

NASW-TN Children & Families Connection

June 2019 Newsletter



Welcome to NASW-TN's e-newsletter. This will be a monthly publication focused on supporting your work with children & families in Tennessee. Monthly issues will be emailed to our members and shared with the public through our Facebook page and website. Each issue will include a theme for that month, the latest information and research related to children & families, as well as tools and resources you can use in your practice.

June is National Safety Month!

NATIONAL
SAFETY
MONTH 2019

Observed annually in June, National Safety Month focuses on reducing leading causes of injury and death at work, on the road and in our homes and communities.

Every day social workers across this country provide a wide range of services in increasingly complex environments including child welfare agencies, schools, mental health centers and hospitals. Safety can be a concern in many of these settings. Social workers are often engaging in risky situations without proper safety training, a partner or limited safety equipment. Unfortunately, too many social workers have been the targets of verbal and physical assaults and some have even tragically lost their lives while performing their job responsibilities.

Social worker safety is a critical issue for the National Association of Social Workers. We hope you find the resources in this newsletter helpful for you in your work and that you will join with NASW in supporting safety in the workplace.



Resources for You from NASW!

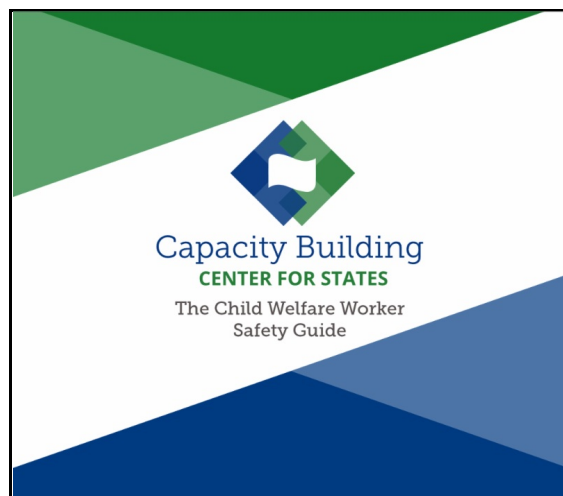
NASW provides a variety of resources to assist our members. Click the button below to access a list of some resources NASW provides related to safety in the workplace:

NASW Resources on Safety in the Workplace for Your Practice

[NASW CEO Angelo McClain urges Congress to pass "Workplace Violence Prevention for Health Care and Social Service Workers Act"](#)

We are pleased to announce that one of NASW's key legislative priorities for the 116th Congress, the **Workplace Violence Prevention for Health Care and Social Service Workers Act** (S. 851/H.R. 1309), passed out of the House Committee on Education and Labor on June 11, 2019!

Dr. McClain [testified](#) in February 2019 to the Workforce Protections Subcommittee in support of this much-needed legislation, which would require the Department of Labor to direct the Occupational Health



[Child Welfare Worker Safety Guide](#)

and Safety Administration to issue a federal standard requiring employers of healthcare and social services workers to develop and implement violence prevention plans. This will go a long way towards improving working conditions for social workers in a wide range of settings.

Thanks in part to NASW's collaboration with a broad range of healthcare, labor and other organizations, Rep. Joe Courtney (D-CT-2) was able to secure 173 cosponsors for H.R. 1309. NASW-TN Executive Director, Karen Franklin, is in D.C. this week discussing this and other advocacy initiatives at the national level.



Ensuring child welfare worker safety is a complex concern. Doing so encompasses not only taking measures to prevent the threat or reality of physical violence, but also promoting psychological and emotional safety, as well as resilience, within the workplace. In order to create a culture and climate that promote child welfare worker safety, agencies need to address all of the parameters of child welfare worker safety in their policies and practices. This publication examines current research regarding child welfare worker safety, focusing on the context and root causes of violence against child welfare workers, the laws and policies states have used to address the issue, and the strategies that agencies and workers can use to enhance workers' safety and well-being in the workplace.

