

# SOCIETY OF CLINICAL SOCIAL WORKERS, INC.

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## GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

MAY 31, 1975

1. The minutes of the last meeting were read and accepted.
2. The financial report, covering the period from the last meeting on Nov. 3, 1974 to the present, was presented. The report is attached to the minutes.

The fiscal committee has completed a report of a total breakdown of all the expenses of our society. We are looking at that to see the feasibility of, and to establish priorities for the formation of a New York City chapter. The fiscal committee will be meeting with the board in the latter part of June to discuss just that.

### 3. Referral Committee Report

We began operating in February 1975. At that time we sent out a letter to 728 agencies, hospitals, schools, universities, churches, etc. announcing the opening of the referral service and telling them more about it, also including a brochure. In April, we sent a follow-up letter offering the possibility of our setting up a program whereby the members of the referral service could meet with the people of the agencies so that they could get to know us. This was based on the idea that people don't refer unless they have some personal contact with the organization. We have gotten responses from agencies. One agency wanted therapists who were specially trained in sex therapy and they would put those therapists on their roster. Another agency called wanting therapists for deaf people. If anyone learns sign language or is willing to learn sign language, this is a possible good means in treating deaf people. We have begun to meet with the agencies - members of the referral service have been meeting with the agencies in order to get an idea of what the agencies' problems are and how we might be of help.

We will continue advertising in magazines and local newspapers. So far we have advertised in professional magazines like Better Times; we have an advertisement in the May issues of the Social Work Journal; in the June issue of the Society of Clinical Social Workers Journal; in July we have tentative plans for doing the same kind of public relations with professional groups like dentists, and doctors and lawyers, especially divorce lawyers.

Expenses are high and money is scarce. We collected \$5,350 to date. We sent \$940 to Nassau -Suffolk, and Queens for their operation, \$310. to Westchester-Rockland for their operation and we owe them \$257, leaving \$3,800 for the Manhattan area (This includes all the boroughs except Queens and other areas in the state not covered by the chapters). Our expenses have been primarily: clerical work - \$220; 5000 brochures and letters to 728 agencies - \$922; letterhead - \$225; other clerical work - \$35; stamps \$190; installation of the referral service phone - \$71; cost of answering machine - \$224; advertising in magazines - \$434; etc. we have about \$1000 left.

The renewal date was originally set for June 1. Due to the fact that we did not begin operations until Feb. 1975 the renewal date has been moved up to Oct. 1, 1975. This is for the Manhattan referral service only. The chapters will be setting up their own renewal date and will be collecting their own fees. Next year we hope to have it better coordinated with one renewal date for the State, and coinciding with the renewal of membership in the Society.

There has been much controversy over the referral service directory. The cost of such a directory will be \$2500. We decided that our primary goal was to set up a structure in Public Relations first in order for us to receive referrals; then we would decide later about a directory. The purpose of a directory at this time and the benefit of a directory to the members of the referral service is open to question. The members of the referral service will be polled to get feedback from them regarding a directory.

As of June 1, 1975 it will be necessary to be a Fellow to join the referral service. All those who have joined as Members prior to June 1, 1975 will be grandfathered in.

4. Social Action Committee Report.

Rowland Ostrower's Bill Assembly #6953 to amend the insurance Law is out on the floor, which means that it is out of committee.

Medicaid - nothing new, except we do have some names of lawyers to contact if we should decide to take the case to court. There is a freedom of choice clause in the Medicaid Federal Act. We would possibly go through the federal system and attempt to get the federal government to get New York State to enforce this freedom of choice act. This is a long complicated process, however, the board decided unanimously, in view of what has been happening, to take this route. In order to do this we will have to ask for special funding from the Social Work Committee.

The City Hospital Role Back Case: Our brief that was filed has been useful and the appeal has been successful somewhat, although it still is in the stages of negotiation we filed a 'friend of the court brief' in favor of the doctors and social workers who are fighting the control of the hospital system by the health and hospitals corp.

Licensing: After all of the maneuvering back and forth, the influence of the Dean's of the Schools of Social Work caused NASW to renege on every agreement they had made with us, and they changed the wording again setting us back to where we were several years ago. The real issue is: is it better to have some licensing rather than no Licensing, what kind of licensing, how would it protect us, how wouldn't it protect us? Last year, as you know, the NASW bill was supported jointly by us, however, it was vetoed and highly criticized by the Psych. Association, and the Black Social Worker's group, but mainly it was criticized on the lower levels by the State Dept. of Mental Hygiene and the city because they trained 1,000's of people and they were afraid standards would be raised, and if standards were raised it would cost them more money. The real opposition to us at our level of clinical social work came from psychology. Psychology now is more willing to accept us as equals. The changes that the Deans and NASW wish to change from last year are:

Last years definition of practice: "The practice of the profession of social work is defined as professional information for a fee or other remuneration into the social, emotional processes of individuals, families, groups, communities and organizations for the proposal maintaining, restoring, or enhancing social functioning or creating social conditions favorable to this goal through but not limited to the provision of tangible resources and services, counseling, psychotherapy, planning and organizing to establish and improve human services. Practice requires the purposeful disciplined application of social work values, principles and methods aimed at meeting basic human needs, assisting in problem solving activity, resolving or managing conflict, and bringing about system changes and is based on knowledge of human needs, development and behaviors including the role of the unconscious as influenced by the interaction of social, cultural, political, and economic systems".

