

The 2020 Census: A Social Justice Issue

By Valerie Arendt, MSW, MPP; Executive Director

The 2020 U.S. Census begins on **April 1, 2020**. Why does this matter to social workers? Federal funds, grants, and emergency funding to states, counties, and communities are based on population totals and breakdowns by sex, age, race and other factors. Your community benefits the most when the census counts **everyone**. When you respond to the census, you help your community get its fair share of the more than \$675 billion per year in federal funds spent on schools, hospitals, roads, public works and other vital programs.

Social workers should help everyone complete the 2020 Census because of the following social justice issues:

- Census data is used for voting rights, redistricting for State House & Senate districts, city council districts, and local school board districts.
- The Census determines the number of representatives in Congress for each state. North Carolina **WILL** pick up a 14th Congressional seat based on the 2020 Census.
- Census data provides information needed to improve schools, roads, health care, public safety, emergency response and other services in your community.

Why does this matter NOW more than in previous Census years?

- **Cut in funding to Census will result in less education and outreach:** The U.S. Census Bureau has faced a \$200 million shortfall since 2012. This means thousands of Census outreach workers and those who may have the language and cultural skills to reach many communities were cut from the process.
- The online process will make it harder for low-income people and non-English speakers: Due to the funding cuts, this will be the first Census that will be conducted mostly online, as opposed to paper surveys. This adds a layer of obstacles for low-income individuals who do not have computers at home, or who may not be proficient in English.

Concerns with Citizenship status and filling out the Census

The Census Bureau includes every person living in the U.S. – regardless of citizenship or immigration status. Most
Census Continued on Page 9



MARCH IS SOCIAL WORK MONTH!
 MORE INFO: [BIT.LY/2020SWMONTH](https://bit.ly/2020SWMONTH)
SOCIAL WORKERS
generations
STRONG

Social work is one of the fastest growing professions in the United States. Today, there are more than 700,000 social workers in our nation and that number is expected to rise 11 percent in the next decade, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Social workers are present throughout our society. You can find them in hospitals, schools, centers for veterans and in state, local and federal government. They are trained to work in a holistic way to bring about positive changes on an individual, family, community and even societal level.

This year's theme **Social Work: Generations Strong** highlights the fact that social workers have been working for generations to improve the lives of every single American. Many of the myriad benefits Americans enjoy today—including more access to health and mental health care, a minimum wage and Social Security—are because of the work of social workers and others.

Social work also allows people across many generations to make a profound impact on the lives of millions of people each and every day. You will find social workers from The Silent Generation and Baby Boomers to Generation Z who are doing the hard, often unsung work to make our nation and the world a better place. ●

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Board President



Social Work in a New Decade

Welcome to 2020 and a new decade! We have seen some significant changes over the past ten years: the nation's first black president, a record number of females in office, and more diversity overall in those representing this great country – a better reflection of the religion, gender, sexual orientation, race, sex, and ethnicity of the people in our communities. And thanks to youth leadership and others, we see increased understanding, dialogue, and planning around environmental, global, and safety issues, including mass violence. Although we have seen an increase in the past few years in hate crimes and racist rhetoric, we have also seen compassion for the many pathways to come into this country, the children of all nations, and for practicing kindness.

Macro social work matters during this time in our history. We must continue to move forward as a profession and to implement the needs of the people we represent. NASW has been hard at work for you and for this great profession. Thank you for your membership to this association and being part of the challenging work in your community, your state, and your country. If you are not a member, please consider joining the voice that is stronger than any one of us alone. Martin Luther King Jr. reminds us, "There comes a time when silence is betrayal."

In the past year, NASW North Carolina has been a leader and had some great accomplishments, including saving Social Work Licensure! Because NASW-NC has a full time lobbyist, we can take a lead role in collaborating and advocating for your needs and the needs of the profession. Both Kay Castillo, Director of Advocacy, Policy and Legislation, and our fearless Executive Director, Valerie Arendt, spent many hours in support of the NC Social Work Licensure legislation and social workers across the state to obtain the needed rule changes to meet the national licensure standards. As a skilled social worker, Kay collaborated with legislators on both sides of the aisle and other groups, including the NC Substance Abuse Professional Practice Board, to ensure the legislation passed.

Social justice is still needed. Our state has a history of caring for the needs of its people - but we have some challenges ahead. For example, the healthcare pathway in the state is uncertain, leaving many in the gap between not being able to afford health insurance in the open marketplace and not qualifying for Medicaid. Health care is understandably a top issue for the majority of Americans. The current generation may not live as long as their parents and the impact of health disparities has lifelong implications. NASW-NC will continue to be at the table with the Department of Health and Human Services and other groups supporting the health needs for all.

Be on the lookout for a wonderful North Carolina social work video that our new President Elect, Jason Scianno, started at our fall conference. The Board of Directors is grateful for his leadership and look forward to the exciting work that he and the other dedicated board members will accomplish.

This will be an important year. Please vote. Please support efforts at your agencies, with your clients, and in your community to increase voter turnout. Those who are elected determine the laws, rules, and regulations that impact resources and services to our clients. And there are efforts of voter suppression that we need to combat. The mapping of our voting districts has been hotly debated, even heard at the Supreme Court, for its extreme racial and economic profiling. NASW will share resources to educate yourself and others on how candidates stand on this and other issues that you, your clients, and this organization value and that promote a more just and equitable society. If something resonated with you or if you would like to get more involved, please let us know. I can be reached at carolyngcraddock@gmail.com. ●





Valerie Arendt, MSW, MPP

Executive Director

Equity and Inclusion Within NASW-NC

NASW-NC had some solid professional victories in 2019 with the passage of social work legislation that saved clinical social work licensure in North Carolina and the delay for providers receiving state funds to connect to the North Carolina Health Information Exchange. Thank you for your NASW membership which makes it possible for us to have a seat at the table and lobby at the North Carolina General Assembly.

