

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:

continued on page 2

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-
continued on page 8

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.

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