

S.C.S.W.P.

EMPIRE STATE BUILDING, 350 FIFTH AVENUE, SUITE 3308, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10001
TELEPHONE: 212 564-9166
DECEMBER, 1978 VOL. IX, NO. 1

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

- State Board for Social Work Expresses Displeasure with Some Applications Submitted for Third Party Payments Eligibility
- State Insurance Department Releases Current Data on Insurance Company Progress in Implementation of Chapter 893
- CBS Decision Regarding Third Party Payments Pending
- General Membership Meeting on Saturday, November 11, 1978 Featured National and State Legislative Issues

Mr. Philip R. Johnston, Executive Secretary of the State Board for Social Work has informed the State Society leadership that "we find that at least half of the forms (for insurance reimbursement qualification) must be returned to the applicant because they were **improperly completed.**"

Mr. Johnston observes that the chief problem areas are the following:

Many areas are left blank.

Applicants are filling in hours of supervision where the question asks for hours of employment.

Applicants are designating employment only in terms of years rather than giving the month within the year in which they were employed.

Applicants are describing their duties in such a way that there is **no implication** that they are practicing **psychotherapy** even though that is the prime purpose of the evaluation.

Applicants provide all kinds of

information about their being directors of a department or administrator of a clinic or supervisor of students and workers but never say a thing about direct services.

Mr. Johnston also describes agency difficulty with the verification forms:

One question asks which state agency licensed or incorporated the facility.

A number of agencies have put the name of their own agency in that spot.

The second agency question asks the basis upon which the supervisor qualified in psychotherapy and all too often the response is a statement that the applicant had functioned as a social worker during the period of time specified and adequately fulfilled their responsibilities. Mr. Johnston states: To merely state that the supervisor was a CSW is inadequate, for the applicant must be a CSW before demonstrating additional experience for qualification. Therefore, a person qualified to supervise must show at least the equal if not greater qualification. Thus the citing of number of years experience, additional education, publication, leadership in workshops, or years of supervision would help to provide the desired justification. In general, Mr. Johnston notes the failure of many applicants to use terms like **psychotherapy, treatment, diagnosis** in describing their **functions**. Still others quote the

Marty Pollens, CSW. Legislative Chairman

words of the law in its definition of psychotherapy and add nothing else.

Many applicants spend a great deal of their time describing administrative supervisory, or field instruction responsibilities. The law talks about experience in **psychotherapy**; therefore, time spent in these other areas must be discounted.

A question has arisen regarding **training** experience as a student at a **psychotherapy institute**. The State Board declines to count this experience toward eligibility. "If the applicant wishes to use that time as private practice and qualify under the terms of private practice, the Board will consider it," writes Johnston.

For application forms and more specific information regarding eligibility for insurance reimbursement, please write to:

Mr. Philip R. Johnston,
Exec. Secty.

The State Board for Social Work
The State Education Department
99 Washington Avenue
Albany, New York 12230
518-474-4974

STATE INSURANCE DEPT.

The State Insurance Department has informed the State Society Legislative Committee that the following insurance companies presently have an approved form providing coverage for services performed by a certified and registered social worker:

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Guardian Life Insurance Co. of America
 Provident Mutual Life Insurance Company
 Prudential Insurance Company of America
 Hartford Life Insurance Company
 Union Labor Life Insurance Company
 Massachusetts Mutual Life Insurance Co.
 CUNA Mutual Insurance Company
 Colonial Life Insurance Co. of America
 Connecticut General Life
 Sentry Life Insurance Company of NY
 Union Mutual Life Insurance Company
 Union Mutual Stock Life Insurance Co.
 John Hancock Mutual Life Insurance Company

The following list of insurers have been granted a **premium increase** of rates by the State Insurance Department for the services of an eligible social worker:
Prudential Insurance Co. of America
 1• of basic Medical Plan rate .3• of Major Medical type plan rate.

Union Labor Life Insurance Co.
 (50• coinsurance-50 visits
 15 per visit and \$750 maximum per calendar year)
 Individual: \$0.35 per month
 Family: \$0.645 per month

Colonial Life Insurance Company of America
 Individual: \$0.35 per month
 Family: \$1.05 per month

PLEASE NOTE:

The Legislative Committee wishes to remind the membership that Chapter 893 requires the **contract holder to request the social work option**. If the social work option is not requested and a rider is not added to the master policy, the insurance company is legally permitted to reject claims if the provider is not a psychiatrist or a certified and/or registered psychologist. Please make certain that your patient has requested his employer to obtain the social work

option. . .to avoid possible disappointment and frustration brought about by a rejection notice.

