



## Fall Meeting of National Federation Held in Washington / Key issues: Money, National Advocacy / Government Proposes Reduction in Mental Health Benefits for Federal Employees

Report by Marsha Wineburgh, CSW, President, NYS Chapter

New York, NY, Nov. 15—The National Federation of Societies for Clinical Social Work, Inc. held its fall meeting in Washington, D.C., October 2-4. All State Societies were represented except Tennessee. Robert P. Galardi, the Society's 1st vice president, attended as the NYS delegate.

Two major areas of concern surfaced during the meeting:

- 1) generating new revenues
- 2) national advocacy.

A committee was appointed to explore methods of generating revenue for the National Federation. Membership dues will no longer cover operating expenses even though the Board has cut expenditures to the bone. Although the deficit next year will be minimal, effective planning necessitates developing alternate sources of funds to ensure the continuity of our national organization. Committee members include representatives from New York, California, Louisiana, Washington, D.C. and Illinois.

### Advocacy

The most important national advocacy issue at this time concerned the Federal Employee Health Benefits Program. The Office of Personnel Management proposed to reduce mental health benefits for an estimated 96,000 federal employees in order to avoid a 30 percent premium increase which Blue Cross/Blue Shield claims is necessary to maintain current benefits. These cutbacks, if approved, would discriminate against a class of health care receivers and would have repercussions in the entire mental health field.

In response to this proposal the

National Federation mobilized psychiatrists, psychologists, nurses and other national mental health groups to persuade Congress to intervene before OPM again forces consumers of mental health services to hear the brunt of benefit reductions adopted to keep overall premiums at an acceptable level. NYS Society sent mailgrams or letters to all state legislators in Washington; to Donald Devine, Director of OPM; Senator Stevens (Chair, Subcommittee on Civil Service and General Service); and Congresswoman Oakar (Chair, Subcommittee on Compensation and Employee Benefits), urging their intervention to prevent this discrimination. Thus far, Congress has agreed to hold oversight hearings with respect to the FEHBP. Interestingly, the Senate hearings did not include mental health providers on their agenda. National Federation protested and earned the right to submit a statement of its position. In addition, Senator Alfonse D'Amato proposed an amendment to the Postal/Treasury Appropriations Bill upholding the principle of health insurance for the treatment of mental disorders on a basis fully equal and comparable to the coverage provided for the treatment of all other medical disorders. Senator Patrick Moynihan is cosponsoring this amendment.

### ... Hearings Scheduled

Hearings on S.123 will be held soon. This is the bill amending the Social Security Act to include clinical social workers as independent, qualified mental health providers to those using Medicare/Medicaid. At this time we have eight cosponsors in the Senate—none from New York. Through the efforts of the National

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## Family Therapy is Subject at Annual Conference

### Gerda Schulman in Session with Family Group

The Society's Education Committee, under the leadership of Alan L. Shanel, provided a unique and interesting program at its Annual Conference, which took place on Saturday, October 31st, at the Barbizon-Plaza Hotel, New York City.

"Family Therapy in Depth"—A Day With Gerda Schulman, LL.D., M.S., was the title of the day-long event. Dr. Schulman, Associate Professor in Masters and Doctoral Program, Adelphi University School of Social Work and Associate Professor, Hunter College School of Social Work, is also the Coordinator of the Family Therapy Sequence in that school's Postmasters Program. Dr. Schulman was assisted for part of the presentation by Selma Petker, CSW, Society member of the Westchester chapter.

At the morning sessions Dr. Schulman explained the theories of basic family structure and the dynamics of any change or interruption in the functioning of the original family. She related the history of the family with whom she would be working in the afternoon; this was done together with Ms. Petker, with whom the core family has been in treatment during the past two years.

The original four-member family consists of the husband, wife and two children; three siblings of the wife's, presently living with the family, had also agreed to participate. None of the group had previously met Dr. Schulman.

