

**SOCIAL WORKERS IN HEALTH CARE NETWORK
& SOCIETY FOR SOCIAL WORK LEADERSHIP IN HEALTH CARE**

Veteran's Affairs Medical Center • Building 21, Room 108, July 8, 2004

Vision Statement:

Social work professionals, as integral members of the health care team, provide leadership, advocacy and expertise in caring for the emotional, spiritual, and resource needs for optimal health outcomes.

Mission Statement:

A professional organization dedicated to the education, promotion, support, and enhancement of social work values and practice in health care.

Conference Calls:

The VA hospital has arranged for conference calling for our meetings. If you are interested in participating in a conference call for the next meeting on the 2nd Thursday, June 10, 2004, call the VANTS line at (800) 767 - 1750, access code 27221, at approximately 8:15am, Mountain Standard Time. We will have this line available for 80 minutes for our meetings. We had 2 participants join us by conference call for this meeting. This was a success and we encourage anyone who can do this to join us. We will have 10 lines available for this purpose. For further questions, contact Doug Mitchell, (602) 277 - 5551 ext. 7680, Douglas.Mitchell@med.va.gov.

Participants:

Steve Weinberg, Veteran's Administration Medical Center; Cynthia Gates, Pueblo Norte; Mary Linberg, Arrowhead Hospital; Donna Yolanda, Doug Mitchell, Veteran's Administration Medical Center; KJ Sloan, Veteran's Administration Medical Center; Veteran's Administration Medical Center; and Rhoda Cosmano.

Discussion:

Have you received your social work license in the mail? If you haven't, check the website: www.bbhe.state.az.us or call Debra Rinaudo at (602) 542 - 1882 or email: azbbhe@bbhe.state.az.us for more details. Participants in the Social Workers in Health Care Network will continue to receive CEU's for participating in our meetings. We will have a topic for discussion with a facilitator on a regular basis. Licensed social workers will renew their licenses when the certification date is due.

The Social Workers in Health Care Network will be participating with a page on the VA Social Work website with information about meetings, training opportunities, legislative actions, vignettes, and links to other social work websites. We will start by posting our minutes on their web site hopefully after the next meeting. We are also considering a listserv through ASU West, which would be an email list to send out minutes to those who choose to receive information this way, and other notices could be sent as well in a timely manner. We will continue to research these avenues to increase awareness of social workers in health care. If anyone would like to help on the web project please contact Donna Yolanda (602) 277 - 5551 ext 7610.

The VA Medical Center provides training to staff, and could include non-VA social workers for a nominal fee. We are also considering eventually charging dues, partnering with other organizations, or providing training for a small cost. Anyone interested in further discussion of this, please contact Rhoda Cosmano or Doug Mitchell. We will do a survey to gather your ideas and suggestions.

We continue to advocate for clients/patients in health care systems. A long term and very effective way to advocate is to let your legislators know that you are their constituent and give a very quick synopsis of your issue, with how you want them to vote. One of the issues we are concerned with includes the increasing Arizona population without sufficient increase in the infrastructure needs, including increasing social workers in hospitals, child/adult protective services, counseling agencies, schools and services to the elderly. This is a great time to bring these issues to the forefront of the political arena, while we have a supportive governor. Call, email or write to your legislators and let them know how you feel about the issues. We can sit in on various Governor's Advisory committees in areas of our interest, including child abuse, elder issues, health care. You may sit in as a private citizen and comment on issues where you have knowledge to share. Check out www.azleg.state.az.us to see what committees are meeting and show up. Your input will be welcomed, and provide the committee with a different perspective. Be careful that you are representing yourself, rather than your agency, and always check with your administrators to make sure you are knowledgeable about your agency's perspective before you offer information.

Medicare rules are changing. If you need information call the benefits office at the Area Agency on Aging and ask for Anne Marie (602) 264 - 2255 for information on Medicare, Social Security, HMO's, prescription drug plans.

Program:

Sandra Jordan, BSW and Sophie Borowski, LCSW, social workers with Hospice of the Valley spoke about Hospice of the Valley programs in the community. HOV is a not for profit organization formed 27 years ago to help people deal with end of life issues. They receive donations and a lot of support from the community, including volunteers of all ages, including teens of high school age. If a dying patient has no insurance or hospice care is not a covered benefit, HOV will still work with them to provide community services and bereavement counseling. HOV works on providing a high quality of life to patients for as long as they live. The patient does not need to be a Do Not Resuscitate to qualify for hospice care as long as they are not asking for aggressive medical care. The Outreach program is a pre-hospice program for patients with serious chronic illness such as COPD, cancer, end stage disease. A social worker and pastoral counselor are available to help the patients and their families. No doctor order is needed for this service. They can later transition to hospice care when they're ready. During this pre-hospice service, the staff assist with insurance, applications for ALTCS, burial plots, mortuaries any resources needed. Medicare doesn't fund this program.