2020 is here and we have a lot more work to do. A lot. In the last several years, it doesn't just seem like our state and nation are regressing and rolling back personal rights and environmental protections, it is actually happening. NASW is committed to fighting for social justice issues we have been fighting for hundreds of years. We are here to stay, so please stay with us! **We need you to keep us strong.**

2020 is the 100th anniversary of the passage of the 19th Amendment, women's right to vote. For my mother's 70th birthday in November, I took her to see the Women's Suffrage exhibits at the National Archives, the Library of Congress and the Portrait Gallery in Washington, DC. It was breathtaking to visualize the seven-decade struggle women went through to secure my right to vote. It was also thrilling to see documents and photos of fellow social workers Jane Addams and Jeannette Rankin among the exhibition artifacts. After seeing this struggle in print, there is no excuse for every person not to exercise their right to vote.

The national exhibits did a decent job of acknowledging how women of color were profoundly excluded from most of the suffrage movement, especially in the south.

The exhibits highlighted African-America suffragists like Mary Church Terrell, president of the National Association of Colored Women who spoke at the National American Woman Suffrage Association convention in 1898. Her speech forced powerful white women attendees to reflect on the compounding racism, oppressions and systemic violence that Black women endured during and after slavery and their overt exclusion from the suffrage movement.

In addition to celebrating the enactment of the 19th Amendment, let's celebrate the lives and legacies of the abolitionists and suffragists Mary Church Terrell, Ida B. Wells-Barnett, Harriet Tubman, and civil rights leaders like social worker Dorothy Height and Shirley Chisholm — the first Black woman elected to Congress and to seriously run for president.

The social work profession also has a history of systemic and institutional racism and exclusion. That is hard to say of a profession that values social justice and integrity, a profession I love so dearly. This is why NASW-NC has a steadfast commitment to equity, diversity and inclusion which is reflected in our strategic plan. What does that look like? Diversity and inclusion are outcomes we seek to continuously incorporate into our association. We seek to create inclusive environments in which any individual or group can feel welcomed, respected, supported and valued. Whereas equity refers to the process we as an organization engage in to ensure that people with marginalized identities have the opportunity to grow, contribute and develop.

The NASW-NC Board of Directors and staff are committed to equity and inclusion and we welcome your voice in this process. Please contact me to learn more: varendt.naswnc@socialworkers.org. ●



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NASW Mission

Founded in 1955, the National Association of Social Workers (NASW) is the largest membership organization of professional social workers in the world, with more than 120,000 members. NASW works to enhance the professional growth and development of its members, to create and maintain standards for the profession, and to advance sound social policies. NASW also contributes to the well-being of individuals, families, and communities through its work and advocacy.



Beth Vogler, MSW, Ph.D.

By Molly Andrews, NASW-NC Intern
Edited from award nomination

The National Association of Social Workers North Carolina Chapter (NASW-NC) has named Elizabeth (Beth) Vogler, MSW, Ph.D., the 2020 Social Worker of the Year.

The NASW-NC Social Worker of the Year Award is an annual award given to a social work professional who has demonstrated commendable social work practice and involvement with NASW and other professional, civic, and community organizations.

Professional Experience

Dr. Vogler has over 30 years of experience in the field, with most of that time spent at Mars Hill University. While at Mars Hill University, Dr. Vogler has taught courses on Human Behavior and the Social Environment, Social Welfare Policy, Death and Dying, Social Work Practice, and Field Seminars. Furthermore, she has served as the Social Work Program Director for over 10 years and was the Field Director prior to taking on that role. Dr. Vogler also spent five years as the Dean of the Division of Professional Programs. She has extensive research experience in areas that include social work education, death, dying, bereavement, gerontology, case management, and community development.

Throughout her celebrated career, Dr. Vogler has received numerous awards and recognitions, including the G. McLeod Bryan Faculty Caring Award, the Appalachian College Association Ritchie/Dykeman Fellowship, and the Robert S. Gibbs Outstanding Teacher Award.

Outside the University

Beyond her teaching and leadership roles within the university, Dr. Vogler has also been involved with many cocurricular activities and has presented the Ethics portion of the Annual Asheville Local Program Unit March Conference and at the Association for Death Education and Counseling Conference. Dr. Vogler's passion for serving those in her community is clear through her many years of community service. Dr. Vogler currently serves on the Board for The Mediation Center in Asheville, and for many years was involved in the development of the Asheville Buncombe Institute of Parity Achievement. There, she served on the Board and served as Secretary. She also served as the Chair of the United Way Board of Madison County.

NASW-NC Leadership

Dr. Vogler has been involved with NASW-NC for 26 years. She is a founding member of the NASW-NC Asheville Local Program Unit (LPU) for social workers and currently serves as the Chair. Kelly Spangler, LCSW, MSW, MPA and another founding member



of the Asheville LPU, says that, "The Asheville LPU would not have been as successful or as enduring as it has been throughout the years without Beth's leadership and involvement." Additionally, Dr. Vogler has served as a Western District Representative to the NASW-NC Board of Directors and is on the Toby Brown Scholarship Committee.

TJ Stiers, LCSW and Vice Chair of the Asheville LPU, says about Dr. Vogler, "She brings out the best in all of us lucky enough to know her and work with her. She is well-known and well-respected in our community and is a wonderful ambassador for social work."

