



Connecting

SOCIAL WORK RESEARCH

& PRACTICE TO INFORM

POLICY DELIBERATIONS

First Anniversary Report

October 2010

750 First Street NE, Suite 700
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SocialWorkPolicy.org





The mission of the Social Work Policy Institute (SWPI) at the National Association of Social Workers (NASW) is:

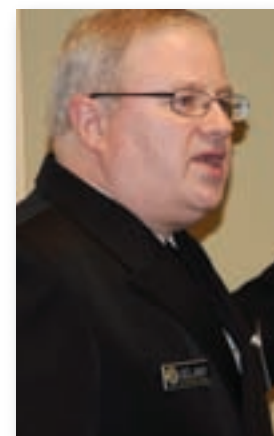
- To strengthen social work's voice in public policy deliberations.
- To collect and disseminate information on social work effectiveness.
- To create a forum to examine current and future issues in health care and social services delivery.

The Social Work Policy Institute examines issues that relate to the work of social workers, including how to serve people who have multiple or complex needs and how public agencies and other structures deliver health and human services. Current issues such as health care reform, health care disparities and the relevance of the global economy to the social work profession, as well as issues relating to evidence-informed practices are being investigated. SWPI calls upon researchers, practitioners, consumers, providers and payers to help fill a gap in the profession by examining important issues and asserting social work's contributions. SWPI was launched in 2009 as a division of the NASW Foundation to fill gaps identified by the Social Work Reinvestment Initiative (SWRI) (SocialWorkReinvestment.org) and to respond to imperatives that emerged from the 2005 Social Work Congress (SocialWorkers.org/congress/imperatives0605.pdf).

In its inaugural year SWPI convened symposia that brought together practitioners, researchers, educators, representatives of government agencies, administrators and funders; developed reports and research-to-practice briefs; presented testimony; collected, analyzed and disseminated research-based information to policy makers, NASW chapters and members; collaborated with other national organizations, and enhanced social work's presence on national policy issues. Highlights of SWPI's accomplishments are described below.



Using Research to Inform Practice and Policy on Psychosocial Interventions and Social Work Practice



Rear Adm. Peter J. Delany, PhD, LCSW-C,
Director, Office of Applied Studies,
SAMHSA, CER Symposium speaker

Convened two think tank symposia — *Social Work and Comparative Effectiveness Research (CER): Strengthening the Connection* and *Hospice Social Work: Linking Policy, Practice and Research*.

- Promoted connections among representatives from federal agencies [including the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, the Administration for Children and Families (ACF), the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)], leading social work researchers, interdisciplinary collaborators, national organizations, service providers, practitioners and foundations.



Capt. Mary Rossi-Coajou, MS, RN,
Nurse Consultant, CMS
Hospice Symposium speaker

- Developed and disseminated symposia reports and action briefs to policy makers and other key stakeholders. This information can be accessed at SocialWorkPolicy.org.
- Presented testimony to the Minority Taskforce of the National Institute on Aging's Advisory Committee about the importance of developing and enhancing a diverse scientific workforce, in collaboration with the *Collaborative for Enhancing Diversity in the Scientific Workforce* (cossa.org/diversity/diversity.html).



- Led NASW's efforts to comment on federal Requests for Information (RFI) related to the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute and the Early Childhood Home Visitation Program; both are new federal initiatives supported through the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (Pub. L. 111-148).
- Participated in the consensus planning process and worked with NASW practice experts to contribute social work relevant research questions regarding effectiveness and translational research to the COPD Outcomes based Network for Clinical Effectiveness & Research Translation (CONCERT) funded by AHRQ and the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute (NHLBI).
- Hosted a reception for Sarah Gehlert, Washington University-St. Louis, who was the first social worker to present the NIH Behavioral and Social Sciences Research lecture. The lecture was "Breast Cancer and Social Interactions: Identifying Multiple Environments that Regulate Gene Expression" and can be accessed at obsr.od.nih.gov/pdf/gehlert_bssr_lecture.pdf.
- Presented information on SWPI and CER to more than 20 social workers and other representatives of the AETNA Medicare Managed Program.
- Presented a poster and served as a discussant at the research plenary session at the August 2010 NASW Annual Practice Conference – Social Work's Critical Role in End-of-Life Care (SocialWorkers.org/nasw/conferences/boston2010/default.asp), highlighting the action agenda for enhancing hospice social work services, promoting the use of hospice standards and credentials, and strengthening linkages among social work organizations, hospice organizations and federal regulatory and research agencies.
- Collaborated with the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) on the identification and selection of ten early career social work researchers who received travel awards and special mentoring at the NIDA Blending Conference in Albuquerque, NM in April 2010.

