

WSSWA
NEWSLETTER
Fall, 2013



Connecting and serving practitioners as they care for students, families and schools

Dear Colleagues:

It's that time of year again when we look forward to our annual fall conference. This year's conference theme is **Mental Health Matters**. Last year's conference was incredibly successful, with the largest attendance we have ever had. While we do not expect to reach that level this year, we do have a quality conference planned, with nationally recognized experts to present keynote addresses, and a variety of workshops and extended trainings designed to meet the needs of a diverse membership. We have invested a good deal of time, resources and money into making this a quality conference. David Letterman has a Top 10 list on his show each night. Here is our list:

Top 10 Reasons to attend the WSSWA conference

10. Meet old friends, and greet new ones ... network with others
9. Find out from colleagues what is going on in the field of School Social Work throughout the state (rural, suburban, urban settings)
8. Enjoy great hospitality in a comfortable and relaxing setting
7. Earn clock hours for recertification and state licensing
6. Have an opportunity to earn one graduate credit
5. Share your expertise ... provide support and encouragement to colleagues
4. Take the time to do something for yourself. It is hard to get away, but those who have done so have not regretted it
3. Support your state association. A successful conference keeps our association vibrant and financially solvent. There is strength in numbers!
2. Learn new information, and update professional skills for your practice. You will walk away with tools that you can use on Monday after the conference
1. **It just would not be the same without you!**

It's not too late to register. See the complete conference brochure on our website, wsswa.org. WE HOPE TO SEE YOU AT THE CONFERENCE.

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[See Website for Contact Information and Listing by School Districts](#)

Nominations are open for WSSWA Board Members

Consider nominating yourself or someone else for a board position. Nominees must be current members of WSSWA. Prior to submitting a name with the person you intend to nominate, please check with them first. Being part of the WSSWA Board allows for a great opportunity to enhance the profession as well as your own career. Please email Leticia Kubisiak at lkubisia@kUSD.edu no later than October 28th with nominations.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE from the Nation's Capitol
Submitted by Myrna Mandlawitz, SSWAA Legislative Consultant

Shutdown stories -- need info IMMEDIATELY

We are trying to gauge what, if any, direct impact the current government shutdown is having on local school districts -- could be direct or indirect (e.g., cutting school lunch program, etc.) on your students and their families.

Please send any information in the next day or two. We are working with all our education coalition partners and need to be able to talk about the serious impact a prolonged shutdown will have on schools, students, and families. Please remember also that ANY impact on children and families -- not just layoffs of staff, etc. -- are important. One of our members sent a story about the impact of furloughed military personnel on a base serviced by her district and the impact on families' educational decisions.....so "indirect" but a strong impact!



We're looking ahead unfortunately to an even bigger crisis, should the Congress allow the country to default on its debt -- the deadline is coming up very quickly when they will have to act to avert this disaster.

Please send any comments or information to mandlawitz@verizon.net. Thank you.

Here is a quick update about what's happening here in DC. There is probably not a lot to say other than what you're hearing on the news.

U.S. Department of Education contingency plan for the Department during the government shut down

The U.S. Department of Education has posted on its website (www.ed.gov) the contingency plan for the Department during the government shut down. "Just the facts" -- the Dept. employs a little under 4300 employees. Of those employees on any given day of a shutdown, only 5-6% (around 250) employees would be allowed to work. These employees are known as "excepted" (as in "exception") employees and are mainly "constitutional officers," presidential appointees who were confirmed by the Senate, and people necessary to protect life and property...as well as a few folks to get already obligated funds out to grantees. So not that many folks!

Also of interest, the Dept. has convinced the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) that \$22 billion in advance appropriations (Fiscal Year 2014 funds that were included in the FY 2013 appropriations/spending bill) for certain programs including IDEA, Title I, and a few others can continue to be obligated on October 1 (the first day of the fiscal year and of the shutdown). The argument to allow this is that, without these funds, there will be immediate harm to these programs. The tricky part about this is that there is about \$20 billion just sitting in states from the past 3 fiscal years that has not been spent, so folks in states need to use this money so the Department of Education can continue to argue the immediate need!

Believe me, the government shutdown is just the tip to the confusing iceberg!
Stay tuned.....!

Capitol Update: Wisconsin

Jack O'Meara, WSSWA Government Relations Representative

Mental Health Continues To Be a Big Topic at State Capitol

As noted in previous newsletters, elected officials at the State Capitol have been spending a great deal of time this year talking about various new initiatives to improve the delivery of mental health care in the state. This follows the Sandy Hook tragedy in Connecticut late last year, where 26 people, including 20 children, were killed, and more recently, the shooting at the Navy Yard in Washington, D.C.



