

## US Army Veteran Named 2015 NASW-NC Toby Brown Award Recipient

Brian Weir, BSW Graduate, Methodist University

By Valerie Arendt; Edited from Award Application

Methodist University graduate Brian Weir has been awarded the 2015 Toby Brown Award from the National Association of Social Workers North Carolina Chapter (NASW-NC).

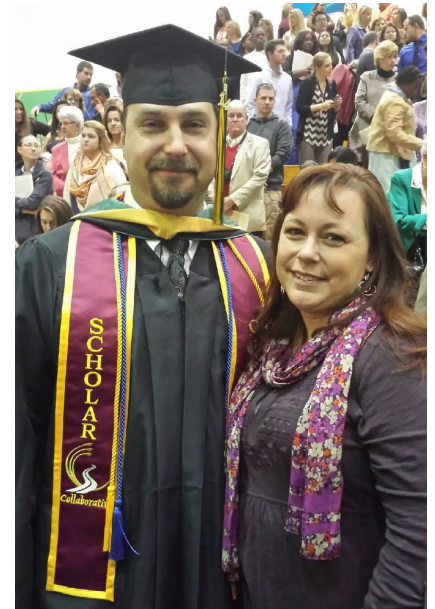
The award recognizes the Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) student of North Carolina who best reflects and represents the ethics, values, and passion in the field of social work through exemplary performance in social work coursework, field placement, student social work associations, and community organizations.

Brian Weir is an infantry combat veteran with the US Army and served with honor from 1999 to 2010. He is married with 5 children and after his discharge worked

in the automotive industry. He began attending Methodist University in 2012 and graduated with a Bachelor of Social Work in December 2014.

During his Social Work policy course at Methodist, Brian became interested in the topic of human trafficking after learning about the high rate of trafficking in the Fayetteville area. "I was horrified to learn that Fayetteville had a history of trafficking incidents. I can clearly remember that I was stunned, and I felt an immediate connection to the victims and their families," Brian recalls.

**Toby Brown Award** continued on Page 12



Brian Weir and his wife Wendy at the Methodist University December 2014 graduation ceremony.

*“My social work education provided me with skills needed to take a proactive approach to fight human trafficking.” - Brian Weir*



## 2015 NASW-NC Advocacy Day Highlights

Read about how social workers promoted social work issues at the North Carolina General Assembly on Page 7.

Left to right: Bennett College students and faculty; Representative Graig Meyer, MSW.

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## From the President

### Implementing Meaningful Change

By Sabrina Southern, MSW, LCSW

*“The secret to change is to focus your energy not on fighting the old but on building the new.” - Socrates*

After many years of working with individuals and families, I am still amazed at the amount of dysfunction, chaos and pain families tolerate before seeking help. Many recognize the chaos on some level but still feel resentment, resistance or fear regarding outside efforts of support in making necessary change. A rush of emotions, feelings of vulnerability, sadness, grief and sometimes despair. It is after this, they can begin to breathe and hopefully more clearly reflect on the reality of their situation. There has to be a moment of acceptance that they had been fighting to maintain something that no longer served them. At this point, knowing their own needs, they begin to move forward with the real work of creating a more functional and productive life.

*“Isn't it funny how day by day nothing changes but when you look back everything is different...” - C.S. Lewis*

I have recently taken the opportunity to step out of the fray of the nonprofit government provider world. North Carolina has been involved in system reform for many years. As a social worker in the public service sector, I worked under stressful conditions and became accustomed to low pay, long hours and hard work. Despite these conditions I loved the challenge and took personal satisfaction from my work. I loved it and continued my education, obtained my masters degree and licensure. I paid all the right fees, had all the right insurances and continued to get all the mandated training that my position as a social worker is morally, ethically and legally required to obtain. With this effort, I earned increased responsibilities and liabilities, the same long hours and the same pay. The changes coming down the pike were making the job harder, less hands on, more demanding but not in a way that was bringing a sense of personal satisfaction. I seemed to be working full throttle but accomplishing less and in constant fear for those I served.

Somewhere along the 20-year career the reality of social work practice, had morphed into a chaotic, unrecognizable stress filled endeavor that no longer served my or the community's needs. It took a bad tooth to wake me to this sad truth. Somehow, even as a licensed master level professional, living a modest quiet life, I was living paycheck to paycheck, struggling to pay student loans, insurance copays, not taking a vacation, fearful of what the future held for me and whether I would be able to afford it. Somehow, in the midst of chaos of system reform, I had come to accept my professional situation as normal: an expected sacrifice to participate in the field.

*“You have brains in your head, you have feet in your shoes, you can steer yourself any direction you choose.” - Dr. Seuss*

I say all of this knowing the analogy I have drawn between a family in crisis and a profession in crisis may not be applicable on all levels of this discussion; but as president, I have heard many stories from fellow social workers that have found themselves in similar situations. They have had to leave their practices, change career tracks or leave social work altogether in order to take care of themselves and their families. Those decisions, like mine, did not come without some serious self-reflection, resistance, resentment, feelings of sadness, loss and some fear. However, like some of the families we work with, once the realization is made that our needs are not being met by the status quo, the hard work of implementing meaningful change can begin.

In making my decision for change, I have felt a renewed sense of purpose. I love this profession. It is changing. I want a say in the way those changes impact my ability to work with the individuals, families and the communities I serve. Maybe as a profession we need to dust off our advocacy skills, remember our group processes and community development abilities and set ourselves assigned tasks designed to advocate for ourselves the same way we have taught others to advocate for themselves. Change is happening! ●



## From the Executive Director

### I Became a Social Worker Because The Advocacy Goes On and On

By Kathy Boyd, ACSW, CMSW



I think I ended up in the social work field because I grew up wanting a bit of “fairness” in life. I donated part of my allowance to animal organizations such as the ASPCA and the World Wildlife Fund. I asked my parents why none of the adults in our extended family would say or do anything when my aunt locked my cousins out of the house for the day or literally forced them to eat everything on their plate or spend an entire day in their room with no food at all.