The afternoon session consisted of Dr. Schulman's interaction with these family members. She demonstrated that the theories presented at the earlier session were here clearly elucidated; the two-hour

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# Executive report

Recently I attended a late night meeting of a small group of clinical social workers who were distressed over our slow rise to parity in the mental health field. They had been galvanized into action more than a year ago over substantial issues—accreditation, legislative action and academic advancement. Much to my surprise, they were in the midst of planning an educational film program. This at a time when:

The Board of Trustees of the National Benefit Fund for Hospital and Health Employees (1199) approved reimbursement for clinical social workers at the rate of \$7.50/hour. Psychologists are reimbursed at \$15 per session, psychiatrists at \$25 per session.

The Office of Personnel Management (Washington, D.C.) has recommended reducing mental health benefits in the Federal Employee Health Benefit Program (e.g., V.A. employees) from 365 days to 90 days' in-patient care, from unlimited psychotherapy at 70 percent reimbursement to a rumored 50 sessions per year at 50 percent reimbursement. This new benefit package, designed to accommodate an anticipated 30 percent increase in premium costs, singles out mental health insurance users to bear the brunt of cutbacks.

In a recent New York Times article (10/28/81) on psychotherapy, social workers were mentioned as providing more treatment than any other group of professionals. But nothing was mentioned about our legal certification, our status as independent providers ("P") or that more than half of all certified psychoanalysts are clinical social workers.

The good news is that we are in the news; the bad news is that we have more work to do to protect our profession. This continues to be a time for active, dynamic planning and consistent implementation of strategies on behalf of clinical social work.

This is my last editorial as President of the New York State Society. I have thoroughly enjoyed serving as your President for the past two years. And I have a thought I'd like to leave you with. The profession of clinical social worker exists independent of where it is practiced. Who pays you as a clinician is irrelevant to the body of knowledge and experience you bring to a therapeutic situation. This false dichotomy between private and agency practice can be ended once we clearly see ourselves as independent, autonomous practitioners. And there is only one group that represents your professional interests at this time. It is the National Federation of Societies for Clinical Social Work and, as members, state societies. Actively support us. We are only as strong as you make us.

Marsha Wineburgh  
President

## COMMENT



Robert P. Galardi, 1st Vice President

December 1981—At the completion of my tenure as Editorial Consultant of the Society's Newsletter, I would like to share some thoughts and feelings.

Although the *Newsletter* has been in existence for several years, it was in January of 1980, with the employment of Alyce Collier as its Editor, that it developed a philosophy and style noteworthy of its professional image. The *Newsletter* became a vital means of communication, not only to inform the Society's membership of important and crucial issues but as a vehicle for strengthening and better identifying the growing body of professional clinical social workers practicing privately and within various agencies throughout New York State.

What helped develop our professional image was the officers of the Society, committee chairs and members who contributed material to the *Newsletter*. I wish to thank them and further encourage continuing and more widespread participation.

In addition, the *Newsletter* has attempted to reflect to the general public a professional image: accurate, inclusive and worthy of those individuals who practice within the profession. It has voiced, clearly and concretely, the efforts that the Society's administration has fostered. Summarizing, the *Newsletter* has become the mirror of the vital striving and hope of those who make up the profession it reflects: Clinical Social Work. □

## CONTINUING ED

"Personality Disorders in the Light of Horney Theory," a program of monthly scientific meetings, will take place at 8:30 p.m., January through May 1982. Topics include: "Diagnosis: Psychiatric and Psychoanalytic Perspectives;" "Character Structure and Its Vicissitudes in Aging;" "Stress and Personality Change." For complete information write or call Association for the Advancement of Psychoanalysis, 329 East 62nd Street, New York, NY. Telephone 212-752-5267.

The Institute for Expressive Analysis will present the first annual Leonard Strahl Memorial Lecture on Friday, March 5, 1982 at 7:45 p.m. in the auditorium at the Abigail Adams Smith Museum, 417 East 61st Street, New York City.

Simon Grolnick, M.D., will lead the pro-

gram, entitled "D. W. Winnicott and Creativity: An Analysis of the Poetry of Emily Dickinson."