WSSWA has been active in the debate over mental health, meeting with key policymakers, including Governor Scott Walker, and providing program ideas. WSSWA has consistently highlighted the importance of schools and School Social Workers in addressing our state's mental health needs.

The 2013-15 state budget signed into law this summer creates a new Office of Children's Health that will assist agencies in developing and delivering effective services for children. The budget also includes new funding for in-home counseling for children under the Medicaid program.

Most recently, the **Speaker's Task Force on Mental Health**, appointed by Assembly Speaker Robin Vos (R-Burlington), has been working on some new recommendations. The task force is chaired by Rep. Erik Severson (R-Star Prairie), an emergency room physician. The vice chair is Rep. Sandy Pasch (D-Shorewood), a psychiatric nurse.

Written testimony that WSSWA presented to the task force noted that three-fourths of mental illness appears by age 24, but less than one-half of children with a diagnosed mental health problem receive treatment, and many more are never diagnosed. Other testimony indicated that, according to the American Academy of Pediatrics, 13% of school-aged children and 10% of pre-school children in the United States have parents expressing concerns about their children's behavior or mental health.

The task force met in late September to work on proposals. It is expected to meet one more time before issuing its final report. Among the initiatives that the task force has already reviewed and is poised to endorse are:

Pediatric Telephone Consultation Line: A program would be created to provide a pediatric telephone consultation line to allow primary care physicians to have access to consultation with child and adolescent psychiatrists. The program would include an access coordinator to facilitate referrals to community resources. This proposal followed testimony to the task force that in-person support is difficult to provide, since most counties in the state have fewer than four child and adolescent psychiatrists, and many counties have none. Wisconsin primary care clinicians have expressed a desire for additional support from child psychiatrists.

Mental Health Services in Schools Without Branch Certification: The state currently requires mental health outpatient clinics to obtain branch office certification in order for clinic staff to provide therapy to children in a school setting. The task force received testimony that this requirement creates extra work and licensing fees that are unnecessary to protect consumers.

Stigma Reduction: Provide \$20,000 in funding for an evidence-based program to reduce the stigma of mental illness. Stigma reduction was one of the top priorities of a representative of the Madison Metropolitan School District's Children's Mental Health Task Force, who presented testimony to the speaker's task force. That testimony noted that "there is often judgment and blame placed on parents for their children's mental health concerns, which others often see as bad behavior. There is often shame in seeking treatment for mental health."

“HIPAA Harmonization”: Wisconsin’s patient record privacy law, currently stronger than the federal Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA), would be brought in line with the federal law so that psychiatrists’ notes can be shared with other medical providers. Patients would be clearly informed that they could opt out of the disclosure.

Changes to Emergency Detentions: Mental health professionals in Milwaukee would be allowed to initiate emergency detentions. In all counties, interested parties would be allowed to request that a county initiate an emergency detention, or a judge to order detention if the county will not act.

WSSWA Working to Amend Legislation That Could Affect School Social Workers: Among the legislation that the WSSWA Legislative Committee has been reviewing and monitoring is Assembly Bill 270, which would expand the state’s Volunteer Health Care Provider program in a number of ways, including by adding certified social workers to the list of health care providers eligible for the program. The program allows providers to avoid getting liability insurance on their own because they receive liability protection through the state.

While AB 270 is clearly designed to help free health clinics that are not affiliated with schools, it would amend the current statute governing the program. That law allows school districts, along with free clinics, to hire volunteer providers.

The WSSWA Legislative Committee is concerned about the impact this legislation could have on existing School Social Workers. WSSWA has reached out to the bill’s co-authors -- Rep. Amy Loudenberg (R-Clinton) and Rep. Debra Kolste (D-Janesville) -- to see if some changes can be made to the legislation to address our concerns. We will continue to work to find a solution that helps free clinics while not harming the important work being done by School Social Workers.

As always, please do not hesitate to contact me with questions or concerns. I can be reached at jack@omearapublicaffairs.com or 608-294-8746.