I didn’t understand why religion was the way it was. Why one person’s faith could be seen as the only good and right one, and if we all didn’t belong to that faith then we were “less than” and needed to be saved. I bought into that blindfolded lady justice statue and could not image how any part of the legal system could be in any way corrupt. How could anyone not tell the truth when under oath?

I was certainly naive, as probably all children are, and I think a piece of that naiveté has stayed with me. I still donate money to animal organizations and I still struggle with the same questions about religion and the legal system. That means it is always difficult for me when our North Carolina legislature is in session because they take up so many issues that impact the social work profession. So many of those in positions of power seem to be unable to see beyond their beliefs or religion. This has led to recurring issues related to the separation of church and state and social justice and public policy legislation based on religion.

Having strong faith can be a wonderful thing. Faith has helped many people survive unbearable situations and has brought great comfort and strength to others. What is difficult is when someone can’t see their faith and religious beliefs as just what they are, which is “theirs”. Their belief may be shared by many but not by everyone and our country was built on the premise that we were FREE to have our individual beliefs and FREE from the government telling us how to believe. We can go to whatever church, temple or mosque that we choose and pray once a year or five times a day to the god and book that we choose.

Gay rights and women’s rights, especially reproductive rights, seem to be two of the most emotional and contentious areas where choice and differences are not accepted, tolerated or even seen as valid. Issues related to the Bible, such as the effort in Tennessee to make the bible the state “book” are also an area where nothing but the bible is seen or recognized as a valid religious document. This leads us into very scary territory and scary because of the laws that are being introduced and which of those might be passed.

As social workers our NASW Code of Ethics and educational standards say we must take the person where they are. These are difficult times for me. However, representing the social work profession of over 4,600 members in North Carolina and the amazing work that we are doing across the state makes our advocacy efforts even more important. ●

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## Member Spotlight

# Spirituality, Environmental Justice and Poetry = Social Work

Mary Catherine "Kitty" Bass, MDiv, MSW, LCSW

In the last semester of seminary, before graduation, I learned of clinical social work. And, thus, my journey began. For forty-eight years now, across North Carolina, from homes in the mountains, to homes among Lumbee tribesman, to the city, to rural eastern North Carolina and to the coast, I have been privileged and humbled to know the very wealthy, highly educated, and the very poor with hardly any education.

The human spirit is phenomenal; resilience, beyond the imaginable. And from a Master of Divinity; to a Master of Social Work; to a LCSW; to post-graduate work, supervision, advanced supervision, and research at the Family Center, affiliated with the medical school at Georgetown University (now the Bowen Center for the Study of the Family) in Bowen Family Systems Theory and Psychotherapy, I still am in awe. On my best days when I manage my anxiety and myself, am present, and listen, always the indomitable human spirit knows its course – with eternal wisdom. I am able on those days to see and hear the process of human evolution I taught for that one year when I taught biology, and observe spiritual evolution unfolding as people find meaning and purpose in their lives to meet and overcome extraordinary challenges. I remain inspired.

After forty years in group child care, at a family services agency, two psychiatric hospitals, a large, really up-scale private psychiatric practice, mental health centers, and medical practices, I continue in a nearly 35-year-old part-time private practice in Wilmington now. My focus now is on integration of mind, body, and spirit wholeness – a different kind, maybe, of spiritual direction. I remain a student of Bowen Family Systems Psychotherapy and use that theoretical model in practice. Always fascinated by stories, I also facilitate Legacy Letter Writing for individuals, families, and organizations – a wonderful way to leave learnings.

The professional ethics of social work, congruent with my faith tradition and my own spiritual evolution, has also carried me into undergraduate social work advisory boards at Meredith College and North Carolina State University as well as supervision for graduate schools at UNC Chapel Hill and East Carolina University, supervision in agencies, consultation, and workshops. From first being eligible until the present, LCSW and ACSW credentials provide ongoing learning. During much of my practice I was also a member of the academy of family therapists, was a licensed marital and family therapist in NC and a Diplomate and Fellow with the American Board of Medical Psychotherapy.

“Living the work” demanded community and county participation on boards including library, mediation, and crisis centers. The most challenging position I held was as a town commissioner and running for mayor. No education could have prepared me for that run for my life with a drive-by shooting, cut tire, phone calls, etc. (Thankfully, I lost that election by 21 votes!) Nor did I know until then the depths of racism, oppression, greed and the results of power on a community or what happens when it is challenged.

Thirty-five years after leaving the county my ancestors came to from Scotland and Ireland, I returned, claimed as



my home, the ancestral-homeplace in a little rural town, and the farm in the county. My REAL education began. I learned about CAFO's (confined animal feeding operations), what discrepancy between the rich and the poor, food insecurity, systemic control looks, feels and smells like. I was privileged to coordinate a sustainability project with NCSU and the Kellogg Foundation. Environmental Justice became a passion as I claimed my Celtic roots to the land, and remembered Dr. Murray Bowen's words, "Societal regression comes more from our disharmony with nature than with each other." My return home was to develop a land-use study center to demonstrate how the concepts of Bowen Family Theory, a natural system theory, applied to the environment, land use, and agriculture.

Involvement in a church community led to ordination as a Community Minister for Earth Inter-Relationships and for the work of integrative spiritual direction. Later, when asked to perform wedding ceremonies, I was ordained as an Interfaith Minister. Spirituality and religion and their function and evolution in human life as well as in families is an ongoing fascination.

President Obama's speech and position on immigration inspired me to want to want to learn how to write about what I had learned and experienced over the years and most especially in relation to our new neighbors.