Dr. Vogler will be honored as the NASW-NC Social Worker of the Year at the [2020 NASW-NC Ethics Conference and Awards Luncheon](#) on Friday, March 20, 2020 at the McKimmon Center in Raleigh, NC. ●

"I am humbled and honored by this recognition from NASW-NC. We are fortunate to have such remarkable Chapter staff working on our behalf, and I am privileged to work with our professional organization on the local level. Social workers are the best! So many social workers deserve this recognition - know that I honor you."

- Beth Vogler, NASW-NC Social Worker of the Year



Welcome New Members!

NASW-NC would like to welcome the following new members who joined during the months of November, December, and January! Thank you for choosing to support your profession and advocate for social work values by joining NASW.

Coastal District (A)

Sheila Darden
Lessie Gilliam
Barbara Griffith
Angela Jackson
Michelle Laster
Sarah Mesh
India Peele
Megan Pickering
Kristin Ratcliffe
Autumn Rodriguez
Jacqua Ushry

Central District (B)

Sana Anas
Hannah Barker
Kaleigh Beddingfield
Amanda Bell
Morgan Casey
Charlotte Dunn
Mary Olivia Eckert
Rebecca Fitzgerald
Allison Forbes
Justin Garrity
Christina Gastauer
Elaine Hicks
Ana Lategan
Timothy Leadem
Martha Lobo
Jamie Maginnes
Nancy Martinez
Rebekah Musselwhite
Stephanie Naylor-Lillard
Rose Peifer

Jonathan Pena
Hannah Robinson
Theresa Rouse
Joanna Sanchez
Arshiya Siddiqui
Carrie Sioberg
Amy Still
Jonathan Veno
Bob Williamson
Timothy Winn

Piedmont District (C)

Diana Baker
Mervin Brandy
Laura Carroll
Samantha Carter
Mary Cowan
Sydney Dockery
Kemiya Gibbs
Hailey Grant
Ronnie Johnson
Michelle Lester
Chanel McKethan
Jennifer Mingo
Christina Montalto
Geanine Pregel
Traveante' Ruffin
Tyana Sykes

South Piedmont District (D)

Katherine Boyce
Angela Dreher

Leigh Fransen
James Granberry
Rebecca Horner
Jakayla Morrison
Tyler Muse
Laura Newton
Nicole Pagano
Margaret Phipps
Maurice Smith
Roxanne Thomas
Cassidy Trabilcy
Anna Usher
Wanda Washington
Jon Weddell
Tia Wheeler
Stacy Wright

Western District (E)

Catherine Allen
Aleister Avenmarch
Samantha Barreras
Scarlett Bullard
Lea Kay Nadri Churchill
Miranda Earley
Melanie Ellis
Nina Ervin
Summer Fischer
John W. Frazier
Taylor Grindstaff
Holly Honeywell
Lucia Jaimes Caballero
Elizabeth Kerley
Andrew Linville
Jessica Morgan

Mariah Murdock
Jan Pérez-Bonilla
Haven Phillips
Maryssa Sanelli
Carl Schwartz
Leah Small
Abigail Sprouse
Brittney VanNorman
Chuck Weigand

South Central District (F)

Brionna Alston
Mary Eden Avery
Andrew Baez
Jazlyn Bain
Bryan Barros
Rachel Bean
Amanda Bragg
Deonna Brown
Deon Campbell
Rebeca Carpenter
Alexandra Caselman
Kateryna Chorna
Eva Church
Anthony Cogar
Jonathan Conover
Kailyn Cottle
Barbara Covarrubias
Meredith Crowell
Hannah Cruz
Avery Dixon
Jordan Dudley
Nicole Emery

Kandus Fulmore
Riley Funk
Tessa Gardner
Alyssa Gubicza
Bethany Hart
Sarah Honald
Rodrick Hudson
Rayliene Hwang
Cyquieta Jones
Makayla Locklear
Alida Mason
Emily McFarland
Tyese Mckay
Melissa Mojica Cruz
Vanessa Monk
Bethany Morrison
Devita Ojeda
Amanda Perez
Jennifer Rendleman
Kathleen Salzman
Samuela Schmidt
Jeffrey Simmons
Alicia Story
Katelyn Swan
Chloe Taylor
Frances Thorpe
Sarah Traxler
Victoria Velazco
Deja Vinson
Dominique Williams
Rebecca Young

NASW Credentials Received!

Congratulations to the following NASW-North Carolina members who received National Professional Credentials from NASW from January 2019 through December 2019!

Academy of Certified Social Workers

Alice Locklear, Ph.D., ACSW
William Humphrey, ACSW

Certified Clinical Alcohol, Tobacco, &
Other Drugs Social Worker

Michael McGuire, C-CATODSW

Advanced Certified Hospice
& Palliative Care Social Worker

Amy Fisher, ACHP-SW
Sharon Pendergast, ACSW, DCSW, ACHP-SW
Cynthia Royals-Wilson, ACHP-SW

Qualified Clinical Social Worker

James McCracken, LCSW, QCSW

Learn more about NASW Credentials and how they can benefit your social work career at socialworkers.org/credentials

