

## Western Division Steering Committee Minutes 1/7/2025

**Attendance:** Alison Smith, Jesse Grossman, Cheryl Eberl, Elaine Rinfrette, Cheryl Mills, Sylvia Gold, Rolanda Ward.

### 1. OLD BUSINESS

A. Preferra Lawsuit. Elaine reports NASW Assurance and NASW Insurance Co. filed a countersuit in U.S. District Court on 12/17/24 refuting charges made by Preferra. Further info is available on ASI website- case # 1:24-cv-02689.

B. Supervision of LCSWs by LMHCs.

No further updates. Cheryl E. Reports new IHA reimbursement rates combine all therapists in the same category: LCSW, LMHC, Marriage Counselor.

C. Transition between NYS and NYC.

Rolanda reports the process moving along. At issue is the development of bi-laws.

D. Orientation of Students to NASW.

Since most schools prefer video presentation Elaine accepts the decision. She requested info to be included and asked for volunteers from Steering Committee members to participate in the video. Rolanda offered her intern, Jennifer, to assist with videoing.

E. Student Awards.

Sylvia reminded members of the time frame for contacting schools for nominations. Cheryl E. will contact Buff State and Niagara, Sylvia will contact Fredonia and Daemen, and Jesse will contact UB.

Rolanda suggested we return to the previous ceremony in person at an Awards luncheon, offering Niagara U. catering and room. Discussion ensued to determine if this is viable. Members will contact their schools and ask if they would attend luncheon in person to present awards to their students. It would likely be in April, not in March for Social Work Month. An option is to include a CEU presentation by Fredonia already on the schedule. Elaine will ask if Fredonia is able to do this.

### F. BUDGET

Elaine reports a recent report from Albany shows we only have \$1,287 for this year due to NPR PSAs not paid from last year's budget as expected. Discussion ensued re frustration with Albany re bills paid on time and change of staff. This lesser amount impacts on our planned activities for Social Work Month: chair massages, student awards, member engagement!

G. Upcoming CEUs.

Kerry Causey and James Coco still have not been rescheduled. Elaine has reached out to Chapter several times.

Fredonia has offered to do 3 hybrid presentations this spring Feb.18, Mar.14, and Apr. 16. Sylvia reports the CEUs are not on our website. Elaine will follow through.

### 11. NEW BUSINESS

A. Cheryl Mills reports on AGR.

Capital Action Day is Feb. 11 in Albany at the Capital and Legislative Office Bldg. There is a question of transportation to Albany. For AGR committee members. This is being investigated. For more info go to NASW website, click on Advocacy and drop down Capital Action Day.

The Chapter's Legislature's priorities for 2025:

- a. Expand loan forgiveness for NYS Social Workers
- b. Address inequities in Social Work salaries.
- c. Improve the ratio of students to Social Workers in schools and mental health services for school aged children.
- d. Social Work licensure requirements,

If unable to attend Capital Action Day an option is to participate in Action Alerts sent by email from Chapter containing a drafted letter to which you can add additional comments which will be sent to your State Senator and Assembly Rep. You can also contact or visit their local offices.

#### **111 ADDENDA**

Elaine received an updated budget after this meeting. It shows we now have \$2,588.74 as of 12/31/24 after expenses. We earned \$1,493. from CEUs, thanks to Elaine for recruiting presenters!

NEXT CLINICAL MEETING; Jan. 20/25, Monday at 6:00 - 7:30

NEXT STEERING COMMITTEE Feb.4/25, Tuesday at 6:00-7:30

Respectfully Submitted,  
Sylvia G Gold LCSW-R