## Membership

### Welcome New Members

The North Carolina Chapter of NASW would like to welcome the following new members who joined during the months of February, March & April! They have chosen to support their profession and advocate for social work values by joining NASW. We hope that, as new members, you will take an active role with the Association by joining a committee, attending a Board meeting, or participating in a Local Program Unit.

#### Coastal District (A)

Bailey Alvarez  
Sara Beard-Linton  
Robineta Blackston  
Trevor Blue  
Donesha Brothers  
Stacy Connor  
Jennifer Cope  
Glee Dunbar  
Stephanie Freeman  
Taylor Gulley  
Carrington Hardee  
Brian Kaden  
Mary McGinnis  
Princess Norville  
Dionne Richardson  
Kimberly Robinson  
Vera Smith  
Tammy Song  
Nereida Torres  
Meaghan Tyson  
Chelsie Vallo

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Wanda Addo  
Elizabeth Ashley  
Sarah Black  
Sharon Bradley  
Candice Brown  
Tiffany Brown  
Shantrese Cameron  
Nina Caricato  
Melissa Cochran  
Siobhan Colgan  
Alexander Danilowicz  
Katherine Davlantis  
Seadra Duncan

Elaina Ellingsworth  
Melissa Ficarra  
Sharyn Flood  
Melody Futrell  
James Glasgow  
Akia Gore  
Gail Gustafson  
Logan Hand  
Sharon Hartwell  
Andrew Heil  
Jenna Horgan  
Christine Houghton  
Kathleen Howard  
Regenia Hubbard  
Doneicia Johnson  
Constanza Johnson  
Jessica Johnson  
Brooke Jordan  
Bonnie Kell  
Birnetiah Killens  
Karen Kranbuehl  
Kimberly LaPorte  
Suzanne LaRocca  
Hallie Larson  
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Laquinta Perry-James  
Colleen Reilly  
Tonya Richards  
Samuel Robinson  
Pamela Rone  
Jeneva Russell

Christine Shaw  
Stephanie Smiley  
Christie Smith  
Caroline Stayer  
Thomas Swiderski  
Lori Taylor  
Scott Topal  
Mona Townes  
Justine Tsao  
Cynthia Vail  
Roark Whitehead  
Tedra Wiggins  
Lavette Williams  
Amy Wilson  
Laura Wooten  
Lisa Zerden  
Zinat Zimba

#### Piedmont District (C)

Hunter Barnes  
Jacqueline Brennan  
Imari Brower  
Jamie Burgess  
Caroline Cox  
Freda Davis  
Karissa Dixon  
Antonisha Floyd  
Marques Ford  
Allison Griffin  
Sierra Hairston  
Freddie Hollars  
Candace Hyatt  
Sarah Johnson  
Everett Jones  
Rhiannon Kelly  
Catherine Kliegle  
Tena Lester  
Laura Lohr  
Amber Molson  
Tomeko Moore

Dare Morris  
Kayla Nelson  
Brandon Outlaw  
Diana Parker  
Nicholas Peak  
Lesia Pride  
Melissa Pridgen  
Crystal Richardson  
Jonathan Riffey  
Jo Rorie  
Millicent Shadden  
Whitney Shaw  
Taqiya Shipman  
Nadia Smith  
Mykeia Smith  
Genevieve Smith  
Tracy Sparrow Hines  
Harrison Spencer  
Angela Squire  
Susan Teeter  
Kenny Torres  
Mai lee Vue

#### South Piedmont District (D)

Amanda Anderson  
Anisse Avery  
Erika Bacon  
Juliea Baker  
Adena Bethea  
Sandra Breakfield  
Heather Chavis  
Caroline Corzine  
Jennifer Eisbrener  
Joann Hall  
Bianca Hall  
Sarah Harkins  
Marsha Harris  
Brigetta Jorgensen  
Donald Meanor  
Anne Stuart Mitchener  
Amanda Moore  
Joseph Nissen  
Erica Perez  
Alex Pyun  
Kristina Richendollar  
Barron Rutledge  
Stephanie Spiegel

Evan Stepp  
Lemar Taylor  
Velma Thompson  
Anna Waz  
Jillian Wilkes  
Grace Wyer

#### Western District (E)

Alicia Adams  
Fran Bryson  
Katherine Buchanan  
Levette Campbell  
Meagan Crews  
Ebony Daniels  
Traci Hart-Caitlyn  
Lisa Johnson  
Jaimi Jones  
Jillian Krupp  
Sarah Lewis-Fernandez  
Tammy Metcalf  
Sara Michaelson  
Jose Montoya  
Bethany Pope  
Kasey Powell  
Christopher Sefcik  
Megan South  
Amanda Stone

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Diana Ashe  
Robert Bannister  
Samantha Baptiste  
Sara Bender  
Kimberly Birdsong  
Toya Burgess  
Kathryn Byrd  
Camber Caldwell  
Robin Caswell  
Raven Coots  
Shantal Covington  
Bethany Craig  
Veronica Davis  
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Mollie Southard  
Ameenah Springer  
Carlos Swan  
Janea Thomas  
Michele Tidd  
Morgan Traynham  
Karin Troy  
Brianna Trumble  
Paula Valles  
Chulete Wallace-Keane  
Alexis Waters  
Leonardo Wesley  
Fonda Whitted  
Corey Williams

### NASW Credentials Received!

Congratulations to the following NASW members who received National Professional Credentials from NASW February through April 2015!