INSURANCE SURVEY

Marty Pollens, Legislative Chairman wishes to thank all the members who responded to his **insurance survey**. The information provided was utilized to provide CBS, Inc. with a projection of the potential claims that might be filed if this corporation were to offer its employees the social work insurance option. The Manager of CBS, Inc.'s Personnel Benefits wrote on August 31, 1978: At the present time we are reviewing the provisions of the CBS Medical Insurance Plan to see if any improvements will be added in 1979. One of the provisions being reviewed is psychiatric care and the possible inclusion of coverage for treatment by psychiatric social workers. No decision will be forthcoming on any of these improvements prior to November 1978. The information that you sent to me should be sufficient to help us make our decision."

The Legislative Committee will keep the membership apprised of any further developments with CBS, Inc.

LATE NEWS BULLETIN: Liason between SCSWP and Clinical Psychologists

The Officers and Executive Board of the **New York Society of Clinical Psychologists, Inc.**, the clinical specialty organization of New York City psychologists, has approved at its September 21, 1978 Board meeting an invitation to the New York State Society of Clinical Social Work Psychotherapists to participate in its Professional Meetings and in its annual Scientific Meeting held in the Spring. The initial liason was established by Marty Pollens, Legislative Chairman of SCSWP and Dr. Melvin Ellner, Executive Secretary of the New York Society of Clinical Psychologists. Further details of the specific arrangements being worked out by both groups will be forthcoming in future bulletins.

General Membership Meeting on Saturday, November 11, 1978

Comprehensive Reports from Washington, D.C. and Albany, New York

Where does Clinical Social Work Psychotherapy Stand in Fall 1978?

Crayton Rowe, President,
 National Registry
 Nancy Pallozollo, Vice President,
 National Federation
 Marty Pollens, Legislative Chairman, SCSWP

SPECIAL THANKS:

Special thanks sand deep appreciation to Charles Moos, J.D. who has been serving as Special Counsel to the Legislative Committee. His perceptiveness and ability to clarify complicated and complex issues is a gift that we deeply cherish.

NOTICE

New Companies Requesting Social Work Option:

1. Federated Department Stores
2. AMC
3. Plessey Industries
4. Lederle Pharmaceuticals

Please inform Clearinghouse of:

- a) Other companies that have requested coverage under Social Work Option Chapter 893
- b) Instances where reimbursement rates for social workers is lower than rates for other providers. This information is necessary in order to achieve equity.

Many practitioners applying for State Education Department third party vendorship approval, utilizing **non-agency** connected psychotherapy experience, must provide the State Board with 3 case histories.

As a help to you in preparing the case summaries required for application on the basis of non-facility experience, the State Board provides the following guide:

**Suggested Guide for
 Case Presentation**

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- 1. Dates of treatment including frequency of sessions.
- 2. Presenting problem at referral.
- 3. Background material.
- 4. Dynamic formulation.
- 5. Diagnostic statement including diagnosis.
- 6. Treatment process.
- 7. Treatment progress.

(Tear-off form at end of Legislative News)

In the event that we are ever called upon to provide experts in specialized areas such as the treatment of anorexia nervosa, death and dying, etc., whether for radio, television or any other avenue of public relations, please fill in this form and send to:

Martin S. Pollens
3 Webb Road
North Tarrytown, N.Y. 10591

NAME

ADDRESS

HOME PHONE OFFICE PHONE

AREA OF SPECIALIZATION (Describe)

.....

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THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The state of the State Society is just fine, due to hard work on the part of all your chapter presidents, committee chairpeople, our great executive secretary, our hard-working accountant and your officers. Since many of them will be reporting to you elsewhere in this Newsletter, I'm going to confine myself to news from our recent National Federation of Societies of Clinical Social Work meeting which was held in San Francisco October 22 and 23 as well as news of the 1978 Conference of the National Federation which was held October 20-22 at the same place.

The 1978 Conference was co-sponsored by the California Society for Clinical Social Work. There were some 24 "Educational Sessions" (workshops, panels, papers) over three days, two breakfasts, two luncheons and two cocktail parties attended by well over 350 people including Larry Kellman, president of our Brooklyn chapter, Phyllis Gordon, president of our Westchester chapter and me. Federation would like to sponsor more National Conferences. If we do, you will hear early enough to submit papers for consideration and plan to attend the Conference yourself.