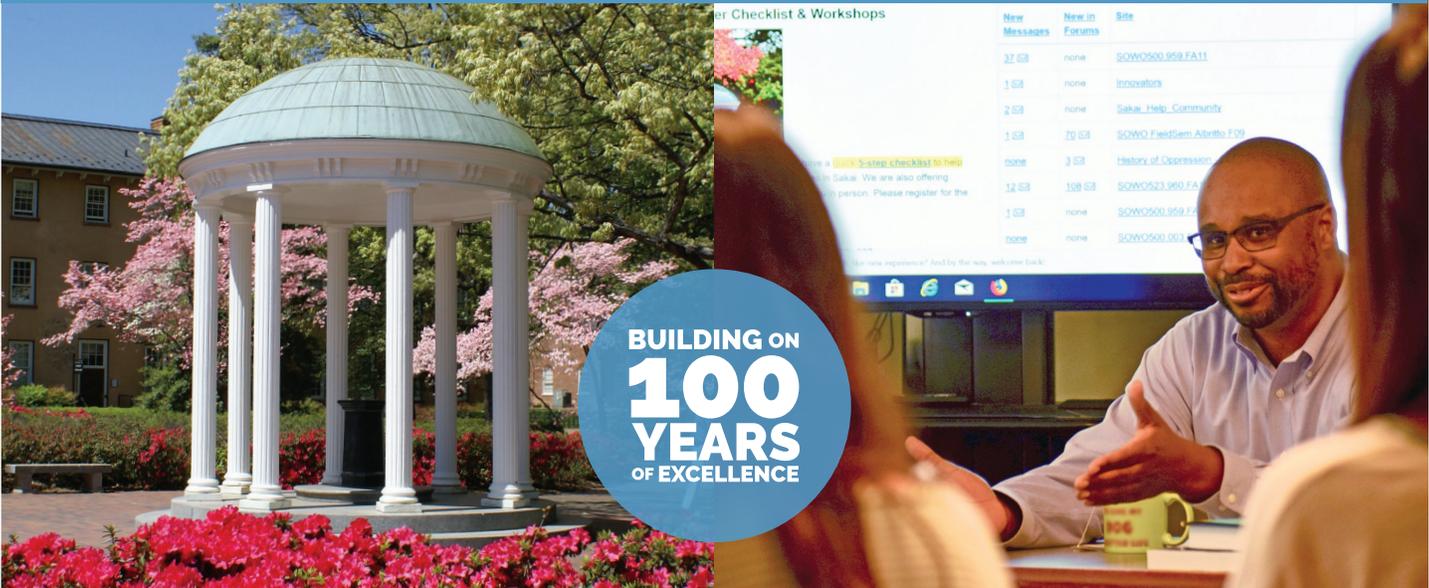
2020

NASW-NC Toby Brown Award For BSW Students

Apply: bit.ly/tobybrownaward

Due April 15, 2020





ADVANCE YOUR CAREER WITH YOUR ADVANCED STANDING MSW

If you have earned a BSW degree from a Council on Social Work Education accredited program, one of our Advanced Standing MSW Programs may be a great option!

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20-MONTH ADVANCED STANDING MSW

**Applications due October 13, 2020
Program begins January 2021**

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**Applications due January 12, 2021
Program begins May 2021**

Applicants who are currently employed in social work-related settings and/or those interested in advancing their macro social work skills are strongly encouraged to apply to the 20-month Advanced Standing Program.

**For more information, contact:
mswadmissions@unc.edu**

**ADVANCING
EQUITY**

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LIVES**





**Ravita T. Omabu Okafor,
MSW, LCSW**

NASW-NC Ethics Committee Chair

The Necessity of Formulating Ethics Questions

Free ethics consultation is a service provided to NASW-NC members. Effective consultations begin with an accurately formulated question. Taking the time to consider the facts of the situation, options for responding, concerns associated with each identified action, the potential impact on the client's well-being, and possible grounds for malpractice complaints against the social worker, allows consultees to articulate intentionally and conscientiously the questions for which they seek direction. Faced with limited time, possible agitation, and pressure to make a quick decision, consultees can feel impatient with a consultant's questions that refine understanding of the ethics dilemma. Rushing past this very important experience can result in the consultee forfeiting an opportunity to build self-awareness (i.e., personal feelings, biases, or self-interest) around a particular practice area, receive resources that further develop professional skills, and evaluate whether a planned course of action is consistent with ethical standards.

Let us consider a social worker posing the question: What do I do if a client refuses to consent for me to request records from another provider? A consultant could quickly gather information on self-determination, informed consent, access to records, etc. However, if the consultant requests additional information to gain context and learns that the client reported admission into an inpatient psychiatric hospital, needed a therapy appointment to be discharged, and refused to consent to the social worker knowing the reason for the hospitalization, the consultant can identify areas of conflict; consider ethical, legal, and clinical aspects of the situation; and offer more comprehensive resources to address identified and unspoken issues that deserve thoughtful consideration. In addition to ethics processing, the consultant can encourage the consultee to access legal and clinical consultations. Seeking consultation also allows the consultee to recognize that the social worker can decide what information he or she needs to serve a client competently and responsibly.

Engaging in ethics consultation invites critical analysis of practice situations. Regarding formulating the ethics question, dilemma, or concern, Pope & Vasquez (2016) recommend considering the following questions:

Does the statement do the situation justice? Does it make clear what the problem is and why it is a problem? Does it miss anything important to thinking through possible courses of action? Does any part of it get lost in the mists

of vagueness, ambiguity, or professional jargon? Are some of the words misleading or not quite right? Is there anything questionable about the statement's scope, perspective, or assumptions? Are there other valid ways to define the problem? (pp. 161-162)

Koocher & Keith-Spiegel (2016) note:

Because ethical decision-making involves a complicated process influenced by our own perceptions and values, we can usually benefit from seeking input from others... a good consultant can stimulate thinking and generate new ideas as well as evaluate your own plan [and] help you become more aware of any personal factors that could be coloring your perspective, and make you feel supported and confident. (p. 577)

Always remember that consultations do not replace your decision-making or absolve you from actions you take. The NASW-NC Chapter Ethics Committee Disclaimer states:

NASW-NC offers consultation services 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 ethics questions 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.