#### **Keshav Baggen, ACSW**

*Academy of Certified Social Workers (ACSW) Certification*

#### **Patti Ellis McMurry, CHP-SW**

*Advanced Certified Hospice & Palliative Social Worker*

#### **Debra Ann Volkmer, LCSW, LICSW, ASWCM**

*Certified Advanced Social Work Case Manager*

Learn more about NASW Credentials and how they can benefit your social work career at [socialworkers.org/credentials](http://socialworkers.org/credentials)



Read the latest Social Work Updates on the NASW-NC Blog:  
[ncsocialwork.org](http://ncsocialwork.org)

## Legislative Update

# 2015 Legislative Session is Underway!

## How NASW-NC is Advocating for YOU

By Kay Castillo, BSW; Director of Advocacy, Policy and Legislation, Registered Lobbyist



The 2015 Legislative Session is currently underway and going strong. With the bill filing deadline in April, legislators scrambled to get bills passed before the crossover deadline on April 30. If a bill, that does

not require state funding, does not pass the House or the Senate it is considered dead for the session and cannot be taken up unless filed again in the 2017 Legislative Session. There are so many bills filed that pertain to social workers, below are a few with fast movement:

**SB 676 Autism Health Insurance Coverage:** This bill would provide coverage for autism services for health insurance - this legislation is in line with what the State Health Plan currently offers. It does include Licensed Clinical Social Workers.

**SB 367/HB 556 Achieving A Better Life Experience Act:** This bill, often referred to as the ABLE Act, would create tax-advantaged savings accounts for persons with disabilities. The law would allow creation of "ABLE accounts," which resemble qualified tuition programs, often called "529 accounts," that have been established under that section of the tax code since 1996. The maximum annual contribution to an account would be set at \$14,000 with a principal cap of \$100,000. Earnings and distribution on ABLE accounts would be tax-exempt. More is being worked out with this legislation but it is expected to pass.

**SB 423 Foster Care Family Act:** This bill does many things for children in foster care and parents choosing to foster. It would create liability insurance for foster parents, remove barriers to children getting driver's licenses while in foster care and provide them with insurance, and it provides for the study of a Medicaid waiver for children with serious emotional disturbance. The bill seeks to reduce stigma for children in foster care by helping them maintain a normal life and participate in school sports, prom, and sleep overs.

**SB 424 Fostering Success:** This bill would extend foster care to age 19 and allows for the Social Services Commission to adopt rules to implement this change. We have no projection for the movement of this bill yet as it will cost a lot to implement and legislators are working to find the money to fund it.

**HB 380 Statewide School Safety Management:** This bill would allow for grants to be used for school social work positions as well as school psychologists and school counselors. It also authorizes the Department of Public Safety to implement a statewide school risk and response management system.

**HB 399 Young Offenders Rehabilitation Act:** Commonly known as "Raise the Age," this bill would create a pilot program designed by the Juvenile Jurisdiction Advisory Committee to raise the age for misdemeanors for 16- and 17-year-olds. The bill will require money to fund so it is not subject to crossover deadlines as legislators work to pass it.

**HB 817 Enact Uniform Law on Adult Guardianship:** This bill would create uniform laws surrounding adult guardianship and would clarify state jurisdiction issues and enhance recognition of guardianship orders across state lines. The bill provides a clear process for determining which state may appoint a guardian.

**HB 847 Amend Laws Regarding Medical Treatment for Minors:** This bill would amend our current laws regarding treatment of minors. It would require a notarized consent form or parental consent (such as the parent being present) for treatment except in emergencies or for substance abuse treatment. The bill would prohibit treatment unless a guardian is present for treatment of STDs, drug abuse, mental illness, or pregnancy.

While these are just a few bills we are working on right now, there are many coming down the pike. Be sure to sign up on the NASW-NC website for our weekly updates on [Capwiz Engage](#) and receive alerts and weekly updates straight to your inbox!

## LCSWAs Direct Enrollment in Blue Cross Blue Shield North Carolina

Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Carolina (BCBSNC) will begin directly enrolling Licensed Clinical Social Work Associates (LCSWAs) effective March 2015 in certain counties. In order to handle the demand of LCSWAs wishing to enroll, BCBSNC will phase-in LCSWAs by county. By July 2015, LCSWAs across the state can enroll to be a provider.

According to the county in which they live, LCSWAs can begin directly enrolling with BCBSNC according to the following schedule:

- March 2015: Buncombe, Burke, and Cleveland Counties
- April 2015: Guilford, Lee, and Mecklenburg Counties
- May 2015: Orange, Pitt, and Cumberland Counties
- June 2015: Wake, Onslow, and Durham Counties
- July 2015: All counties are eligible for Associate enrollment

Direct enrollment will provide LCSWAs with their own provider number that will be required when submitting codes for reimbursement. Please note that as an Associate, LCSWAs will need to be in good standing with the North Carolina Social Work Certification and Licensure Board (Board) and maintain supervision by a Licensed Clinical Social Worker in good standing with the Board.

To enroll as a provider, go to [www.bcbsnc.com/content/providers/application/index.htm](http://www.bcbsnc.com/content/providers/application/index.htm) and read all necessary steps. You must submit ALL the required information for your packet to be accepted. Incomplete information will not be accepted. Learn more information about applying for credentialing as a provider specific to counseling here: [www.bcbsnc.com/content/providers/application/certified-counselor.htm](http://www.bcbsnc.com/content/providers/application/certified-counselor.htm)

If you work for an organization that currently contracts with BCBSNC, the organization should be able to help you complete the application process. ●

# Legislative Update

## Social Workers Create Change at 2015 Advocacy Day

By Courtney Coyle, NASW-NC MSW Intern

**S**ocial Work Advocacy Day 2015 was a huge success thanks to over 500 social workers and social work students who gathered at the North Carolina General Assembly in Raleigh on March 25. Students and social workers traveled from all over the state to learn how to advocate and speak with their legislators about the important issues they see as social workers and social work students in their agencies and communities.

Kay Castillo, Director of Advocacy, Policy, and Legislation for NASW-NC started off the morning with two Advocacy 101 sessions to help ease participants' nerves before talking to their legislators. Priority issues discussed during the training included needed changes to help older youth transitioning out of foster care, funding for mental health services in incarceration facilities, and maintaining the current standards for Medicaid eligibility.

