

WNY-NASW Steering Committee meeting 10:00- 11:35 A.M.

Present: Cheryl Eberl, Sylvia Gold, Jesse Grossman, Jess Hernandez, Cheryl Mills

1) Old Business

A- Sylvia reached out to Shakira Maki regarding input needed to update the certificate template for this year's annual 'Social Work Students of the Year' awards. Ms. Maki is out of the office until next week. Sylvia will follow up with Shakira upon her return to the office.

B- Further discussion regarding archiving our Division's past hard-copy materials. Is this something our Chapter can provide for us? Would the material then be accessible to all members? Any time-limits anticipated? Do other Divisions have archives established? Jesse will ask Shakira to respond regarding this issue.

C- Discussed desired functions of the WNY Resource List. The search process is unclear if the user is NOT seeking a therapist, but rather, would like to connect with a peer, i.e. a colleague who is engaged in a specialty practice. Can Shakira please advise us on how to make the Resource List more of a resource?

2) New Business

A- Discussed ballot for upcoming national election

B- Discussed 4/14/22 (Zoom) presentation by Mit Joyner

C- Cheryl Mills reported on upcoming 4/12/22 Advocacy & Government Relations Comm. Meeting. The Veterans' Mental Health Training initiative was not included as a line item in the State budget just passed.

D- Discussion about W. Seneca's new grant program in which Social Workers respond with police officers to community mental health calls. Thus far, the collaboration has been deemed successful. Noted is the fact that the Social Workers have been able to link involved citizens with needed community resources. W. Seneca is hoping for permanent funding.

The community needs to be educated regarding how to access these services, i.e. who to call, when. Crisis Services is experiencing staff shortages and reduced funding, limiting its ability to provide week-end out-reach visits. In a related issue, the city of Buffalo is seeking funding to increase Social Work presence in the Police Dept., as well as in the public schools.

The two officers who were arrested for assaulting a 72-year-old citizen at a 'Black Lives Matter' demonstration held two years ago in Buffalo, have been found Not Guilty.

3) Other discussion

A- Jesse mentioned an article in this week's New Yorker magazine about childhood and adolescent suicide.

B- Discussion regarding a local (Amherst, NY) judge who ended his life

C- Discussion regarding recent legislative constraints on teachers, and concomitant teacher shortages nation-wide.

D- Discussion regarding NASW's general focus on clinical issues, and the need to enhance involvement of Social Workers who are primarily engaged in community work, justice work, advocacy, and neighborhood

organization.

4) Upcoming

A- Next Clinical Comm. will be held on May 3rd, 6- 8:00 P.M.

B- Next Steering Comm. Meetings will be held on 5/14, & 6/11/22, 10- 11:30 A.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Jesse Grossman