Resources, Conferences and Information

Nic Dibble: Consultant for School Social Work Services

Grants for Teen Parent Instruction and Services

The Department of Public Instruction (DPI) has announced the availability of competitive grant funding to improve the education, economic, health and social outcomes for school age parents and their children. These funds will provide financial assistance to school districts to implement or enhance education, training, and support for school age parents and their children. Titled "In School Pregnancy/Parenting Interventions, Resources, and Education" (InSPIRE), the project will support comprehensive implementation of Chapter PI 19 Education for School Age Parents (https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/code/admin_code/pi/19). Grant guidance is available at the InSPIRE website (http://sspw.dpi.wi.gov/sspw_schlageparent_inspire). The application is available on-line at <http://dpi.wi.gov/files/forms/doc/f1843.doc>. All applications are due to DPI by 4:00 pm on Wednesday, November 13th. Please direct any questions to Emily Holder at emily.holder@dpi.wi.gov or (608) 267-9170 and Lori Stern at lori.stern@dpi.wi.gov or (608) 264-9550.

Building the Heart of Successful School Conference

The 2013 Building the Heart of Successful Schools Conference will be December 5-6 at the Wilderness Resort in Wisconsin Dells. In addition, this year will feature an all-day preconference on trauma-sensitive schools on December 4. The conference brochure and electronic conference registration is available at http://sspw.dpi.wi.gov/sspw_buildingheart. You may register for either or both the preconference and the conference. Please direct any questions about this event to Elizabeth Pease at elizabeth.pease@dpi.wi.gov or (608) 267-9240.

New & Improved Wisconsin School Social Work Practice Guide

The Wisconsin School Social Work Practice Guide has been revised and updated and is ready for you at http://sspw.dpi.wi.gov/sspw_sswguide. You will find literally hundreds of resources to support your professional practice organized under 29 topics. Schools are necessarily placing great emphasis on evidence-based and evidence-informed practices, so you'll find a new heading devoted to that topic. In addition, you'll find links to resources on Threat Assessment under the heading Assessment and Screening. Dozens of new resources have been added.

2014 Teen Summit on Dating Violence

There will be a conference on teen dating and sexual violence March 17-19 at the Kalahari Resort and Conference Center in Wisconsin Dells. This event is for youth and those who work with youth. Past conferences have been a catalyst for groups of youth to return home and actively work to prevent teen dating and sexual violence in their communities. The conference committee is gathering proposals for workshops and teen performances (dance, drama, singing, music, spoken word, or other creative activity). Workshop presenters can be youth, adults or both. Both workshops and teen performances should be related to teen dating and sexual violence. Contact Nic Dibble at nic.dibble@dpi.wi.gov if you would like to submit a workshop proposal (due October 25). Watch for registration information in the future.

SSWAA's Pre 20th Anniversary Sale



In anticipation of SSWAA's 20th Anniversary, the School Social Work Association of America (SSWAA) is offering reduced membership fees from now until December 1, 2013. Since our state is a SSWAA Affiliate State, when you join our state association you can **join SSWAA for only \$75 (a total savings of \$45)**. If you are currently a SSWAA member, you can also renew your membership prior to December 1 and your current SSWAA membership will be extended by 12 months.



What are the benefits of joining SSWAA?

In addition to lower conference rates, you also receive Professional Liability Insurance, Electronic News, Professional Advocacy, Public Policy Development, Publication Discounts, and more. See [Member Benefits](#) on website for details.

How do you take advantage of this SSWAA Affiliate Membership Sale?

Once you have joined our state association, you will be eligible for this discount. Our state Affiliate Discount Code is WISSWAA2013. Enter this code where requested on the [SSWAA Membership Application](#) which is available on-line. See SSWAA website at www.sswaa.org for complete details!

Questions?

State Contact: Tim Schwaller, tschwaller@wi.rr.com

SSWAA Contact: Dot Kontak, Dot@sswaa.org

Rtl: New Training Tools

The Wisconsin Rtl Center and the DPI have developed new additions to their training and tools. Following are a few of the latest. For information, contact Heidi Thuli <thulih@wisconsinrticenter.org>

Universal Design for Learning – Training

Universal Design for Learning (UDL) provides educators with a structure to develop their instruction to meet the wide range of diversity among all learners. UDL is a research-based framework that suggests that a one-size-fits-all approach to curricula is not effective. Participants will learn about many aspects of UDL, including the principles, components, and how it works with initiatives and structures already existing in schools (e.g., common core state standards, educator effectiveness, Rtl, and PBIS). Select the above link for dates and registration information.

Dropout Early Warning System (DEWS) – Tool

The DPI has created an Early Warning System to identify potential dropouts and late graduates. DEWS increases schools' chances of intervening early to keep students learning in school and prevent dropout or unplanned late graduation. Schools should use DEWS scores in conjunction with other local and more current data to make decisions within a culturally responsive multi-level system of support.

