



NEWS FROM THE CAPITOL

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2017 Legislative Agenda

A primary benefit of NASW-NYS membership is the comprehensive political and legislative representation we provide you on a daily basis. While you are busy practicing, we are your voice at the state capitol, protecting your career, defending your scope of practice, advancing legislation to expand practice opportunities, securing funding for membership workforce development programming and providing visibility on a number of social justice issues you've identified as a priority concerns.

The 2016 Legislative Session was enormously successful, as we

secured additional funding for CE, increased loan forgiveness, thwarted a five - year exemption to licensure and an attempt to gut our scope of practice. In addition, we derailed efforts to: infringe on our scope of practice in school based settings and expand the scope of practice of other mental health practitioners seeking diagnosis privileges. In addition, we've advanced several bills and have had two new legislative initiatives introduced. As 2016 comes to a close, we are preparing for yet another robust legislative session.

The official start of the 2017 session will begin with the Governor's State of the State Address on January 11th. As such, the NASW-NYS Agenda will include to following issues.

Career Protection

Workers Compensation Program - Adding LCSW's as providers to the Workers Compensation Program

Social Work Licensure Exemption - Implementing 2002 Social Work Licensure Law across all sectors of service delivery.

Social Work Investment Initiative - Collaboration with NASW-NYC that seeks to secure a substantial state investment into the social work profession, specifically in settings operated, funded or regulated by OMH, OASAS, OPWDD, SOFA, DOCCS, OCFS, and DOH. Such an initiative will be tied to resolution of the licensure exemption.

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- A \$4 million Loan Forgiveness Program for Social Workers specifically working in currently exempt settings. Such an initiative would not supplant the current loan forgiveness program available to a broader network of social workers.
- An \$18 million incentive program for currently exempt agencies to increase the number of licensed social workers available to provide supervision. Such an investment will provide for a stronger career track and also reduce reported staff turnover.
- \$500,000 for the development and distribution of culturally sensitive and ESL test preparation to assist those who are vulnerable to, or have already, failed the exam.
- \$250,000 for the development and implementation of a workforce data collection survey to be utilized (upon mandate) by the NY State Education Department at registration and re-registration of all Article 154 licensees (Licensed Clinical Social Workers and Licensed Master Social Workers). This will assist us in better understanding where licensees are currently working and where gaps persist.

Workforce Development

NASW-NYS will continue to identify and secure streams of funding for the development and implementation of cutting edge continuing education curriculum. Current initiatives focus on veteran's mental health, problem gambling, and abuse prevention and reporting.

Social Justice Issues

Juvenile Justice Reform – Raise the Age of Criminal Responsibility - New York continues to be only one of two states that continues to automatically prosecute 16 and 17 year olds as adults.

Conversion Therapy - NASW-NYS will continue to lead the charge to prohibit mental health professionals from engaging in sexual orientation change efforts with a patient under the age of eighteen years and expanding the definition of professional misconduct with respect to mental health professionals.

Racial Equity - In conjunction with NASW-NYC, the state chapter will work to advance an initiative that calls upon the NY State Legislature to develop a Racial Equity Committee; a legislative body tasked with viewing legislative proposals through the lens of racial equity.

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Karin Carreau, MSW, Founder and Principal of Carreau Consulting, has been on the scene at the Capitol for nearly 15 years and as such, has built a strong track record of successes. Throughout her career, Carreau has provided representation on high profile issues in the arenas of juvenile justice, mental health parity, professional scope of practice licensing and continuing education issues, social services and consumer protection. Carreau created the state's Veterans Mental Health Training Initiative and co-created the state's program on problem gambling: The Problem Gambling Training Partnership.

Carreau has worked extensively with statewide associations to develop strategic organizational policy priorities, craft and implement issue-specific campaigns, construct public relations messaging, cultivate stakeholder engagement, and foster coalition building.