

## **WNY-NASW Steering/Membership Comm. Meeting Minutes**

**Date: 6/11/2022**

In attendance: Sylvia Gold, Cheryl Mills, Cheryl Eberl, Jessica Hernandez, Rolanda Ward, Jesse Grossman

Ellen Silver is participating in the March for Life

### **I. Old Business**

#### **A) Advocacy & Government Relations Committee**

Discussed Shakira Maki's e-mail regarding the need for an additional member on the state-wide Advocacy and Government Relations Committee. Cheryl Mills advised that she agreed to serve for one more year, and Shakira is aware. Olivia Knox is now serving as the Administrative Liaison/Coordinator for this committee. Next A.G.R meeting scheduled 6/14/2022.

#### **B) Meeting Registration and Posting of Meeting Minutes**

Cheryl E. received an e-mail enabling meeting registrations for the upcoming year. Other members did not.

Sylvia advises that meeting minutes are being posted to our Division webpage in a timely fashion.

Thank you!

### **2. New Business**

#### **A) Gun Violence**

Lengthy discussion regarding recent episodes of racialized violence, the use of weapons, and continued mass shootings in neighborhoods across our country. The state of gun laws, the ages of terrorist perpetrators, the outsize influence of the N.R.A., and questions about the role of mental illness have been conflated and politicized. Issues such as Republicans balking at gun control, and proposals regarding armed guards and armed teachers in schools, contribute to prolonged stress. Children and adults are therefore at risk of being in constant fight/flight mode, in heightened states of arousal. The pre-frontal cortex, the seat of executive functioning, is shut down when the amygdala is constantly stimulated. This leads to heightened sense of insecurity, poor decision-making, poor impulse control, and potentially dangerous behaviors. How is NASW currently advocating for our members, and for the people we serve?

#### **B) Strengthening Connections**

Discussed various NASW Special Interest Groups. How do we build solidarity with groups who are protective of their identities? How to best harness the power of on-line communities?

Rolanda is considering talking to Samantha about the need for involvement in the organization by more People of Color.

Jess will research the present status of the Black Social Workers organization.

### **3. Upcoming events**

#### **A) Interstate License Compact**

Angelo McCain, National N.A.S.W. CEO, recently sent an e-mail regarding this issue; not all members have received it. Try to access this for discussion at our next meeting.

#### **B) Next Meeting dates**

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Next Clinical Committee meeting will be held on Tues., July 5<sup>th</sup>, 6:00- 8:00 P.M.

Next Steering/Membership Committee meeting will be held on Sat., 7/9 from 10- 11:30 A.M.

Please register for the above; all are welcome to participate.

Respectfully submitted,

Jesse Grossman