Reading Interventions – Training

The DPI's next webinar in the series Balancing Intervention and Prevention of Reading Difficulties has now been published. This webinar focuses on processes for identifying which students require reading interventions. Illustrative examples have been shared by several different Wisconsin school districts, with an emphasis on different data sources that these Wisconsin school districts use. There are a total of six webinars for 2013-14, each focusing on a different aspect of reading intervention.

Common Core State Standards – Tool

The DPI recently published a series of documents that shorten and clarify the Common Core State Standards by distilling them down to essentials, and representing them with graphics. The first document outlines reasons for supporting the Common Core State Standards. The second explains what parents need to know about the standards, so they are informed about the impact on their children. The final document reveals what educators need to know about the standards in order to ensure that they are integrated within the curriculum.

International Network for School Social Work

Did you know there is an International Network for School Social Work. They publish an electronic newsletter. The focus of their most recent newsletter is on School Social Work services for children with disabilities. For information, contact Marion Huxtable mhuxtable@olympus.net, or visit their website at <http://internationalnetwork-schoolsocialwork.htmlplanet.com>

Post-Masters school mental health program

Michael Kelly, PhD, submitted the following description of and link to more information about a new, online, post-Masters school mental health program offered by Loyola University in Chicago. It is a 15-credit program that can be completed in as short as 2 years or as long as 5 years. Completion results in an Advanced School Mental Health Certificate from Loyola University.

Dr. Kelly will be presenting at the WSSWA Conference next month.

LOYOLA UNIVERSITY CHICAGO SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK



As the demands placed on school-based mental health practitioners have increased, so too has the need for up-to-date and intensive training. Loyola is pleased to announce its new **Advanced School Mental Health Certificate** for professionals looking to better affect positive psychosocial development in their student clients.

Renowned for clinical education, Loyola's **School of Social Work** can help you foster collaboration between schools and families, implement strength-based interventions in schools, and become more data driven and evidence informed. You'll work closely with distinguished clinical educators as you learn how to invigorate your practice.

This post-master's program begins January 2014 (Spring semester).

APPLY NOW!



School of Social Work
820 N. Michigan Ave., Lewis Towers 12th Floor
Chicago, IL 60611 | 312.915.8900



LOYOLA
UNIVERSITY CHICAGO

Gateway Foundation will have an exhibit at the WSSWA Conference next month

In October, Gateway is offering two free lunchtime learning programs / continuing education trainings that may be of interest to those in SE Wisconsin, close to the Gateway facility

Advanced Treatment For Opioid & Alcohol Dependence

Thursday, 10/10 OR Thursday, 10/24
12:30 – 1:30 p.m.

What you will learn:

- Medication can effectively address withdrawal symptoms.
- Benefits of Suboxone®, Vivitrol® and other medicines.
- Importance of integrated treatment for successful outcomes.



Meet the Trainer:

Dr. John Larson
Corporate Medical Director
Gateway Foundation

Heroin & Opioid Rx: Expert Insight To An Epidemic

Tuesday, 10/22 OR Wednesday, 10/30
12:30 – 1:30 p.m.

What you will learn:

- Trends, Signs and symptoms of heroin and opioid use.
- Effects on the mind and body.
- The Good Samaritan Law and naloxone, "the overdose drug".



Meet the Trainer:

Amy Warren, CRADC, MISA II
Clinical Supervisor
Gateway Foundation Swansea

Space is limited so register early!

Registration online only at RecoverGateway.org/Training

For More Information Contact

Shelley Reimann, Outreach Coordinator
Gateway Foundation
55 East Jackson Blvd. Suite 1500, Chicago, IL 60604
Mobile: 847-785-9755
smreiman@gatewayfoundation.org

Thank You 2012-2013 WSSWA Sponsors:

CHILDYNAMICS

Child and Adolescent Day Treatment and
Outpatient Mental Health Center
Wauwatosa, Wisconsin 53226 - (414) 258-4318



Rogers Memorial Hospital

800-767-4411 - <http://rogershospital.org/>

Providing mental health inpatient and day treatment programs
in a variety of locations in SE Wisconsin including Milwaukee,
Madison, Kenosha, Brown Deer, and Oconomowoc



University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee

Helen Bader School of Social Welfare Alumni Chapter

has been a welcome sponsor of the hospitality event at the WSSWA conference for many years. We encourage UWM alumni to join the alumni chapter. There is no charge. Contact: (414) 229-4290 or alumni@uwm.edu