For reservations write or call the Institute at 325 West End Avenue (12B), New York, NY 10023, 212-362-5085. Admission is \$10, Students \$5.

"What Is Psychoanalysis? An Inquiry at the Inception of the Second Hundred Years" is the topic for the program sponsored by The Psychoanalytic Society of the Post-Doctoral Program for Study and Research in Psychology, Inc. The event will take place on Saturday and Sunday, January 16, 17, 1982, at the Eisner Lubin Auditorium, Loeb Student Center, New York University, New York City. For information write: Dr. Fred Wright, 315 Central Park West, New York, NY 10025. □



Report by Barry K. Mallin, Esq.,  
Legislative Advocate

Efforts on behalf of the Society's Parity (Equal Access) Bill will gain momentum when the NYS legislature reconvenes in January.

Last Spring the bill sailed through the Insurance Committee of the State Assembly (Bill A.4538) by an overwhelming vote of 19-1, only to be stymied in the Senate Insurance Committee (Bill S. 3542).

Our current efforts are focused on convincing the Senate Insurance Committee to vote favorably on the bill. This must be achieved before the bill can come up before a full Senate. Toward this goal, we have been meeting with key legislators in both the State Assembly and Senate.

It is known that the Senate Insurance Committee has been subjected to increased lobbying pressures from Up-state business and health insurance interests. This underscores the need for help from Society members to generate broad-based public support for the bill. Specifics on what Society members can do will be detailed in forthcoming newsletters and mailings as the legislative session gets into full swing.

Our legislative strategy also includes the establishment of a Political Action Committee (PAC). Society members will be able to make tax-deductible political contributions to the PAC, which will use the funds to support the campaigns of key Assembly and Senate members. A political action committee is the recognized method by which business interests, unions and organizations give support to sympathetic legislators. The committee will provide added input and stature to our work in Albany. □

## Chapter Update

### Metropolitan

The Met chapter is working to expand its programming, and membership participation in these events. We have begun a seminar series, the first of which is a three-session workshop on the utilization of DSM III. Future seminars will concern relevant topics and will, we hope, be conducted by chapter members.

The annual Education Conference is scheduled for February 20th. Saul Tuttmann and Ernst Federn will discuss the treatment of the more challenging patient.

The chapter is also developing a system to enable it to serve as a 'clearing house' for those who wish to form peer study and supervision groups. There is now a committee to advise on attaining the "P"; members who need this information are invited to consult with the committee.

Barbara Pichler, CSW

### Nassau

The Nassau chapter, now numbering 220 members, holds two special events every year for its members. At the first, a buffet supper party at the end of the program year in June, a presentation was made to Margaret Isbell, outgoing chapter president. The second, in October, was a brunch held at Top of the Commons Restaurant on the C.W. Post campus. Committee chairs presented their reports to the membership. Marsha Wineburgh, State president, was the guest speaker; her topic was pending State and Federal legislation concerning CSWs.

The program committee and the education committee have presented excellent programs. The private practice symposium last spring generated a great deal of interest and this fall a workshop on "Countertransference in Treatment and Supervision" was also offered.

The chapter's Referral and Information Service now offers special supervision to social workers. Paul Chaisson, social action chair, recently presented an update on efforts of the committee toward passage of the Society's Parity Bill.

Maria Warrack, CSW

### Queens

The chapter's professional meeting, an open brunch, took place on November 2nd at the Queens Children's Psychiatric Center. The speaker, Dr. Robert Nible, social psychologist, is affiliated with New York State Division of Substance Abuse. His address on "Understanding Substance Abuse" was stimulating and provocative. He spoke from first-hand experience, and the information on causes, effects and treatment will be of use to all of us who encounter this problem.

The chapter education committee has planned ongoing clinical discussions as part of monthly membership meetings. On December 6th Pat Landy will present a program on the "Countertransference Problems of the Borderline Patient." For the January and February meetings Cecile Dunn will lead a discussion on the clinical aspects of two short stories from Tillie Olsen's book, *Tell Me a Riddle*. The short story to be discussed at our January 4th meeting will be "Stand Here Ironing."

