**Western Division Steering Committee Minutes, 10/1/24**

Attendance: Ellen Silver, Sylvia Gold, Jesse Grossman, Cheryl Eberl, Cheryl Mills, Elaine Rinfrette, Rolanda Ward.

.

1. OLD BUSINESS

 A. ORIENTING MSW STUDENTS in the SPRING.

Daeman agrees to Spring orientation, they prefer Zoom in March.

Fredonia prefers as ceu, one each month in a hybrid - one in person and one in zoom.

Niagara agrees to spring orientation

We still have to hear from Buff State and UB.

 B. BUDGET

We heard from Amelia who provided us with our budget which is$2,187. We have funds to support some projects such as Spring Breakfast, or Jesse is looking into chair massage through Massage school as an event for Social Work Month.

 C. NPR RADIO SPOTS

The spots went live 2xs a day during commute times for 2 weeks. Some of us heard them and agreed they sounded positive in promoting NASW Western Division.

 D. CEUS

Berg Miller did present after several rescheduling dates.

Tanya Rhodes Smith is scheduled for Oct. 2 on Healthy Democracy presented by the Western and Northeast Divisions.

Kerry Causey has again been rescheduled.

James Coco is scheduled for Oct 17.

Dr. Mark Frank is scheduled for Nov.9

Full information can be viewed on Western Division link of NASWNYS.

!! NEW BUSINESS

 A. Much discussion ensued on the resignation of Sharon Gandarilla-Javier from position of Vice President of NASW. We felt we don’t have enough information regarding her allegations against the National CEO and other officials.

 A secondary issue is the lawsuit against NASW by Preferra Insurance company for NASWS’s refusal to uphold their obligations. Discussion ensued on how this impacts Social Workers who have that insurance. Again, we felt we don’t have enough information to make an informed decision on whether we can support or reject. Rolanda suggested members should request an investigation into this issue.

 B. PROPOSAL by REP. SAM BERGER

He is proposing that LMHCs can provide supervision to CSWs! This generated much discussion as to the unequal qualifications of LMHC compared to CSWs., especially the inequities of LMHC education. We felt we need to highlight SW education, ethics, standards, education, intense training, and value system in promoting the value of the CSW vs, LMHC.

Cheryl Mills suggested we pass this onto the AGR committee and our policy person. We must ask our chapter to protect our practice and prevent LMHCs infringing on us.

C. UNIFICATION of NYC into NYS. TASK FORCE

Rolanda is on the committee. She reports a good mix. There is no charter yet, and we are still two separate entities. They are seeking member input regarding strategic plan and urge members to respond to task force link. Task force will keep members informed of progress. Roland volunteered to give us an update on this process at steering committee meetings.

D. AGR REPORT

Cheryl Mills reports they had first meeting September 26. Amanda Pressly is the coordinator. She has much experience with the legislature and bill drafting. Megan Marshall is the new Chairperson. She also comes with much experience. They meet the 4th Thursday of each month. Evelyn Williams is the Policy Director. It seems the vacancies are being filled.

NEXT STEERING COMMITTEE November 5, Tuesday 6-7:30

NEXT CLINICAL MEETING October 21, Monday 6-8

Respectfully Submitted

Sylvia Gold, LCSWR