What the Deans want to do is to eliminate the work unconscious. The Deans definition: "The practice of the profession of social work is defined as purposeful and disciplined service and action to individuals, families, groups, communities and organizations in restoring, maintaining, and/or enhancing social and emotional functioning. The methods which may be utilized in the professional practice of social work to reach the goals defined above include, but are not limited to social case work, social group work, psychotherapy, counseling, community organizations, social policy formulation and analysis, social research and social planning. Practice requires the purposeful disciplined application of social work values, principles and methods aimed at meeting basic human needs and assisting in problem solving activities as influenced by the interaction of social, cultural, and economic systems."

The question we asked Jim Ryan was that with this new definition how would we stand under a National Health Insurance Plan? He said he thought it may be . It therefore seems that this is a dangerous change to make after six years of attempting to define ourselves. The only other important change is that after discussion with they agreed to few years of training instead of two years of training after certification in order to practice independently.

A new paragraph was added: "only certified social workers may engage in psychotherapy for the purpose of evaluating, diagnosing, modifying, or treating problems due to emotional disturbances, behavioral disturbances, and/or personality disorders." This was the compromise that the Deans made.

Jim Ryan stated that he does not think that Licensing Legislation will go through at this time.

The question before us is: (1) Should we go all out in opposing a NASW Bill? (2) Should we instead support it because we want to have some licensing? (3) Should we put in our own bill?

The general membership agreed almost unanimously to oppose the NASW bill and were in favor of writing our own bill.

The membership was used to write postcards to Assemblyman Irwin Londes - chairman of Higher Education committee and to Senator Leon Giofreda - chairman of the Education committee opposing the NASW bill.

5. Report from the chapters:

Florence Duko reported for Nassau. The Nassau chapter has grown considerably. Recently there was a National Mental Health day in Nassau county and the clinical social workers were part of it. The Nassau chapter has also become active in the peer Review committee. They have also held six meetings in the Nassau Academy of Medicine on various topics related to the field of clinical practice. They have also been active on the referral service with the Suffolk chapter, and with the Queens chapter. Because of the information - referral service many more members have joined the Society. At present the Nassau chapter has 60 members.

6. Membership Report:

At present we have approximately 416 members. The committee at present consists of Estelle Charles, Margory Warnock, Helen Goldberg, and Arlene Lockland. The committee meets every 2 to 3 weeks in the evening and they are working very hard. Besides dealing with renewals the committee is working on Streamlining the application processing.

7. Chapter Formation Report:

We are in the process of starting a new chapter in Albany. We are also in the process of beginning a Mid-Hudson area chapter.

8. National Federation Report:

The recent newsletter outlines some of the activities taking place. The National Federation Legislative committee has defined the practice of clinical social work very definitely which includes the evaluation of treatment, working with the unconscious, work with mental disorders. The definition includes a 2 year clinical masters degree and 2 years of clinical supervision after the masters degree. The definition is specifically stated and the requirements for independent practice have been developed.

The Federation has recently formed a National registry of Mental Health providers in clinical social work. You will be receiving information in the mail regarding the National registry and how to join. We as clinical social workers on the Nat'l. level are trying to establish the kind of criteria necessary to preserve our profession.

You will also be receiving a membership application for the council of the advancement of clinical social work which will be for the express purpose of hiring a full-time governmental consultant.

We have also established on the Nat'l. level criteria for the professional Standards Review organization, and we will be coming out with a manual for evaluators and practice.

The National registry will also have attached to it a Peer System of review.

Announcement of Appointment: John R. Verbeeck has been appointed State Chairman of the Professional Standards Review Committee.

May 31, 1975

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

(Covers period between last meeting on November 3, 1974 and present.)

Checking Balance 11/3/74 \$12,228.35

Total deposits since that date \$13,501.41  
(primarily dues, 2 Institutes  
and certificates)

Expenditures

Telephone & answering service	\$ 796.01
Mailing & printing	2,691.87
Postage	1,420.54
Secretary, Xerox, Supplies	1,376.90
Stationery	840.38
Journal	2,312.00
Trip Reimbursement	560.00
General expenses	<u>\$11,177.41</u>
Total . . .	<u>\$21,175.93</u>

Major Breakdown under general expenses

National Federation	\$ 3,669.50
Westchester/Rockland chapter revolving fund	80.00
Nassau chapter revolving fund	637.00
Expense of general meeting's	185.00
Accountant	300.00
Cost of certificates	382.62
Legal fees	3,500.00
Expenses of 2 Institutes	<u>1,923.42</u>
Total . . .	<u>\$10,677.54</u>

(Financial Report Continued)

Current balance in treasury

\$ 4,553.83

Immediate outstanding bills

\$775.36 for Hunter Institute of 5/4/75.

There was a small loss on the first Institute, and a small profit on the second Institute. As a result, we broke even on the two Institutes.

Respectfully submitted,

*Margery Warnock*  
Margery Warnock  
Treasurer