Thank you to all who joined us at our Annual Conference last month! It was an energizing, inspiring couple of days and we can't wait to share more news of the conference with you. Stay tuned - our December newsletter will recap the conference with pictures and highlights. In the meantime, a few news items to share ...

**NASW Virtual Forum - Addressing Domestic Violence Through the Social Work Lens**

Join NASW live, October 16 & 17, 12:00pm - 5:00pm (EST) to access cutting-edge education presented by leaders in the field on topics covering clinical practice, children & families, policy, ethics, LGBTQ and more as they relate to domestic violence. This two-day program will be live-streamed from the NASW National Office and you will be able to view it from your home, your office, or mobile device. Visit this page for more information and to register.

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**Membership Corner**

**Members, Refer a Member by October 31st!!**

The Member Referral Campaign acknowledges and rewards members like you – our most committed regular members. The campaign asks you to help us identify and recruit to NASW other like-minded social workers who care about the good of the profession and can make our advocacy voice louder. The Member Referral Campaign runs through October 31, 2019. Those who successfully recruit new or former members during the campaign will receive a special gift.

Current regular NASW members may refer eligible prospective members to join or reinstate as regular NASW members. To be eligible to receive a campaign gift, you must make your referral during the campaign and those you invite to join or reinstate as regular NASW members must do so by October 31, 2019. Refer the prospective members you invite to learn more at www.SocialWorkers.org/MemberInvite.
To show appreciation and gratitude for helping to grow the association and make our voice louder, all those who successfully recruit members during the Member Referral campaign will be offered a special gift from NASW National. Those recruited will be offered a gift, too. You’ll make us stronger together and get a great gift!

Action Alert: Act Now to Increase Social Worker Reimbursement

From the National Office: Thank you for your outreach last week to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) regarding their proposed cuts in reimbursement for clinical social workers (CSWs) participating in Medicare. Over 6,000 advocates contacted CMS and expressed their concern about the harmful impact to older Americans, and social workers, of these proposed cuts. We will be updating you soon on this federal regulatory threat.

Since you have demonstrated your commitment to pay equity and adequate reimbursement for our profession, we are reaching out to you now to urge you to contact your congressional lawmakers to cosponsor legislation to advance these goals: the Improving Access to Mental Health Act (S. 782/H.R. 1533).

This legislation will only advance if lawmakers hear directly from social workers they represent! Currently, CSWs are reimbursed at 75% of the physician fee schedule, lower than any other mental health provider in Medicare. The Improving Access to Mental Health Act will raise this rate from 75% to 85%. This is a crucial step forward in ensuring mental health care for millions of Medicare beneficiaries and in increasing compensation for social workers.

In addition, this legislation will enable CSWs to bill Medicare Part B for:

- Providing services to residents of skilled nursing facilities (SNFs). The vast majority of Medicare beneficiaries in SNFs experience anxiety, depression and other challenges. Millions of these beneficiaries also live with physical or medical conditions which give rise to similar challenges. This legislation will enable CSWs to be reimbursed by Medicare to provide much-needed services to these beneficiaries.

- Providing Health and Behavior Assessment and Intervention (HBAI) services. Millions of beneficiaries who have a physical or medical illness also have psychosocial concerns.
arising from those conditions. For example, a beneficiary with diabetes may face multiple challenges in understanding and managing their illness. HBAI services help the beneficiary identify and address emotional barriers to monitoring blood sugar levels, as well as familial resistance to changes in eating habits and lifestyle adjustments. Providing these services is in the CSW scope of practice but this legislation is imperative if they are to be able to bill Medicare for them.

This bipartisan legislation is championed by Sen. Debbie Stabenow, MSW (D-MI), Sen. John Barrasso, MD (R-WY) and Rep. Barbara Lee, MSW (D-CA-13).

To see if your lawmakers have cosponsored the legislation, go to www.congress.gov.

Please join us in supporting this legislation by contacting your Member of Congress TODAY and urging them to cosponsor S. 782/H.R. 1533 the Improving Access to Mental Health Act. Tell your elected officials about your experience as a CSW. A personalized communication goes a long way with a Member of Congress. Help them to understand the importance of client access to mental health care services and of adequate social worker reimbursement and compensation. Together we can help ensure clients have full access to the high-quality mental health services CSWs provide! Contact your legislators here.

Resources
- NASW Immigration Web Page and Child Migrant Protection Toolkit - Check out this page for regular updates about the current crisis as well as other developments around immigration and social work.
Events/News

Visit the Underground Railroad Freedom Museum with CORED
You must register by Friday, October 11th

Registration is open for November 15 & 16 Licensure Prep Course
Members receive a discount on registration fees!

Share your expertise at our 3rd Annual SOGI Conference
Proposals accepted through October 31, 2019

Visit this page for info  Register now  Submit your proposal

Coming in December — 2019 Conference Highlights

Useful Links
NASW Indiana Chapter
Join NASW – renew your membership

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