Please bookmark the NASW (2017) Code of Ethics (found at <https://www.socialworkers.org/about/ethics/code-of-ethics>) and review it routinely to maintain awareness of ethical standards relevant for various practice situations. Please remember that your NASW-NC Chapter Ethics Committee is available for ethics consultation. This service is free only to NASW-NC members with questions about cases in which they have direct involvement. To access this service, send an email to naswncethics@gmail.com or call 919-828-9650 or 800-280-6207/extension 300. ●

References/Resources:

Koocher, G.P. & Keith-Spiegel, P. (2016). *Ethics in psychology and the mental health professions: Standards and cases* (4th Ed.). New York: Oxford University Press.

Pope, K.S. & Vasquez, M.J.T. (2016). *Ethics in psychotherapy and counseling: A practical guide* (5th Ed.). New Jersey: John Wiley & Sons, Inc.

**2020 NASW-NC
Ethics Conference &
Awards Luncheon**

**March 20, 2020
Raleigh**

The Ethics of
**MORAL INJURY
DISTRESS
COURAGE**
in Social Work Practice
Register: bit.ly/naswncethics





Hope Venetta

Director of Professional Development

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The North Carolina Addictions Specialist Professional Practice Board honors all credits approved by the Deemed Status organization NASW, including its state affiliate NASW-NC for initial and renewal of the substance abuse license.

What does this mean?

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2. All Local Program Unit CE events are eligible
3. Webinars listed on our website are eligible
4. All online trainings listed on the national NASW website are eligible
5. Every course endorsed or approved by NASW-NC is eligible

And the best part...No provider number is necessary! ●

And don't forget to check out the members-only NASW-NC CE Calendar, which usually lists over 90 events across North Carolina! Be sure to log in and visit www.naswnc.org/events to view this member benefit.

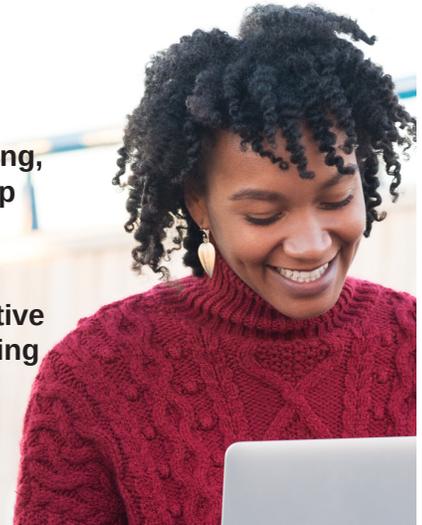


What is Brainspotting, and How Can It Help Therapists?

Cynthia Schwartzberg, LCSW
1 CE hour

Becoming a Reflective Resource: Supporting Individuals Facing Unintended Pregnancy

Provide.com
1 CE hour



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Kay Castillo, BSW

Director of Advocacy, Policy & Legislation
Registered Lobbyist

2020 North Carolina Legislative Outlook

NC Legislators in Town for One Day Session

Before adjourning the second longest Long Session late in 2019 with no state budget, legislators set their next date for a special session on Tuesday, January 14, 2020. There was not a lot of information about the session agenda. However, we were hoping legislators would have a state budget to finalize.

Senate Republicans held a press conference the day they came into town and announced that they did not have enough votes to override the Governor's veto of the state budget. Therefore, they would likely not work on a state budget in the 2020 Short Session because they haven't agreed on the previous budget.

As a result, **legislators adjourned the same day with no state budget.** Legislators will return the last week of April for the 2020 Short Session. Medicaid Transformation is still on hold indefinitely until state funds are appropriated through a state budget. Additionally, no new money will go to programming and state Departments will continue to operate on the budget passed for 2017-2018.

As the budget stalemate continues, NASW-NC is working with legislators and Department leaders to help assist social workers and social work clients with resources that are available. We encourage all members to let legislators know how the budget stalemate is impacting their community. For assistance in speaking with your legislators, please contact Kay Castillo, Director of Advocacy, Policy, and Legislation at advocacy.naswnc@socialworkers.org.

Health Information Exchange Authority in 2020

Through the successful passage of House Bill 70 (which NASW-NC helped introduce and lobby for!!), providers receiving state funds (Medicaid, State Health Plan, etc) received a one-year extension for the requirement of connecting to the state's Health Information Exchange Authority (HIEA). Providers must be connected by June 1, 2020. This means providers must sign a participation agreement and are in the queue to get connected.

The new legislation also allows for a hardship exemption for certain providers until December 31, 2022. We are working with the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services to define these exemptions and get NASW-NC members information on how to apply for these extensions.

Other bills eligible for a vote in the short session

For a recap on what happened during the last legislative session, [visit our website \(bit.ly/2RCZOcb\)](https://www.naswnc.org/page/2RCZOcb)!

Census continued from Page 1

immigrants pay federal taxes, but if they aren't counted in the Census, their communities don't get much federal funding.

Under current federal law, the bureau **cannot share census responses** identifying individuals with the public or other federal agencies, including immigration authorities and other law enforcement, until 72 years after the information is collected. There is currently NO citizenship question on the 2020 U.S. Census. [NASW commended \(bit.ly/3aSGTli\)](https://www.naswnc.org/page/3aSGTli) the U.S. Supreme Court after it blocked the 2020 Census Citizenship Question.

HB 511 ([bit.ly/38PUmIK](https://www.ncleg.gov/lookup/bill/511)) North Carolina First Step

Act: This bill would allow for a sentencing court to use discretion when sentencing for drug trafficking offenses instead of adhering to present minimum and maximum sentencing mandates. It would also allow for a person sentenced with a drug trafficking offense to file a motion to have their sentence modified and be released on post-release supervision if they meet certain conditions. *The bill passed the House and is awaiting Senate action.* Recently, Speaker Tim Moore noted that the short session will focus on criminal justice reforms.