Mrs. Castillo was also joined by macro social workers Jenny Gadd of Alberta Professional Services, Jack Register and Nicholle Karim of the National Alliance on Mental Illness, and Matt Anderson of Children's Home Society. They came to educate attendees about their role as a social work advocates and what their job entails. Each speaker offered new and inventive ways for social workers to understand the value of advocacy and empower them to become more active in policy changes as social workers and on behalf of



NASW-NC Member Tomeko Moore made the rounds at Advocacy Day and spoke with Rep. Cecil Brockman, Rep. John Faircloth and won a social media challenge prize with her NC State Seal photo.



Above, faculty and students from Warren Wilson College. Below, faculty and students from Fayetteville State University.

clients.

One highlight of the day included a press conference by Senator Tamara Barringer on bills she introduced that directly related to our priority issue around youth transitioning out of foster care. Senate Bills 423 and 424 would raise the age of foster care to 19, create policies so youth in foster care can live normal lives and participate in after school activities and sleepovers with friends, assist in getting drivers licenses and better support for foster parents. As a result of so many attendees at the press conference, Senator Barringer addressed Social Work Advocacy Day participants that could not get into the press room afterwards.

Representative Graig Meyer, a social worker representing House District 50 discussed his role as a social worker in the House of Representatives and the challenges he faces. Having a variety of speakers gave insight into the power and breadth of the social work profession. As social workers left to attend meetings with legislators they spoke on important topics of homelessness, Medicaid, elder abuse, suicide prevention, youth in foster care, and so much more. Bringing these issues to their elected officials brought North Carolina one step closer to change. As Representative Meyer stated: "Today social workers won because they came and they created change."

After a long day of advocating a social work student stated: "It was such an amazing feeling thinking that I made a small difference. It was great being surrounded by fellow social workers and made me very excited to start my future social work career." We hope that everyone felt empowered and heard at Advocacy Day and that you will continue to use your voice as a way to support social change. ●

## Ethics in Practice



### Telemental Health Services What is the Big Deal?

By Ravita T. Omabu Okafor, MSW, LCSW; NASW-NC Ethics Committee Chair

If your client announced that he/she planned to travel to a different state for three months and requested therapy by Skype during that time, how would you respond? What if your client shared a plan to visit family (in a different state) over the Christmas holiday and inquired whether you could offer a session via telephone while he/she was away? Would you accommodate this request? Given technology advances, social workers find themselves facing such decisions more often. Perhaps you have considered offering telemental health services as a means to expand your practice. How would you identify and process the ethical aspects of this idea?

Have you accepted your client's request as a need before evaluating for yourself whether their clinical needs and circumstances warrant or are appropriate for telemental health services? Is the timing right to ask the client to apply learned interventions to test their progress? What if a potentially new client calls with this request? Do you have a procedure for screening his/her suitability for telemental health services? Have you considered how you would respond if the client developed a mental health emergency? You likely are familiar with emergency resources in the state where you reside, but what do you know about appropriate resources in the state of the client's location? What are the



advantages/disadvantages of the client finding an in-person provider in the other state?

The NASW Code of Ethics (2008), Standard 1.04, Competence, requires social workers to practice only within our areas of competence. Accordingly, social workers providing telemental health services have a professional obligation to obtain training to develop the skills and knowledge necessary for providing such services. Moreover, social workers providing telemental health services are responsible for knowing applicable laws in the states where the social worker and client expect to be at the time of service delivery. NASW Assurance Service's Risk Management Helpline (855-385-2160) is an excellent resource for legal consultation when considering offering telemental health services.

According to NASW's Legal Issue of the Month, "Social Workers and Skype - Part II, Telemental Health Law:"

A number of states have specific telemedicine or telehealth provisions; however, even in states that have defined telemedicine, the law generally requires practitioners to be licensed in the state where the patient is located at the time of service.

.... Many states have exemptions from health care licensure requirements for brief practice within a state by out-of-state practitioners (who are otherwise licensed to practice in their home state). These may range from 10 – 90 days and may include various limitations, such as licensure board notification, registration and/or approval. These temporary/guest licensure provisions may be sufficient for the delivery of telemental health services to clients who have relocated and are in need to transition care in the new state or for a practitioner who primarily provides telehealth and in-person services within the home state, but who has occasional brief interventions with out-of-state clients or client groups or client family members (see ASWB Social Work Laws and Regulations Database, [www.aswb.org](http://www.aswb.org)). The means by which a state counts the permissible number of days of exempted practice varies by state. For example, some states may allow 30 days of continuous practice, while others may allow the days to

Telemental Health Services continued on Page 11



National Association of Social Workers

## 2015 Fall Conference Call for Presentations



**Please go to  
[www.naswnc.org](http://www.naswnc.org)  
to submit your proposal**



# NASW-NC Chapter Updates

## Celebrating Social Work Month Across North Carolina

### Social Work Paves the Way for Change

By Valerie Arendt, MSW, MPP

The North Carolina Chapter kicked off Social Work Month with North Carolina Governor Pat McCrory proclaiming March 2015 as Social Work Month!

“Social workers provide the backbone of all human service delivery in the state of North Carolina. It has been gratifying to see our Governor and our state recognize the contributions that social workers make,” Kathy Boyd, NASW-NC Executive Director, explained.

The NASW-NC Annual Ethics Conference and Awards Luncheon gathered over 500 social workers on March 6. Deputy Commissioner of the Department of Human Services of New Jersey, Dawn Apgar keynoted the conference on “Ethical Questions in Self-Determination.”