At two o'clock Sunday afternoon (October 22), our Federation

meeting began. It was chaired by our own Nancy Palazzolo, Federation vice president, because President Charles Triller is ill. Although discussion was wide ranging and covered many issues, I will outline the most important.

INSURANCE: The Lewer Agency of Kansas City, Missouri outlined a comprehensive insurance package which they proposed we adopt. Included was provision for malpractice insurance for the same amount and at the same rates as that is covered by the American Home Co. for N.A.S.W. Things looked very promising until someone asked about provision for outpatient mental health coverage. The Lewer Agency told us the policy holder could have up to 3 outpatient visits per week at \$25 a visit with a **PSYCHIATRIST ONLY**, this despite the fact that we had asked them in June to come up with a plan which would include payment of outpatient mental health care to clinical social workers. Because most of us felt strongly that we could not endorse an insurance package with outpatient fees to a psychiatrist only (and the Lewer Agency said they were unable to change this), we decided not to accept the package. Please let me know how you feel about this since

when we have our next meeting in April, the question of insurance will probably come up again.

Abbie Blair
43 Ferncliff Road,
Scarsdale, N.Y. 10583

MEDICAIRE-MEDICAID: Since the administration is generally objected to all increases in fee for service coverage, we did not get a change here. Neither did the psychologists.

EDUCATION: Federation has been invited to participate in a conference on Child Abuse in Philadelphia and in a British-American Conference on Clinical Social Work in Oxford, England.

Florence Leiberman has received 43 abstracts to date for the book "Clinical Social Workers as Psychotherapists" from Federation members, some, she says, of tremendous quality. The Federation Education Committee will meet November 18th in Washington to work on a paper, "Guidelines for Continuing Education for Clinical Social Work".

BOOK: "How to Choose the Right Therapist for You", a paperback by Jean and Jim Erwin, published by Sheed Andrews & Mc Meel, Inc. Kansas City, Kansas and selling for about \$2.95 includes a detailed section on

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clinical social workers and our qualifications. It is a clear,

readable book which should be in public libraries and available to the public.

Abbie Blair, President

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

We're pleased to report to you that our membership is comfortably over the 700-mark and still growing. Despite the increase in membership, both new applications and renewals have been dealt with quickly and competently, thanks to the dedication and efficiency of our Executive Secretary, Mitzi Mirkin.

At a meeting of the Membership Committee on October 28, we reviewed membership requirements and detailed our progress in the Diplomate category.

As you know, we are making every effort to reach a final determination as to who will receive the Diplomate designation. We have

already processed most of the candidates for this honor, and the Executive Board is meeting on November 11, at the Carnegie Endowment Center, between the morning workshops and the afternoon General Membership Program, for final approval.

We would like you to know that each application is reviewed individually, and, where there are questions regarding eligibility for any category of membership, these are brought to the Executive Board for the ultimate decision.

We have observed that some Associate Members may not be aware that they are eligible for upgrading to full Membership,

Gemma F. Colangelo, Membership Chairperson after they have had 2 years of supervised work experience and 2 fifteen-hour Post-Graduate courses. We'd like to bring this to their attention at this time.

Again, we remind you that our membership year now runs from January 1 to December 31. Full payment of dues for fiscal year 1979 will be appreciated when renewal notices go out at the end of this year. We are sure you would rather have our funds used to promote our profession in Albany and in Washington than to have them expended on costly double billing and reminder notices. We know we can count on your cooperation!

PSRO

To briefly report on the progress of the Professional Standards Review Committee, I am pleased to say that the State Board of SCSWP has approved our participation as a sponsoring parent organization to the Regional Social Work Professional Standards Review Committee. Our invitation was endorsed by the two original sponsoring organizations — NASW — Metropolitan Chapter and the Society for Hospital Social Work Directors. With the formation of this coalition, the

social work profession, perhaps, for the first time in metropolitan New York, has a truly representative body. Thus far, this coalition has successfully nominated a social worker to represent our professional interests on the New York State PSR Council. Dr. James Borland, who is a member of SCSWP, was appointed to a one-year term on the Council's Advisory Group. Social Work is one of 11 professions serving on the Advisory Group.

The PSR Committee of SCSWP

Marsha Wineburgh, State Chairperson will have a meeting of all chapter chairmen on Saturday, November 18, 1978 at 11 am. Current chairpersons include: Brooklyn—Pat Sapagata; Rockland—Paul Heber; Mid-Hudson—Evelyn Hill; Staten Island—Theda Salkind; Westchester—Gloria Aronson Weinberg; Nassau—John Verbeeck; Queens—Ann Marie Lee; Suffolk (last known)—Herb Rubenstein; Metropolitan—Marsha Wineburgh.