HB 613 ([bit.ly/2RY2qQS](https://www.ncleg.gov/lookup/bill/613)) Essential Services for Homeless Youth:

The bill allows for unaccompanied homeless youth to receive behavioral health services, as well as optometry and dentistry services, without a legal guardian present. North Carolina Public Schools identified 2,650 unaccompanied homeless youth enrolled in school in the 2016-17 school year. The bill allows for documentation of homeless status from a school social worker as well as several professions listed in the bill to be acceptable for the youth to receive services. NASW-NC worked closely with Representative Susan Fisher from Buncombe County to get this legislation introduced. *The bill passed the House in May and awaits action by the Senate.*

HB 796 ([bit.ly/36DVwp7](https://www.ncleg.gov/lookup/bill/796)) Emotional Support Animals - Rental Units:

This legislation requires rental units to make reasonable accommodations for those with a disability who have a medically approved emotional support animal (ESA). Under the bill, LCSWs can verify a person's disability status and need for an ESA so long as they have professional knowledge of the person's condition. Clinicians may not charge additional fees for providing a written verification for a person's disability status and need for an ESA. The legislation is an attempt to allow ESAs to be used seriously and established with a provider, instead of paying an online company that has no professional knowledge of the person's condition. *This bill passed the House and awaits action by the Senate.* ●

For up-to-date information on what is happening at the legislature, check your twice a month *EnewSWire* that comes to your inbox on Tuesdays! Further, visit our website and check out *Updates for Members at the bottom of the homepage* and [sign up for North Carolina advocacy updates \(bit.ly/2Zamul7\)](https://www.naswnc.org/page/2Zamul7)!



What should social workers do? Educate and assist EVERYONE: clients, family, friends, neighbors, about the importance of filling out the Census. Being left out of the census can deprive population groups and communities of vital public and private resources. Every household will have the option of responding online, by mail or by phone. An invitation to respond online to the 2020 Census will be delivered to households by mail between March 12-20, 2020.

NASW-NC has compiled a resource page with Census information, important dates, and other resources [on our website \(www.naswnc.org/page/2020Census\)](https://www.naswnc.org/page/2020Census). Make sure to check back for updates! ●



Advocate of the Year Posthumously Awarded to Blair Barton-Percival

Blair Barton-Percival, MSW

By Autumn Yates
NASW-NC Intern

Edited from award nomination

The National Association of Social Workers North Carolina Chapter (NASW-NC) is proud to posthumously honor Blair Barton-Percival, MSW with the 2020 NASW-NC Myrna Miller Wellons Advocate of the Year Award. Mr. Barton-Percival was selected for this award by the NASW-NC Legislative Committee due to his passion and advocacy when working with seniors and aging adults.

Throughout his life, Blair remained committed to promoting the values of the social work profession and worked tirelessly to promote better care for seniors and aging adults. Blair received his BSW from Cornell University and his MSW and a Certificate in Gerontology from the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor. Blair was a member of several professional boards and committees, including: the North Carolina Association of Area Agencies on Aging (nc4a), the board of the North Carolina Health Information and Communications Alliance, served as a delegate for North Carolina on the Board of the Southeastern Association of Area Agencies on Aging (SE4A), and as an alternate for Region IV on the Board of the National Association of Area Agencies on Aging.



In regard to his involvement with the NASW, Blair was a devoted member of our association for twenty-one years. Until his death, he served as a board member of the National Association of Social Workers Political Action Committee (an appointed position with NASW National). At the state chapter, he served on the NASW-NC Political Action for Candidate Election and Legislative Committees. As a member of these

committees, he was instrumental in fiercely advocating for those who are vulnerable of being overlooked and outcast from society. Blair was not afraid to approach new ideas and support new initiatives to help achieve greater outcomes. His sense of humor was admired by many in his approach to helping others.

The 2020 NASW-NC Myrna Miller Wellons Advocate of the Year Award will be presented at the [NASW-NC Social Work Ethics Conference and Awards Luncheon](#) on Friday, March 20, 2020 at the McKimmon Center in Raleigh. ●

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2020 Elections: Voter ID Update, Redistricting, and Important Dates!

By Autumn Yates
NASW-NC Intern

A ruling by a North Carolina District Court Judge, Loretta Biggs, on December 31, 2019 suspended the Voter ID requirement for the 2020 primary elections. In her [ruling \(go.aws/2O8UScD\)](#), Judge Biggs stated that “North Carolina has a sordid history of racial discrimination and voter suppression stretching back to the time of slavery, through the era of Jim Crow, and, crucially, continuing up to the present day.” North Carolina Attorney General Josh Stein, announced that he will be appealing Judge Biggs’ ruling after the primary election.

At the time of this article, Republicans in the North Carolina General Assembly are working to appeal Judge Biggs’ decision before the primaries, yet the North Carolina State Board of Elections already announced that voter ID will not be required for the 2020 Primary Election. At the time of this article, a valid voter ID will be required for the general election in November.

In mid-2019, a three-judge panel ordered that the state’s legislative and congressional maps be redrawn prior to the 2020 elections to reflect districts that are more equitable and less gerrymandered, or drawn for political gain. As a result of those rulings ([Common Cause, et al. v. Lewis \(bit.ly/2U7MFt5\)](#) and [Harper, et al. v. Lewis \(bit.ly/2qNkCm7\)](#)), the 2020 Congressional and NC House and Senate districts have changed. After the 2020 U.S. Census, the districts will change once more as they are redrawn by the North Carolina General Assembly to reflect population changes.