NASW-NC Staff traveled across the state to 15 Local Program Units and 10 universities to join social workers in celebrating how “Social Work Paves the Way for Change.” Over 2,000 social workers participated in NASW-NC hosted Social Work Month events in 2015. ●



Clockwise from left: 2015 Social Worker of the Year John Cowart, Presidents' Award Winner Erum Agha, and Advocacy Award Winner Lauren Zingraff at the 2015 Ethics Awards Luncheon; Kelly Spangler presenting Asheville LPU Chair Kathleen Caldwell with a gift as she will be moving to Texas; Fayetteville LPU Evening of Social Work Panelists; Wilmington Local Program Unit participants discussing a case study.

## NASW-NC Board of Directors March Meeting

By Kathy Boyd, ACSW, CMSW; Executive Director

At the NASW-NC Chapter Board of Directors meeting held on Saturday March 28, 2015, board members reviewed the NASW-NC annual audit and met auditor Rebecca Hoover, CPA. Board members also discussed NASW-NC conferences, fundraising options for the Conference Scholarship and the modernization of the association as a whole.

Two actions were taken by the board:

- “I move to approve the minutes from the January 2015 Board of Directors meeting.” Motion made by Priscila

- Hilligus with a second by Ashley Shope. Motion carried.
- “I move to accept the FY 14-15 budget report as of February 28, 2015 and the balance sheet as of February 28, 2015 with no comments.” Motion made by Ryan Estees with a second by Ashley Shope. Motion carried.

The next and final Board meeting for the Chapter’s fiscal year will be held in the Chapter office on Saturday, May 30. Board meetings are open to members and anyone wanting to attend should email Chapter Executive Director Kathy Boyd at [director@naswnc.org](mailto:director@naswnc.org). ●

# Member Spotlight

## Spirituality, Environmental Justice and Poetry = Social Work

Mary Catherine "Kitty" Bass, MDiv, MSW, LCSW

Spirituality continued from Page 4

The following poetry selections were presented at the Cameron Art Museum in Wilmington, NC in April 2015.

### Who Will Feed Us?

Five million of "them" immigrants,  
 Congress yells to deport.  
 Five million who  
 Dig the dirt, spray the fields.  
 Pick the peaches, cherries, almonds,  
 Strawberries, plums,  
 Take tomatoes to rows' end.  
 Cut kale, collards, cabbages,  
 Broccoli, cauliflower,  
 Asparagus, lettuces.  
 Pull carrots, potatoes, onions, garlic.  
 Clean, wash, pack, stack, haul  
 By tons.  
 "Them" who debeak  
 Kill the little roosters,  
 Feed, catch, load in the night,  
 Kill the big-breasted,  
 Scald, de-feather, clean  
 Cut, cut, cut,  
 Pack, pack, pack.

"Them"  
 Who castrate,  
 Inseminate,  
 Crate,  
 Cart in three-storied trucks  
 To travel, thristing, to  
 Hoist in a harness  
 Electrocute  
 Throat stab alive  
 Blood drain  
 And  
 Cut, cut, cut-

12-14 hours a day  
 For fussed over wage  
 Usually  
 No insurance



Easily replaced by  
 New faces from foreman  
 Sent to the Coyotes, reportedly  
 For deals with the revered  
 Secured border,  
 Reportedly -  
 Paid for by "the Industry".

Five million of "them" immigrants  
 Congress yells to deport.

Who will feed us?

### I Wear Denim

Once I worked at a job  
 Where the dress code sign said  
 "No Denim to be Worn to Work Here."

No jeans, jackets, coats, pants,  
 pants' suits,  
 No skirts, shirts, slacks, dresses,  
 jumpers.

Them poor people, them ole folks,  
 them homeless wear denim.  
 Them Mexicans, them illegals,  
 them migrants wear denim.  
 Them farmworkers, them dead-  
 truck drivers,  
 them factory farm workers wear

denim.  
 Them gangsters, them immigrants,  
 them younguns wear denim.

I wear denim.

Soon in my practice in Wilmington, I will offer to social workers, retired and practicing, an opportunity to learn the craft of writing poetry. Open to writers at all levels of experience from beginning to published, this workshop taught by an experienced creative writing teacher and poet, promises to be fun. Call 910-769-1680 for information. ●

### Advertisement

Lake Norman Family Therapy, a growing private practice in Cornelius, NC is seeking a full or part time licensed therapist to join practice. Experience with children and/or couples is required. There is a small existing caseload to transfer due to a provider's relocation. Providers earn percentage of revenue, with all overhead costs paid by the practice.

Please send resume to [nfingerlcsw@lakenormanfamilytherapy.com](mailto:nfingerlcsw@lakenormanfamilytherapy.com).

## Profession Updates

### Welcome to NASW-NC Membership Associate

Dylan Guerra, BSW Student, North Carolina State University



I'm a junior social work major at North Carolina State University with a Spanish minor, and I have the privilege of being the Membership Associate at NASW-NC. I have chosen to work with NASW-NC because of the opportunity to expand my professional network.

Last summer, my path in social work began to be more concrete when I studied abroad in rural Guatemala. Through teaching English in an elementary school, I was able to understand the unequal access to education that we experience internationally, as well as gaining perspective on the educational barriers within our nation.

I am passionate about working with at-risk youth, education justice, and serving as a community organizer. I really believe that the best way to create change is to have the at-risk communities advocating for themselves, while empowering the community to self-determine. My goals for the future are to finish my degree, serve in the Peace Corps as a Youth in Development volunteer, and pursue my MSW focusing on administration and community development.

I have been working with NASW-NC since January of this year, and I am enjoying the work that I do. I am learning a great deal about how effective organizations work to create change. I look forward in continuing my work and broadening my perspectives on administrative social work and advocacy. ●

#### Telemental Health Services continued from Page 8

be counted on an annual basis so that a total of 30 days of unlicensed practice per year may be spread across several months or there may not be any interpretation of the rule.