Chapter meetings are open and all interested persons are invited to attend.

Haruko Brown, CSW

### Rockland

The new meeting format begun this year is producing the hoped-for result: an increase in membership. To date four new members have joined us. The semi-monthly Friday evening meetings are divided into a short business portion to inform members of current activities

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### METROPOLITAN CHAPTER NEW YORK STATE SOCIETY OF CLINICAL SOCIAL WORK PSYCHOTHERAPISTS, INC.

#### ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Sat., Feb. 20, 1982

Barbizon Plaza Hotel  
New York, N.Y.

**AM:** ERNST FEDERN—SAUL TUTTMAN  
THE CHALLENGING PATIENT: A Psychoanalytic Dialogue

**PM:** Workshops

#### For Further Details contact:

Ms. Fredlee Kaplan  
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**Third Year:** Classical Freudian Theory I and II; Object Relations Theory and Interpersonal Theory; Clinical Seminar: Dreams II.

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Marcia Pollak, Ph.D., Director of Admissions, 30 Lincoln Plaza, Suite 4-L, New York, New York 10023.

**Fall Meeting of National Federation**

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Federation, nurses and other social work groups have begun to lobby. We would like fifteen co-sponsors prior to the hearings. A revised version of S. 123 is currently being considered. This one would omit any reference to an increased reimbursement ceiling and would hopefully attract more co-sponsors.

Write to your Congressman or -woman and urge him/her to co-sponsor H.R.3373, the companion bill in the House which provides direct reimbursement to clinical social workers for Medicare services. For further information, get in touch with your chapter president.

The House Ways and Means Committee held hearings on various *Pro Competition Health Insurance* bills. One of the leading bills (H.R.850) does not include mental health benefits as part of the minimum coverage package. National Federation's representative will testify on the opening day of the hearings to make the point that competition among providers can be increased by permitting non-physician providers to receive direct reimbursement for services they are qualified to render. The larger issue of including mental health services in a mandatory basic benefit package will be addressed also.

**Medicare Project**

The Medicare Demonstration Project is back on track in spite of the current administration's attempt to derail it. Congress has passed a resolution extending an experimental study on mental health treatment by clinical social workers through September 1982. This project is being conducted by CHAMPUS (the Civilian Health and Medical Program of the Uniformed Services), as previously reported. The impact of independent clinical social workers as direct providers is being evaluated; physician referral and supervision have been eliminated. All participants are subject to CHAMPUS peer review process which is currently being handled by the American Psychiatric Association's Peer Review Project. As a CSW in New York State, all clinical social workers are eligible to participate.

Nov. 23 — **Update:** Federal Employees Health Benefit Program

The National Federation is in the process of filing a legal complaint against the Office of Personnel Management for its discriminatory handling of insurance benefit programs for 1982. Other groups taking legal action include the American Psychiatric Association. □

**CONGRATULATIONS  
TO NEW YORK  
AUTHORS**

About 100 people turned out for a Book Party honoring Joyce Edward, M. S. S.A., Patsy Turrini, M. S.S., and Nathene Ruskin, M. S. S., at the Carnegie Endowment Center on Friday evening, November 6, 1981. The occasion was the publication of the new book, *Separation-Individuation—Theory and Application*.

We wish to congratulate the authors on this publication and to let them know how proud the Society is of the accomplishments of these three members. We feel that they have raised the image of social workers considerably with their publication.

The Wine and Cheese Party was a gala affair with speeches by the authors, the Blancks and Edwin Fancher, President of the Society for the Advancement of Psychoanalytic Developmental Psychology.

The book was edited by Mary Gottesfeld and reviewed very positively by Gertrude Blanck. I would urge all of you to obtain a copy, as full length case studies vividly illustrate the application of separation-individuation *theory to practice*. The book is published by Gardner Press, 19 Union Square West, New York, NY 10003.

Florence Dutko Grossman, CSW