bulloch County Area. Requirements: Therapists-must have Georgia Professional License (LAPC, LMSW, LAMFT, LPC, LCSW, LFMT) Assessors must have MA in MH field and be pursuing licensure. These positions will be working with Medicaid and Tricare clients, focusing on families and children.

Services will be home based. Must be able to complete and pass a DHR Criminal Background check. A computer and cell phone are required. These are contract positions. Interviews will be conducted at our office in Savannah. Experience in working with Families, Acute Anxiety Disorder, PTSD, Depression and Suicide Prevention is also a plus.

Website www.fisinc.org. Fax resumes to HR 678-288-8199
EOE

Clinical Social Worker of the Year Nominations Wanted

Please send nominations for Clinical Social Worker of the Year to Dr. Cathy McRae at: mcra1452@bellsouth.net The CSWA-S executive committee will select the winner and announce the results at this year's Annual Meeting.

New Shrink on the Block

Every clinician works with clients who are difficult to diagnose or treat. Many medical problems can masquerade as psychological disorders. The interface of biological, psychological and social factors is best known as the bio-psycho-social model, a model I endorse.

An evaluation by a skilled psychiatrist is often helpful as an adjunct to psychotherapy. I am currently available to provide psychiatric consultations and medication management. My office does not provide psychotherapy. To initiate a consultation, please call 912-344-0040, fax 912-786-8943, or e-mail me at gwiletsmd@sodapop.com.

I look forward to working with you. -Gregory A. Wilets, M.D.

From the Program Committee:

On April 28th, Dr. Richard St. Pierre from AASU will speak about current trends in gerontology. If you plan to attend, please RSVP to Lisa Seago at lseago@pinewoodsretreat.org by Monday 4-26-10. Please indicate if you want to purchase a boxed lunch for \$5.00, as well as if you want CEUs. The May 26th meeting will feature a panel from the Savannah Collaborative Law Practice. Also, mark your calendar for our annual meeting on June 23. Dr. Boo Hornstein will be our speaker.

The Spring Institute will be held on May 1 from 9:30 to 3:30 at Hospice House on Eisenhower Dr. Registration will begin at 9am. Stephen Howard, a well respected Atlanta psychiatrist will lead the workshop. There are only a few spaces open for the workshop at this time. Lunch is on your own but coffee and light snacks will be provided. The cost is \$60.00 for CSWA-S members, \$90.00 for non members. If you have already register please mail your check to Maggie Lee, 500 Commercial Court, Ste 3, Savannah, GA 31406, this will help streamline the registration process. I look forward to seeing you there.

-Maggie H. Lee

Social Work Education Provisions Included in Health Care Reform

On March 23, 2010, President Obama signed comprehensive health care reform legislation into law. In addition to ensuring coverage for more Americans, ending insurance discrimination based on preexisting conditions, and closing the Medicare prescription gap, the new law also creates new programs and expands existing ones that enhance the social work profession through educational training and financial assistance. CSWE has worked diligently over the last year as Congress debated health care reform legislation to ensure that these provisions were enacted. It is important to note that although the inclusion of the programs listed below is a major success for CSWE and the social work community, the language simply “authorizes” these initiatives; it does not provide actual funding. Ongoing advocacy and support is now needed to ensure that these programs are funded via the appropriations bills that Congress passes each year. Without funding from Congress, the programs will be unable to award the grants and loan repayment described.

Mental and Behavioral Health Education and Training Grants—If funded, this new program would award grants to institutions of higher education to support the recruitment of students into baccalaureate, master’s, and doctoral degree programs of social work as well as the development of faculty in social work. In addition, grants would be made to institutions of higher education or accredited professional training programs that are establishing or expanding internships or other field placement programs in child and adolescent mental health in social work, school social work, substance abuse prevention and treatment, and other fields. Regarding the grants to social work programs, the law states that priority shall be given to programs that “are accredited by the Council on Social Work Education.” The law authorizes up to \$8 million for Fiscal Year (FY) 2010 through FY 2013 for the grants to social work programs and \$10 million for programs dealing with child and adolescent mental health.

Pediatric Specialty Loan Repayment Program—Under this new program, health professionals, including social workers with specialized training or clinical experience, would be required to provide child and adolescent mental and behavioral health care in areas with shortages of health professionals; in exchange, the federal government would provide payment on the principal and interest of undergraduate and graduate loans up to \$35,000 per year for 3 years. To implement this program, the new law authorizes up to \$20 million each year for FY 2010 through FY 2013.

Geriatric Workforce Fellowship Program—The Geriatric Education Centers (GECs), administered by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), are expanded to allow GECs to use their funds to offer short-term intensive courses, or “fellowships,” that focus on geriatrics, chronic care management, and long-term care. These fellowships would include supplemental training for faculty members in schools of social work and professional schools of other health fields and would be open to current faculty and other appropriately credentialed faculty and practitioners who do not have formal training in geriatrics. In addition, the fellowship can be offered at the sponsoring GECs, in collaboration with GECs, or at other schools in the health professions (including schools of social work)—a significant development of the program. Up to \$10.8 million is authorized for FY 2011 through FY 2014 for this and other geriatric training programs.

Geriatric Career Incentive Awards—Under this new program HRSA would award grants to clinical social workers and other health professionals to foster greater interest in entering geriatrics, long-term care, and chronic care management. In return, the recipient must agree to teach or practice in geriatrics, long-term care, or chronic care management for a minimum of 5 years. The law authorizes \$10 million to be spent on this program for the period of FY 2011 through FY 2013.

Geriatric Academic Career Awards—This existing HRSA program is expanded to include individuals who have completed required training and are employed in accredited schools in the health professions, have completed approved fellowship programs in geriatrics or specialty training required by the profession, and have nontenure-track faculty appointments at accredited schools of social work or other schools in the health professions. No specific funding amount is authorized in the law for this program.

National Center for Health Care Workforce Analysis—This new center, housed within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), will analyze the needs of the health care workforce annually and evaluate the programs listed here and others administered by HHS.

-James H. Williams, PhD, LCSW

Clinical Social Work Association - Savannah

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We're On The Web! Check out our updates!

<http://socialworksavannah.freeyellow.com/CSWA-S.htm>



Social Worker Spotlight

Michael Mack, LMSW

A psychotherapist on the acute adult inpatient unit at the Memorial Hospital Center for Behavioral Medicine, Michael is a graduate of the Savannah State University MSW program. Prior to that, he worked as a social worker at Riverview Health & Rehabilitation skilled nursing home, and is a Certified Dementia Specialist. He received his LMSW in February 2009 and is currently biding the arbitrary time and ever-changing state supervisory regulations for taking the LCSW exam.

Michael has worked with the chemically dependent population since 2003 as a residential program counselor with Assisted Recovery and as a case

manager at Men's Residential. He continues to run group sessions at Assisted Recovery.

From 1999 to 2003, he was the Family Services Manager of Hillcrest Abbey Cemetery, where his duties included the oversight of the sales and maintenance crew of a 52 acre memorial park with 180 annual interments. Other items in his employment history include Residential Program Manager at Sunrise, Inc (DD/MR population group homes) and Crisis Clinician/Short-Term Therapist at the Philadelphia Child Guidance Center.

Michael lives with his wife and cat in Savannah, GA. They are from the area; he is a barely tolerated Yankee interloper.