....The most recent version of the Model Social Work Practice Act (Association of Social Work Boards (ASWB), 2011, p. 7) defines electronic practice as follows:

#### Section 107. Electronic Practice

The practice of Baccalaureate Social Work, Master's Social Work, or Clinical Social Work to an individual in this jurisdiction, through telephonic, electronic, or other means, regardless of the location of the social worker, shall constitute the practice of social work and shall be subject to regulation under this Act.

In its commentary on this provision, ASWB reaffirms the preference for social work services to be delivered in-person while recognizing the increasing reality of electronic practice and the need for further study and regulation in order to protect the public (ASWB, 2011).

In addition to defining electronic social work practice as occurring in the physical location of the client, the commentary on the temporary practice exemption (ASWB, 2011, p. 23 – 24, Section 301(h)(1)) also addresses electronic practice and takes the position that a temporary practice provision is preferred over a limited telepractice license. This approach does not address the practice of social workers who engage primarily in telepractice and who seek to provide services that may be national in scope.

If you access this article (by visiting [bit.ly/1bV8hJw](http://bit.ly/1bV8hJw)), you will find several online resources regarding telemental health laws, policies, and procedures.

In December 2013, the Joint Task Force for the Development of Telepsychology Guidelines for Psychologists published "Guidelines for the Practice of Telepsychology." To access this document, visit: <http://bit.ly/1GwTbIk>. This article presents guidelines regarding obtaining informed consent, considering the provider and client's responsibilities for protecting privacy and confidentiality, obtaining informed consent regarding use of technology (including procedures for system failures), disposing of data, and fa-

miliarizing oneself with relevant laws. Reviewing the referenced online documents can help you create a plan for training and inquiry.

Many social workers may not realize that they already practice telemental health. If you exchange emails, texts, picture messages, or even phone calls with clients in-state or when they travel to a different state, you may not have recognized the opportunity to educate yourself on expected responsibilities and potential areas of liability. Most clients have cell phones with speakerphone and recording capabilities. Have you established related written policies around such use in sessions? Have you presented/discussed them with established and new clients? Educate yourself and apply what you learn.

To access NASW-NC's Chapter Ethics Committee's consultation service, please email [naswncethics@gmail.com](mailto:naswncethics@gmail.com). Please note that this service is free only to NASW-NC members with questions about cases in which they have direct involvement.

#### References:

Joint Task Force for the Development of Telepsychology Guidelines for Psychologists (2013). Guidelines for the practice of telepsychology. Available at [bit.ly/1GwTbIk](http://bit.ly/1GwTbIk).

Morgan, S. and Polowy, C. (2012). Social workers and Skype: part II, telemental health law. NASW Legal Defense Fund, Legal Issue of the Month. Available at [bit.ly/1bV8hJw](http://bit.ly/1bV8hJw) (member password required for access).

National Association of Social Workers (2008). NASW Code of Ethics. Washington, DC: Author.

**PLEASE NOTE:** Your NASW-NC Chapter Ethics Committee continues to offer Peer Ethical Consultation **FREE** to NASW-NC members. NASW-NC offers consultation to assist its members in considering options for ethical decision-making. Should you access this service, please understand that you are fully responsible for your actions regarding your ethics question brought before NASW-NC staff and/or members of the NASW-NC Ethics Committee. We are not responsible for any consequences that occur as a result of your actions. Additional resources for Ethics Consultation:

- You may contact your malpractice insurance carrier for ethical and legal consultation. If NASW Assurance Services is your carrier, you may contact the Risk Management Helpline at 855-385-2160.
- If your question has a legal component, you may contact NASW's national office attorneys at 800-742-4089.
- Since most complainants file ethical complaints with the North Carolina Social Work Certification and Licensure Board, consider reviewing the Social Work Practice Act and the Administrative Code found at [www.ncswboard.org](http://www.ncswboard.org) to ensure your compliance. ●

## Student Updates

### US Army Veteran Named NASW-NC Toby Brown Award Recipient

Brian Weir, BSW, Methodist University

By Valerie Arendt; Edited from Award Application

**Toby Brown Award** continued from Page 1

“My social work education provided me with skills needed to take a proactive approach to fight human trafficking,” according to Brian. Upon forming Students Organized for the Advancement of North Carolina (SOANC), a new club at Methodist University that engages students in community action, he says, “It was this moment that I feel I actually became a social worker.”

SOANC partnered with the Raleigh-based advocacy group Partners Against the Trafficking of Humans in NC (PATHNC), the Fayetteville Dream Center (FDC), and North Carolina Coalition Against Sexual Assault (NCCASA). Brian arranged a meeting with a local City Council representative and worked with the City Council and County Commissioners to adopt a resolution on Human Trafficking in Fayetteville. Brian facilitated a press conference with Mayor Nat Robertson and Council Woman Kathy Jensen that was attended by the Fayetteville District Attorney, Sheriff, Police Chief, and County Chair who together issued a [Cumberland County wide proclamation](#) denouncing human trafficking.

Along with promoting awareness, SOANC has also taken part in three separate Fayetteville Police led events that seek to rescue victims of trafficking and prostitution in the Fayetteville community. These events are known as Prostitution Diversion Initiative (PDI). The PDI utilizes Fayetteville social services, mental health, medical services, faith-based organizations, nonprofit organizations, advocates, and the Fayetteville Police Department to collectively harness all of the available skills and resources to immediately assist victims of trafficking and prostitution in the Fayetteville community. These operations to date have rescued 5 victims in the Fayetteville community.

Brian devoted his time to help the Methodist University Social Work Club organize an “Anti-Bullying Campaign” that was presented at Walker Elementary School. The school is located in one of the poorest neighborhoods in Fayetteville and is plagued with drugs, prostitution, homelessness and crime. The Social Work Club has formed an on-going partnership to work with the school to support the students, their families and the larger community.

In 2014, Brian was accepted as a North Carolina Child Welfare Collaborative Scholar, a prestigious honor that prepared him for an education and internship committed to serving the communities for North Carolina as a Child Protective Service representative. His internship with Cumber-



land County Department of Social Services enabled him to work with susceptible populations, government institutions and create action plans to address community issues such as human trafficking.

