

NASWNYS Western Division Monthly Steering/Member Meeting Minutes
May 13, 2023

Present: Cheryl Eberl, Sylvia Gold, Jesse Grossman, Bernadette Marson, Cheryl Mills

Agenda:

1. Student Awards
2. Setting Dates for Monthly Clinical & Steering/Member Meetings for the rest of 2023
3. Discussion of Proposed Amendment of Section 29.15 Rules of the New York State Board of Regents & Sections 79-9.6, 79-10.6, 79-12.6 of the Regulations of the Committee of Education Relating to Mental Health Practitioners' Diagnostic Privilege

Student Awards: Jesse asked if there has been any feedback from the Social Work Schools in our Division that we mailed Student Award Certificates, Honorariums and Tchotchkes. Cheryl E. stated she heard from Buffalo State University that parcel we sent arrived with postage due. Jesse asked how much postage was due. Cheryl E. stated she was not sure. Cheryl E. stated she did not hear anything from Niagara University or University at Buffalo. Sylvia stated she has not heard anything from SUNY College at Fredonia. She stated she hand delivered the Student Award etc. to Daemen University. It was agreed that Cheryl E. will follow up with Niagara and UB. Sylvia will follow up with SUNY College at Fredonia

Setting Dates for Monthly Clinical and Steering/Member Meeting for the rest of 2023: Cheryl E. stated there are no further meeting dates left on the Western Division web page on the NASWNYS website. Jesse stated we get some dates set for the rest of the year and she would email these dates to Katie Huntington, Executive Assistant at the State Chapter so they can be posted on our Division web page.

- The dates for the Clinical Meeting are: 06/06/23, 08/01/23, 09/05/23, 10/10/23, 11/07/23 & 12/05/23.
- The dates for the Steering/Member Meetings are: 06/10/23, 07/08/23, 09/09/23, 10/14/23, 11/11/23 & 12/09/23.

Discussion of Proposed Amendment of Section 29.15 Rules of the New York State Board of Regents & Sections 79-9.6, 79-10.6, 79-12.6 of the Regulations of the Committee of Education Relating to Mental Health Practitioners' Diagnostic Privilege: Jesse stated she read through the proposed Amendment and NASWNYS comments to the Proposed Amendment. She stated she would be willing to write and send our comments to the Committee of Education and to Samantha Fletcher, Executive Director of the NASW-NYS Chapter. The public comments period ends 05/30/23, so we need to get our comments together soon. Members agreed to read through the proposed amendment & NASWNYS comments and get our feedback/comments to Jesse by the end of the week of 05/15/23.

Members had questions/concerns as to where Licensed Mental Health Counselors, Licensed Marriage & Family Therapists (LMFT) and Licensed Psychoanalysts (LP) are going to get the credits they need to meet the requirements for diagnosing. Jesse stated these professionals are our competitors and should not get these credits from Graduate Schools of Social Work.

Members expressed concern that LMHC course work is not as comprehensive as graduate Social Work course work is. Cheryl E. stated LMHC, LMFT, LP are fighting for health insurance reimbursement. Jesse stated Licensed Clinical Social Workers are more qualified and this is further diluting the Social Work profession. She stated with all of these mental health professions it creates risk and potential harm to the general public who don't know the difference between all of these professions and how much course work & diagnostic training each profession has. Jesse stated 5 years ago all the State "O's" (Office of Mental Health, Office of Persons with Developmental Disabilities, OASAS etc.) had to have employees working as Social Workers, Mental Health Counselors, Substance Abuse Counselors with the highest level of credentials and this kept getting pushed back by the State Education Department. Jesse stated there is not enough gatekeeping to ensure qualified and highest level of credentialing for professionals who do behavioral health diagnosing. Cheryl E. stated health insurance companies are powerful lobbyists. Sylvia stated it is important our questions and concerns be made to the Committee of Education and NASWNYS Chapter.

Next Meeting Dates:

Clinical: 06/06/23 at 6:00 p.m

Steering/Member: 06/10/23 at 10:00 a.m.

Both are held virtually via Zoom.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cheryl S. Mills, LCSW-R, ACSW