- Worked together with the National Association of Deans and Directors of Schools of Social Work (NADD) on NADD's health disparities initiative.
- Chaired the NASW Foundation's Aron and Blackey Dissertation Awards Committee, selecting two social work doctoral candidates to receive fellowships in 2010.



Using Evidence to Address Challenges to Social Work

- Participated in numerous meetings with high level federal officials at the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and at the Department of Education as well as on Capitol Hill as part of NASW's policy agenda.
- Served as an advisor to the National Child Welfare Workforce Institute (NCWWI), and as a member of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Injury Center's Knowledge to Action (K2A) think tank to promote community and societal level responses to child maltreatment prevention.
- In response to policy-maker inquiries, developed and disseminated a research-to-practice brief entitled *High Caseloads: How do they Impact Delivery of Health and Human Services?* (SocialWorkPolicy.org/research/high-caseloads-how-do-they-impact-delivery-of-health-and-human-services.html).
- Presented testimony on the link between child welfare outcomes and attracting a competent, qualified child welfare workforce at an April 2010 Congressional Briefing, *Child Abuse Deaths in the U.S.*, planned as part of NASW's participation in the National Coalition to End Child Abuse Deaths.
- Led a webinar for NASW's Lunchtime Series on Leadership entitled Social Workers as Leaders: Strategies for Success (SocialWorkers.org/ce/online/lunchtime/lcourses/frmSignUpList.aspx).
- Provided consultation to NASW chapters and social work education programs on staffing and workforce issues and on research that addresses the effectiveness of social work interventions.

- Served on the planning committee for the 2010 Social Work Congress, a convening of 300 social work thought leaders, which resulted in the development of ten imperatives to address issues of recruitment, retention, leadership, business, technology and influence (SocialWorkers.org/2010congress/).
- Co-edited a special issue of *Child Welfare* (volume 88, #5, 2009) entitled “Strengthening the Child Welfare Workforce: Promoting Recruitment and Retention.”
- Presented information on SWPI and its goals at the 2009 CSWE Annual Program Meeting and the 2010 Conference of the Association of Baccalaureate Social Work Program Directors.
- Presented two sessions at the 2010 World Congress on Social Work and Social Development and met with colleagues from around the world who are working on issues related to promoting social work’s leadership and influence and promoting partnerships between universities and communities (swsd2010.org/en/index.html).

ABOUT THE DIRECTOR



SWPI Director Joan Levy Zlotnik, PhD, ACSW, previously served as Executive Director of the Institute for the Advancement of Social Work Research and as Director of Special Projects and Special Assistant to the Executive Director at the Council on Social Work Education. From 1987 to 1994 she served as staff director of NASW’s Family Commission and as a Government Relations Associate at NASW. She holds a PhD in Social Work from the University of Maryland, and an MSSW from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Dr. Zlotnik is a fellow of the Gerontological Society of America and an NASW Social Work Pioneer®. She has received numerous awards including the Association of Gerontology Education in Social Work (AGESW) Leadership Award and the Association of Baccalaureate Social Work Program Director’s (BPD) Presidential Medal of Honor. She was recognized by the National Institute of Health’s (NIH) Social Work Research Working Group for her efforts on behalf of social work research at NIH.

OF NOTE

- The September 2010 issue of *Research on Social Work Practice* is a special issue that highlights effective social work interventions in mental health, violence prevention, criminal justice, health care, and school-based services (SocialWorkPolicy.org/news-events/social-work-intervention-research-highlighted.html).
- The 2009 Fedele and Iris Fauri Lecture at the University of Michigan, Keynote Presentation, *Social Work and Child Welfare: A National Debate*, was presented by SWPI Director Joan Levy Zlotnik (ssw.umich.edu/events/fauri/FauriLecture_ChildWelfare.pdf).
- The *NASW SHIFT Project for Suicide Prevention with Adolescent Girls* toolkit includes useful guidance for agencies and community groups on implementing evidence-based practices into real world settings (SocialWorkers.org/practice/adolescent_health/shift/about.asp).
- In 2009-2010 the Social Work Policy Institute hosted two MSW social work students, Briana Walters of the University of Maryland and Lisa Hughes of Virginia Commonwealth University.

ABOUT THE NASW FOUNDATION

The National Association of Social Workers Foundation (NASWF)’s mission is to enhance the well-being of individuals, families, and communities through the advancement of social work policy and practice. It is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization that administers a wide variety of educational and research programs. For more information visit naswfoundation.org.

Robert C. Arnold, MPS, Director

**Elizabeth J. Clark, PhD, ACSW, MPH, President, NASW Foundation
Executive Director, NASW**

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