To find your current legislative and congressional district, go to: <https://vt.ncsbe.gov/RegLkup/>

What you need to know for the Primary Election:

- NC Primary Election Day: Tuesday, March 3, 2020
- Early Voting: February 13 through February 29, 2020
- Deadline to Request an Absentee Ballot: February 25, 2020
- Deadline to Return Completed Absentee Ballot: March 3, 2020
- Voter Registration: Same-day during Early Voting
- No same-day voter registration on Primary Election Day

What you need to know for the General Election:

- General Election Day: November 3, 2020
- Early Voting: October 15 through October 31, 2020
- Voter Registration Deadline: October 9, 2020
- Same-day registration available during Early Voting
- Deadline to Request an Absentee Ballot: October 27, 2020
- Deadline to Return Completed Absentee Ballot: November 3, 2020

For information about voter registration, 2020 candidates, and more go to: www.ncsbe.gov.

Additionally, NASW-NC will keep members informed about voting updates in North Carolina! Please check the NASW-NC’s voter information page at: www.naswnc.org/page/Voting. ●

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NASW-NC Advocacy Efforts Result in New Statewide School Social Work Consultant Position

By Molly Andrews
NASW-NC Intern

After years of advocacy work by NASW-NC, the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction (DPI) has hired the first School Social Work Consultant position in over a decade. DPI has consistently held a School Psychologist and School Counseling Consultant position but hasn't consistently had a position for School Social Work. Social work services were assigned to different DPI staff over the years and bounced around from person to person.

Kay Castillo, NASW-NC Director of Advocacy, Policy and Legislation began meeting with State Board of Education and DPI staff prior to 2016 to let them know that it was critical to create a position at the state level specifically for school social work.

In coordination with the North Carolina Child Fatality Task Force, NASW-NC began placing this advocacy effort on the NASW-NC Legislative Agenda to advocate for this critical statewide position. The NC Child Fatality Task Force also included this as a priority initiative on their legislative agenda for a number of years.

In 2017, Kay, along with NASW-NC member and now retired school social worker Drew Pledger, met with newly elected DPI Superintendent Mark Johnson to educate him and the Department on the importance of school social workers and what they do as well as the need for a School Social Work Consultant position to be reinstated.

After two more years of meetings and advocacy with DPI and the State Board of Education, there was finally a commitment to find funding to hire for the position. The position was finally posted in May 2019.

Pachovia Lovett, MSW, is the new North Carolina Department of Public Instruction Consultant for School Social Work. She will be serving as a resource at the state level to school social workers and advocating on their behalf. Ms. Lovett brings 13 years of school social work experience in Randolph County Schools working with elementary, middle, and high school aged youth.

Since starting the position, Ms. Lovett has focused her attention on [Senate Bill 199 \(bit.ly/37BtFRk\)](https://bit.ly/37BtFRk), which aims to improve existing sexual assault laws and increase protection for children against sexual abuse. Specifically, Ms. Lovett is working to create a training program for school personnel covering child sexual abuse, and sex trafficking. Ms. Lovett is also gathering information from school social workers across the state on what their needs are to inform her future work. The feedback she has received so far emphasizes the need for mental health support and methods to improve truancy and attendance.

When asked how she hopes to partner with NASW-NC to support the social work profession, Ms. Lovett says she hopes to serve as the link between NASW-NC and school social workers in North Carolina and help create a more interconnected network that better serves the school social work profession in the state in a way that was previously unavailable. The first step in that partnership will be the joint creation of a resource guide for school social workers based in rural towns and communities. The goal is to provide school social workers with a tool to address the gaps that exist in these areas. ●

Ms. Pachovia Lovett can be contacted:

Phone: (919) 807-3854

Email: Pachovia.Lovett@dpi.nc.gov

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2020 NASW-NC Presidents' Award Winner

Paige Moore, MSW Student North Carolina State University

By Molly Andrews, NASW-NC Intern
Edited from award nomination

The National Association of Social Workers North Carolina Chapter (NASW-NC) has named Paige Moore as the recipient of the 2020 NASW-NC Presidents' Award for Master of Social Work (MSW) graduate student for the 2019-2020 academic year. Ms. Moore is a passionate graduate student in the Master of Social Work (MSW) program at North Carolina State University (NC State) and a Graduate Teaching Assistant in NC State University's Department of Social Work. She is the first student from NC State to receive the award.

The NASW-NC Presidents' Award recognizes Ms. Moore's leadership within her Department and University, dedication to her community, and commitment to improving the social work profession through extensive research.

While at NC State, Ms. Moore has proven herself to be exceptional. In addition to working as a Graduate Teaching Assistant within the Department, she also teaches a Social Welfare Policy course and serves as a Health Resources & Services Administration (HRSA) Research Assistant. Ms. Moore serves as a mentor for the Women of Welch (WOW) Living and Learning Village at NC State, through which she became involved with Running Start, an organization that seeks to help get young women elected to political office. Earlier this year, Ms. Moore was selected as a delegate to the



Women Leaders Global Forum in Reykjavik, Iceland and co-facilitated a workshop on how young women can prepare to run for office.

Ms. Moore's MSW field placement is at the Raleigh Police Department within the Police Chief's Office as part of the Research & Planning Unit. Her

placement includes evaluating the recruitment and retention practices of the Raleigh Police Department and is working to develop a pilot program that focuses on a peer-support model for officers in the police academy. Her hard work at the Raleigh Police Department has not gone unnoticed. Sergeant Renae Lockhart, MSW, describes Ms. Moore as "self-motivated, decisive, and confident," and noted she has "become a member of the top tier management team," in the short time she has been there.

Additionally, Ms. Moore is a NASW-NC Student Liaison representing NC State. Through this role, she connects NC State students to resources and utilizes the many opportunities available through NASW-NC for professional growth and development.

Ms. Moore will be honored at the [2020 NASW-NC Ethics Conference and Awards Luncheon](#) on Friday, March 20, 2020 at the McKimmon Center. ●



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NASW-NC Welcomes Olivia McKain, BSW Intern From Meredith College!