[Read more](#)



[Client Violence: Interview with Dr. Christina Newhill](#)

In today's Social Work Podcast, I talk with [Dr. Christina Newhill](#), a nationally recognized expert on client violence and the author of [Client Violence in Social Work Practice: Prevention, Intervention, and Research](#), published in 2003 by The Guilford Press. In today's podcast, Dr. Newhill defines client violence, talks about why social workers should be concerned with client violence and identifies which social workers are at greater risk for violence. She discusses some ways to assess a client's potential for violence, how to intervene with a violent or potentially violent client, and identifies some strategies for increasing worker safety. We end our interview with information about existing research and resources for social work educators.

[Listen to the Podcast Here!](#)

[Safety First: Paying Heed to and Preventing Professional Risks](#)

"It's an open secret, really; social work is a dangerous profession," declared the newsletter of the North Carolina Division of Social Services and the Family and Children's Resource Program."

Just how dangerous? A survey by NASW's Committee for the Study and Prevention of Violence Against Social Workers, with the support of the Massachusetts Chapter, revealed that 51.3% of the sample reported feeling unsafe in their jobs. Nearly one-third have experienced some form of violence, including verbal abuse, at least once in the office. Nearly 15% reported at least one episode in the field.

According to OSHA, only one more setting is more dangerous, and that's working at night in a retail store, notes John Weaver, a social worker with the Northampton County in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania.

[Read more](#)



Resource Corner

[Workplace Violence Prevention - Health Care and Social Service Workers](#)

Workplace violence has emerged as an important safety and health issue in today's workplace. The Occupational Safety and Health Administration's (OSHA's) response to the problem of

**Need to get your CE Hours?
Here are some upcoming
Continuing Education
Workshops from NASW-TN!**

workplace violence has been the production of OSHA's guidelines and recommendations to those industries for implementing workplace violence prevention programs.

[Social Worker Safety Tips](#)

These tips were developed by information collected from University of Syracuse School of Social Work

[Encountering Violence in Field Work: A Risk Reduction Model](#)

Social workers experience a particularly high incidence of physical and verbal violence. This article presents a current review of the literature on violence, describes a Risk Reduction Model for social work practicum education, and discusses implications for further study.

[Home Visits in a Violent World](#)

This paper examines the perceptions and experiences of home visiting, coupled with the lack of policy and training on the conduct of home visits. Ideas are presented to guide supervisors and agencies in their efforts to maximize their home visitor effectiveness, protect clinicians, and minimize liability.

[An Exploration of Social Worker Risk in the Field While Working with Vulnerable Adults and their Desire for Safety Training](#)

This study explored the risk that social workers face in the field while serving vulnerable adults to determine if there is need to implement mandated safety training based on social worker experiences and their desire for initial safety training.

[Middle Branch Meeting - Unique Roles for Social Workers](#)

1.0 CEU with Lunch
June 26, 2019
Nashville, TN

[West Branch Meeting - ACES](#)

1.0 CEU with Lunch
July 18, 2019
Memphis, TN

[Middle Branch Meeting - You Can't Pour from an Empty Cup: Addressing Wellness in Trauma-Informed Organizations](#)

1.0 CEU with Lunch
August 24, 2019
Nashville, TN

[Best Practices in Social Work Supervision](#)

6.0 CEUs with 3.0 in Ethics
October 4, 2019
Memphis, TN

[Licensure Examination Preparation](#)

15.0 CEUs with 3.0 in Ethics
November 1-2, 2019
Nashville, TN

HELP4TN

Free civil legal help is available through resources provided by Tennessee Alliance for Legal Services. Visit www.HELP4TN.org or call 1-844-HELP4TN to talk to an experienced Tennessee attorney for free legal advice and referrals.

NASW, Tennessee Chapter helps support the inclusion of information on social services through this website.

kidcentral tn HOME

Free, one-stop resource for TN families to raise healthy and happy kids. kidcentral tn features articles on health, education, development and more. It also includes a searchable directory for state-sponsored services for children & families.

The site is maintained by the Tennessee Commission and Children and Youth.



National Association of Social Workers



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