REPORT ON THE PROFESSIONAL LICENSING HEARING

On October 30, Assemblyman Melvin Miller, Chairman of the Assembly Higher Education Commission held open hearings to discuss with professionals and consumers of professional services the issue of a non-partisan licensing board. Many professional groups from the psychologists to

the interior designers to the tree-cutters were there to represent their interests. The Society, too, was able to testify and be heard. The real problem that Assemblyman Miller was grappling with is one that has been around for 10-15 years ever since there has been governmental

Barbara Pichler, Chairwoman licensing and regulating, and that is, how do you structure a licensing board that can function impartially. The professional groups that spoke all wanted representation on the commission, but there are 48 such defined interest groups, and a board of that size

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would be unworkable. Yet if you choose a few professionals to sit on the commission, how do you go about choosing which ones so that the ones sitting do not become exclusionary of the competitors in the field who seek licensure. The only suggestion that Miller felt had some possibility was the following: A small board be constituted of experts in the field of licensing, ie, people who knew the legalities or the socio-

economics of licensing, and also consumer representatives. There would also be a chair on this commission open to the professional community, and a representative of the particular professional entity under discussion would hold that chair during the course of the discussion. How this representative would be picked and what kind of power or voting privileges he would have are not yet defined.

The Society, through Marty Pollins's Social Action Committee will be staying in close contact with Assemblyman Miller's office and the whole development of the State Licensing Board. What is of importance is that we have testified and are on public record as to our interest in this issue, and we are now known to Assemblyman Miller and his office, and will work with him.

CHAPTER NEWS

BROOKLYN CHAPTER

The Brooklyn Chapter of SCSWP began in January and already has thirty-one enthusiastic members of whom most are Fellows.

Officers are: President, Larry Kellman; Vice President, Dr. Jay Fischer; Corresponding Secretary, Adrienne Lampert; Treasurer, Ryna Cohen. Ryna is also contact person for our Referral Service at 212-852-0359.

NASSAU CHAPTER

Mitzi Mirkin

Our Fall season is in full swing, with a schedule of interesting programming in the works.

A fait accompli at this point is our October 7th Seminar on The Treatment of the Borderline Patient, with Dr. James F. Masterson. We were delighted to have had the opportunity to bring Dr. Masterson to Long Island, and the Social Work Community responded with enthusiasm. Despite a microphone whose mechanism was badly in need of therapy, Dr. Masterson was quite impressive. The exchange of questions and answers which followed was particularly instructive.

On November 4th, we are having a 3-session Workshop at the Hofstra University Student Center. The Workshop leaders are all Fellows of the Society. Patsy Turrini will talk on Pre-Verbal Reconstruction: How it Changes Psychic Structure; Joyce Edward will discuss Id Interpretations in the Treatment of the Developmen-

tal Disorders: Exploration of Id Interpretations in the Treatment of the Less-Than-Neurotic Patient; Stanley Foodim will lead a session on Treatment Implications for the Schizoid Personality: From the Object Relations and Ego Point of View.

Also in November—Friday, the 17th, at 8:30 P.M.—we are planning a meeting open only to members, at the home of Florence Dutko Grossman. Florence will present a case based on the Masterson theory. The case presentation will be brief to allow for group participation and full discussion of the therapeutic techniques.

A Psychodrama Workshop will be our Chapter's December offering, on Friday, December 8th, at 8:30 P.M., at the Nassau County Medical Center. The program will be under the direction of Eugene Eliasoph, Assistant Clinical Professor, School of Medicine, Dept. of Psychiatry, Yale University, and our member, Roy Berman, Chief Social Worker at Bronx Veterans Administration Hospital, Inpatient Alcoholism Program. The purpose of the Workshop is to introduce participants to the basic theories, concepts and experience of psychodrama. It will be an experiential as well as a didactic session. The evening will be free to members of all Chapters; \$3 for non-members.

In areas other than programming, we want to welcome our new Treasurer, Rima Ogrin, who has replaced Dot Schnaittacher as

Keeper of the Chapter Checkbook.

We also welcome a new Chairperson for the Nassau-Suffolk Referral Service, Maria Warrack. Maria has formed a committee of members from the Referral Panel, and every aspect of the Referral Service is being reviewed with an eye to smoother operation and increased referrals.

We are making a real effort to broaden our nucleus of active, participating members. After all, there's nothing like new faces to brighten a Board meeting. . . and nothing like new ideas to strengthen the Society!