Olivia McKain is an NASW-NC intern who is completing her BSW with minors in Psychology and Pre-Law at Meredith College.

Olivia has worked closely with immigrants, refugees, children and teens with intellectual and developmental disabilities, as well as with communities experiencing poverty. She is passionate about community health and macro social work practice.

When asked what working with the NASW-NC means to her, Olivia said, "I am very excited for the opportunity to intern at NASW-NC! I am learning skills that will help me better serve marginalized communities, as well as work to advance the social work profession in the future." After she graduates in May, Olivia will go on to pursue her MSW and eventually her MPH. ●



Coastal Local Program Unit Relaunches!

By Alicia Salter, MSW Student
Lacy Salter, MSW, LCSWA

Coastal Local Program Unit Co-Chairs

It was Summer 2018. A group of Carteret County social workers began floating around the idea of an NASW-NC Local Program Unit (LPU). Carteret County can sometimes feel like a land unto itself, separated by hours of driving to the nearest continuing education and networking opportunities. Much like social workers themselves, county resources are very stretched. Recognizing the need to alleviate the travel burden for budding and tenured social workers, we began the process of reviving the NASW-NC Coastal LPU. Everything looked promising with brainstorming well underway. Then, everything changed late in the summer. We had no idea how resilient we would become.

Hurricane Florence. September 2018. Florence exposed serious social inequalities and gaps in services across eastern North Carolina. The storm significantly exacerbated the needs of struggling families, which caused county and statewide social workers to focus all of their efforts on supporting these groups like never before. Our focus shifted away from LPU revival and into recovery mode for our own families and clients.

The storm caused several months of delay on all fronts. We were just beginning to find our footing again in the new year but job changes and life circumstances again began to stall out planning. As the weather warmed, tourist season began and schools let out creating hectic work/life balances. And then again, another hurricane, named Dorian, placed a brief pause on our progress in September 2019. Above all, we remained resilient and ready for anything. After all the trials that Mother Nature sent to Eastern North Carolina during 2018 and 2019, it was even more clear the need for networking and continuing education among clinicians in the area. It was after this time that the desire to reinvigorate the LPU began rumbling once again.

NASW-NC Coastal LPU held its first official meeting which offered 2 CEs on January 16, 2020. Attendance was strong and interest peaked among clinicians. It is the hope that much like the ups and downs of the last few years, the Coastal LPU will show determination and overall sustainability. The journey has just begun for the Coastal LPU, and through it all, it has made us better social workers. We stand ready to tackle the storms that impact our coastal communities in the future and weathered by the ones that have made us who we are today. ●

For more info on NASW-NC Local Program Units, including the Coastal LPU, visit: www.naswnc.org/17

North Carolina House Representative and NASW-NC Member Graig Meyer, MSW, Inspires Small Town Crowd

By Jason Scianno, BSW, CADC-I
NASW-NC Board President-Elect

The Progressives of North Meck is a small, local grassroots advocacy group from Mecklenburg County. The group meets once a month at the Famous Toastery in Huntersville, NC to hear from dynamic speakers. The group often hears about local topics such as racial justice, Medicare for All, or from local candidates running for office.

On the 11th of November, North Carolina State Representative Graig Meyer came to speak and inspire our group and offer some advice as we move towards the 2020 elections. Representative Meyer shared that he works in schools and approaches the work he does in the schools and at the legislature with a social work lens. Representative Meyer went on to explain that from his social work lens, he has learned that it is important to talk to people from the heart, to listen and understand where they are coming from, as well as learn what their core values are. He suggested that it is not what we talk about, but how we talk about it; whether that is about creating upward mobility and building ladders for economic opportunities or addressing the corruptions within government.

Representative Meyer had several asks of the group. One was that not only should we understand our core values, but we should also take time to understand those



NC House Representative and NASW-NC member Graig Meyer speaks to a crowd in Huntersville, NC.

values that may differ from ours. Secondly, he suggested that people should offer time to volunteer to help local candidates so they can learn about our interests and what we would like to see from our state government.

Representative Meyer was then joined by North Carolina State Senator Natasha Marcus (one of our local Senators) and answered questions from the enthusiastic audience. Much of the discussions centered around the states' inability to come up with a budget. As the night ended, there was a sense of pride and possibilities within the crowd; a sense of renewed understanding of how to talk to people from the heart and the importance of listening. ●

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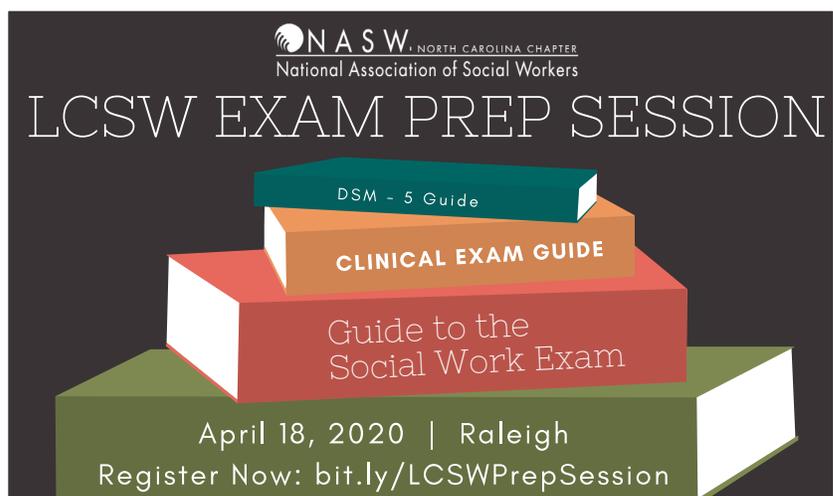
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