According to Brian, “Life is all about choices and I choose to use my social work skills and education to help those suffering from human trafficking by promoting awareness.”

“Brian has truly made a tremendous impact on the Social Work program, on our entire university, and on the City of Fayetteville,” according to Dr. George Hendricks, Dean of the School of Public Affairs at Methodist University. “Brian arrived to Methodist University as a student who questioned where his life was headed. He left Methodist University as a changed person with the knowledge, values, and skills, necessary to make the world a better place.”

Brian is now a Family Investigator for the Catawba County Department of Social Services Child Protective Services.

To support the Toby Brown Award/Fund please donate today at [www.naswnc.org](http://www.naswnc.org). ●

“Brian has truly made a tremendous impact on the Social Work program, on our entire university, and on the City of Fayetteville.”

Dr. George Hendricks, Dean of the School of Public Affairs, Methodist University

# Student Updates

## Student Liaison Program

### Leadership Opportunities Across the State

By Valerie Arendt, MSW, MPP

During the 2014-2015 academic year, NASW-NC had the privilege of leading 29 Student Liaisons from 17 BSW programs and all 12 MSW programs in North Carolina.

The NASW-NC [Student Liaison Program](#) identifies a NASW student member from each level of social work education in North Carolina who will serve as a link between their respective program and NASW-NC. The Student Liaisons provide updates from their programs and share valuable membership information with fellow students and faculty in their college or university.

Since the start of the [Student Liaison Program](#) in 2010, NASW-NC has seen an increase in student membership. From 2009, the year before the Initiative, until 2015, student membership has increased by over 500 members! The bulk of this dramatic increase can be credited to the Student Liaison Program. The Student Liaisons are a crucial part of NASW-NC student member recruitment by educating students and faculty members about the advocacy efforts and benefits NASW-NC provides its members.

Interested in becoming a Student Liaison for your social work program for the 2015-2016 academic year? Contact Valerie Arendt at [membership@naswnc.org](mailto:membership@naswnc.org).



Clockwise from the top: North Carolina Central University BSW Social Work Society; Lisa Hughes, MSW Student Liaison for UNC Pembroke; Left to right: 2014-2015 Student Liaisons Jennifer West, Ryane Miller, Samantha Stark, Tori Rutland-Wilson, Daniel Ball, Emily Lupsor, NASW-NC Intern Courtney Coyle, Yolanda Davis, Olivia Reeser, and Caroline Mullis at the 2014 NASW-NC Fall Conference; Susan Novello, BSW Student Liaison for UNC Wilmington, at the NASW-NC Advocacy Day.

Realize the  
possibilities



## The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Social Work

The UNC-Chapel Hill School of Social Work is one of the nation's leaders in social work research and education, and is ranked among the top five schools of social work in the country. We offer three MSW Program options and a Doctoral Program:

- **Advanced Standing MSW Program**  
Enables students with an accredited BSW degree to earn an MSW degree in just 12 months. Program begins each May in Chapel Hill.
- **Full Time and Distance Education MSW Programs**  
Complete your MSW in Chapel Hill with our two-year or three-year program. We also have a distance education site in Winston-Salem which offers a three-year program.
- **PhD Program**  
Prepares students to become leaders in research on innovative social intervention, scholarship and social work education.

**For information session dates, please visit:**

<http://sww.unc.edu/admissions>

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Chapel Hill, NC 27599-3550

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**UNC**  
SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK



## TOP REASONS WHY YOU NEED INDIVIDUAL PROFESSIONAL LIABILITY COVERAGE AFTER GRADUATION

By: Jodi McDaniel, CISR, Senior Licensed Insurance Specialist, NASW ASI



*As a graduating student you are embarking on a new and exciting start to your social work career. You are applying for positions and may even have a position to start right after graduation.*

### Did you know...?

- A lawsuit or complaint can be filed against you even if you work for an Agency or Employer and you aren't yet licensed?
- Social work services such as volunteering or giving advice to a friend, neighbor, or family member are not covered by your employer?
- An agency or employers insurance policy does not always provide adequate coverage for you as an individual social worker?
- The number of individuals who pursue legal action against Social Workers, new graduates and first time practitioners are increasing?
- You could receive a social work malpractice lawsuit in 10 years for services you are providing currently, which could affect you personally and financially in the future?
- A lawsuit can still be filed against you even if you have moved on to another position, company, or the employer is no longer in business?

*Having your own Individual Professional Liability Insurance policy will provide you with coverage for these and other liabilities related to your Social Work Professional services.*

*\*If you have questions or would like more information on Professional Liability coverage please call the NASW Assurance Services Member Care Unit at 1.855.385.2160 or email us at [asi@naswasi.org](mailto:asi@naswasi.org).*

**[www.naswassurance.org](http://www.naswassurance.org)**

**National Association of Social Workers**  
**North Carolina Chapter**  
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## NASW-NC CONFERENCES

June 18-20, 2015  
Clinical Supervision  
Certificate Training  
Durham, NC

October 17, 2015  
LCSW Exam Prep Session  
Raleigh, NC

November 20-21, 2015  
Annual Fall Conference  
Asheville, NC

March 4, 2016  
Annual Ethics Conference  
Raleigh, NC

[www.naswnc.org](http://www.naswnc.org)

**2015 Annual Fall Conference**  
November 20-21, 2015  
Renaissance Hotel  
Asheville, NC  
13 hours of CE, up to 4 ethics CE hours



### Conference Fees

**NASW Members**  
\$150.00 Full Conference  
\$95.00 student/retired

**Non Members**  
\$210.00 Full Conference



Registration will begin September 2015 for  
NASW-NC members first!

[www.naswnc.org](http://www.naswnc.org)