QUEENS CHAPTER

Robert Galardi, President

. to pick up where we left off, the late Spring, May and June, was a professionally good time for Queens Chapter members. In May, we had a most successful workshop on Family Therapy, with Greta Schulman. The entire day was very rewarding as the workshop was well attended. Congratulations to the Program Planning Committee for their successful efforts!

In June, Queens Chapter members had a real special treat. At the gracious invitation of Cecile and Stewart Dunn, we were invited to meet at their home, for our June meeting, in East Hampton, L.I. What a meeting! What a Day! A wonderful time was had by everyone and we wish to thank the Duns for proving business can be

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combined with pleasure and hosting us so perfectly!!

During the summer, chapter activities dropped somewhat, but several Referral Service Committee members met with our Program Committee to combine efforts and draft a proposal for our fall program. As a result of these efforts, our September chapter meeting was an exciting one, as plans were made to invite a rather famous psychoanalyst-educator to speak with us, sometime this year. Stand by for more details; we're keeping our fingers crossed, he'll accept!?

The Queens Chapter had some losses and some gains recently: A fond adieu to Rosa Duc Thanh, former Vice President of the Society and Queens Chapter member. Rosa is now re-established in California and enjoying it. Also we sadly said "good-bye" to Walter Samrock, an active Queens Chapter member, who is going into business and relocating in the western part of the United States. We'll miss them both very much! Welcome to all the new members who have chosen to join us this year. We look forward to having you at our meetings and to the new spirit and ideas you will give us.

STATEN ISLAND

Sam Sterk

The Staten Island Chapter has grown in size and we want to welcome the following new members: Mrs. Janet Catalina, Norma Betty, Stephanie Palladino and Joseph L. Barren.

Last May we sponsored a pot luck supper for all of the professional social workers living and working in Staten Island. It was a very useful way of making ourselves known and visible in the community. Thank you to all of the members of the chapters who applied their culinary talents to this feast and to all who worked in its planning and final production.

To kick off our fall programming season, we invited Crayton E. Rowe, President of the National Registry of health Care Providers

in Clinical Social Work. We discussed the topic of Continuing Education and advanced training for social workers. Crayton also brought us up to the date on the latest legislative happenings on the National front.

The Staten Island Chapter will hold its annual election on October 29, 1978.

Sam and Miriam Sterk have made major inroads with the Staten Island Advance (the largest circulating newspaper in Staten Island) as the result of a complaint that they lodged against the newspaper for their press coverage being biased towards and limited to psychologists. Sam and Miriam had a conference with the Editor-in-chief as well as the Life Styles editor and one of the reporters and as a result, the newspaper staff came out well educated on the role and place of the clinical social work psychotherapist and the tremendous work that we do. As an upshot to this contact, the newspaper has published two articles of major significance and has vowed to consult our profession before printing any story dealing with psychotherapy and clinical issues. I am convinced that the mass media needs to be educated as to our presence and role among the mental health professions. Wouldn't it be impressive to watch clinical social workers being interviewed on major T.V. talk shows and radio programs? Wouldn't it be impressive for members of our profession to be invited to speak as experts on various T.V. programs to discuss our many areas of clinical expertise? It can be done if each one of us as individuals and as a Society make the effort to contact the media and work toward our becoming more visible!

SUFFOLK CHAPTER

Steven London

At a gathering a few months ago at the home of Nancy Palazzolo, a new slate of officers was chosen. Voted into office by the membership were:

PRESIDENT.....STEVEN LONDON

VICE-PRESIDENT.MICHELLE LEVINE
SECRETARY.....JEANINE KLEIN
TREASURER.....JESS FRIEDMAN

Installation will take place at a cocktail party in November, and we look forward to planning future Chapter activities. Please get in touch with me at 499-0940 if you can contribute either time or ideas toward the revitalizing of our Chapter.

WESTCHESTER CHAPTER

Phyllis Gordon, President

We, in Westchester, have been experiencing a slow burn. We've had a seething anger that comes to the surface periodically and then subsides. At our meetings we continually return to the insidious issue of our second-class status in the mental health field. Time after time at our meetings, one member or another shares a humiliating or degrading experience which they had in their agencies. It seems that no matter how much education, experience or expertise we have to offer, psychiatrists and psychologists are more highly regarded by people in the mental health field and by John Q. Public.

The catharsis we used to experience by the simple outpouring of emotionally loaded material became ungratifying to us. We needed more than companions in misery. We needed to be recognized for what we are. The time for action had arrived.

