

Legislative and Advocacy Agenda 2015-2016

Professional Social Work

- Advocate for the expansion and hiring of professionally degreed social workers into the state Social Work Series.
- Support fair pay raises for social work state employees.
- Advocate for the direct enrollment of Licensed Clinical Social Work Associates into Medicaid and other insurance panels.
- Support fair and marketable reimbursement rates for services provided by social workers in the public and private insurance markets.

Children

- Support new policies and improve resources for youth aging out of the NC foster care system such as access to Family Finding programs and the continuation of the Permanency Innovation Initiative.
- Advocate for the inclusion of age appropriate sexual abuse education and training as supported by the Human Trafficking Commission.
- Advocate for raising the age of juvenile court from 16 to 18 years of age to keep children out of the adult court system.

Health Care

- Advocate for a sustainable, long term plan for group home funding.
- Advocate for a comprehensive Medicaid reform plan that includes integrated primary and behavioral health care and accessible and affordable healthcare for all North Carolinians.
- Provide funding and access to mental health and substance abuse services in jails and prisons.

Aging and Disabled Adults

- Ensure that older adults, individuals with disabilities, and their caregivers have full access to services including affordable healthcare, safe and affordable housing, and mental health and substance abuse services.

NASW-NC advocates for all areas of the social work profession and thus keeps the agenda at a minimum to ensure flexibility for legislation that may arise without our knowledge prior to session. For more information, please contact Kay Castillo, Director of Advocacy, Policy and Legislation for NASW-NC at advocacy@naswnc.org.