Okay! So, what action do we take?

What action can we take?

Some members thought that the schools should stop turning out so many social workers so that we aren't a glut on the market. Some members think we need a public relations person to raise our image. Others would be satisfied to set acceptable standards of agency practice and back them up with a grievance mechanism. Still others think we need to set high standards of proficiency for our own members, possibly by using an exam to measure our expertise as clinicians. These are but a few of the ideas that evolved as a

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result of Robert E. Addison's keynote speech at Westchester's Fall Educational Institute. Bob Addison was inflammatory and incendiary and he inspired his audience to want more than to just accept the status quo. With his inspiration we are going to follow up on his keynote speech by presenting a panel discussion of these issues in the spring. Each panel member will be expected to pre-

sent a different idea as to how we may enhance our image and a plan of action to support it. Following these presentations, we will expect the membership to give the panelists immediate feedback. In this way we may yet arrive at a set of guidelines and a plan of action that are well thought out and acceptable to our membership.

No doubt our common concern

about this issue will keep the pot boiling for some time to come. In the meantime we are continuing to present educational and social action programs and relevant speakers regularly.

We'll keep you posted on our progress in reaching our goals. Feel free to join us, oppose us, or participate with us in any way you wish.

BULLETIN BOARD

OUR APOLOGIES

The Education Committee of the Metropolitan Chapter of SCSWP would like to convey its apology to the Psychoanalytic Institute for Clinical Social Work. In our flyer publicizing our November 11, 1978 Symposium, we neglected to pick up the printing error which was made in non-recognition of the Psychoanalytic Institute for Clinical Social Work's appropriate title and resource.

Our Apologies,
Alan Shanel, CSW
Chairperson

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rent. Supervision available. Telephone 988-4700.

TO ALL MEMBERS:

I am interested in contacting adult adoptees (over 18) who have never searched for their natural parents. I am a Smith College School for Social Work student engaged in writing a master's thesis on self concept in adoptees. If you are adopted or know anyone who is (friend, family or acquaintance—not a client) who might be interested in participating in a research study, please contact me for further information.

Leslie Brill
Madeleine Borg Counseling
Services
Bronx, New York
Work—(212) 931-2600
Home—(212) 684-0766

The study involves filling out a questionnaire and a self concept scale which will be mailed to the participant. The time involved is usually under a half hour.

Thank you for your consideration and cooperation.

MEETING

The November 9th meeting of the New York Society of Clinical Psychologists featured Issues of Independent Practice, with Drs. George Goldman and Bert Pollens as speakers.

The December 16th meeting, sponsored by the Committee on Discrimination and Minority Issues will have as its theme Cultural/Ethnic Considerations in Treatment Models with Minority Populations. It will be chaired by Dr. Joan Trachtman.

EDITORIAL

At the October 28 meeting of the State Executive Board it was agreed that the S.C.S.W.P. Newsletter be published a minimum of three issues per year. In addition, the Board appointed a committee to examine the possibilities of hiring a part-time journalism student to work with the Editor in developing a format and structure which could maximize the utilization of the newsletter as a vehicle of communication to all members, interested agencies and parties. It has always been our objective to present a Newsletter fitting to the profes-

sionals it represents and we have always considered the newsletter the best public relations tool available; we therefore would like to applaud the Board on their decision and look forward to a new, more informative, interesting and timely publishing of S.C.S.W.P.

Our Commitment. . .

I was quite dismayed to observe, at the last Executive Board Meeting of the State the lack of unified programs and activities promoted by the State Society as a body. From what I observed there seems to be many

Conrad S. Semler
activities and programs on the chapter level, however there seems to be difficulty in pooling these resources to present a solid state society sponsored program of activity. Let's keep in mind that each chapter's credibility is contingent on the credibility of a strong state society and that cooperation on the part of all members, any chapter, is necessary to foster a strong state society which was able to see third-party payments come to reality and continue to represent us as a unified body at the Na-
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tional Federation Level. Representation on the National level is essential, particularly with the advent of National Health Insurance and it behooves all of us to nurture a strong state organization which will be able to represent our needs

and goals that we feel are viable for our profession. With a unified state organization we can influence other state organizations at the National Level and see to it that our concerns are presented firmly and with the backing of all

our chapters and their members. We must committ ourselves to cooperation on the state level.

Finally, the holiday season is upon us and I would like to wish all a Happy Holiday Season.

**New York State Society of Clinical Social Work Psychotherapists, Inc.
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New York, N.Y. 10001**

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