Hospice of the Valley has 10 inpatient units, for 8 - 10 patients each. Two of these units accept pediatric patients, and the others are primarily for adults. They are planning another unit at Mayo Hospital in a free-standing building. Others are planned at Dobson near Banner Mesa Hospital, and another at Friendship Village in Mesa. Eventually there will be one each in Surprise and Goodyear to help patients on the rapidly growing west side of the valley. The inpatient units are used for symptom management, then the patient goes home to their own homes, skilled nursing facility or long term care facility as appropriate. The concept is that you can't live in a hospital or in a hospice facility. The social worker will follow the patient regardless of whether they are inpatient or in their home. If the patient has no known relatives, the social worker will go to their home and check for friends or relatives. Sophie provide a booklet, "Gone from my sight" as a resource guide for signs and symptoms affecting people at the end of life. The social workers provide support so the patients don't have to be alone. If a patient wants to return to family members out-of-town, the social worker will assist, finding resources in the community for concrete or other services. They may use donated mortuary services or burial plots. Services are provided for patients depending on their needs, regardless of their ability to pay.

For further information about hospice care, contact Sandra Jordan or Sophie Borowski at (602) 530 - 6900.

Networking:

If you are searching for employment, members of NASW may review the web site at www.naswaz.com, contact NASW - AZ at (480) 968 - 4595 or email at chapter@naswaz.com. If you are interested in working for the VA Medical Center, contact Doug Mitchell, (602) 5551 ext 7680 or Douglas.Mitchell@med.va.gov. You can now complete an application for employment directly online for jobs at the VA Medical Center.

If you are interested in employment with the state of Arizona, contact the Human Resources office at (602) 542 - 4724 or www.hr.state.az.us/employment. If you are interested in working for Maricopa County, check out their web site at www.Maricopa.gov. There is a position available in the Emergency Dept, 4 days a week, 12 hours a day. Hospitals and social service agencies have web sites which also are beneficial to review periodically for job opportunities. Casa Grande hospital currently has an opening for a social worker.

Check the web site at [UnitedHealth Group.com](http://UnitedHealthGroup.com) for information about United Health Care or APIPA which is very supportive of social workers, provide good benefits and value social workers as part of the team. You must apply on the Internet only. Click Careers on the upper right; click clinical at Job Family; Click Arizona for Location; Click Americhoice for Segment APIPA; keyword/Requisition, click Social Worker. You may also call Susan Foster, (602) 664 - 5356 susan_foster@uhc.com. Call Jaye Marcus-Ledford, (602) 664 - 5384 Jacqueline_a_marcusledford@uhc.com. for information about a social work case manager position in ER Diversion. For short term, temporary social work or behavioral health positions, contact Delta Group (602) 870 - 5051. Jewish Family and Children's Services is looking for a geriatric case manager. For more information, contact Julie FitzSimons, (602) 452 - 4600 ext 107 or Julie.FitzSimons@jfcsarizona.com.

For employment at the Indian Health Service, check out their website, www@ihs.gov. Call Linda Westover for more information, (602) 364 - 5157. Scottsdale Healthcare is looking for on - call social workers, call (480) 675 - 4090, Integrated Case Management office for more information. Chandler Regional Hospital is looking for weekend social workers. Call Lynda Dallyn for more information, (480) 821 - 7329 or ldallyn@chw.edu.

Meetings/Conferences:

Doug has agreed to keep us informed about training provided by the VA Medical Center in Phoenix, Prescott and Tucson. For those of us who will need CEU's or are just interested in the topic, this will be very helpful. For more information, contact Doug Mitchell, Doug Mitchell (602) 277 - 5551 ext. 7680, Douglas.Mitchell@med.va.gov, or the Social Work Secretary, Carol Izbrand, (602) 222 - 6400, Carol.Izbrand@med.va.gov unless otherwise designated. For low cost CEU's, contact the Institute for Geriatric Social Work, www.bu.edu/igsw.

Difficult & Disruptive Client Situations: August 5, 2004, Phoenix, August 6, 2004, 7:30am - 4:00pm, \$169 with manual. Sheraton Tucson Hotel, 5151 E Grant Rd/EmbassySuites Phoenix Biltmore, 2630 E Comeback. (800) 843 - 7763 or www.pesihealthcare.com.

Stress Reduction: September 29, 2004, 8am - 4:30pm. Crowne Plaza Hotel - North Phoenix, 2532 W Peoria Ave, Phoenix, \$95. (928) 776 - 6124, or www.southwesteducationcenter.org.

National Perinatal Association: October 14 - 16, 2004, La Jolla Marriott, San Diego, California. (888) 971 - 3295 or www.nationalperinatal.org.

Hocus Pocus/Perinatal Focus: November 18 - 19, 2004. Black Canyon Conference Center, 9440 N 25th Ave, Phoenix. Call Chris Rogers (480) 860 - 3612, crogers@shc.org.

Next Meeting: 2nd THURSDAY August 12, 2004, 8:00am - 10:00am

VA MEDICAL CENTER
650 E. Indian School Rd.
Phoenix

Building 21, Room 108

Enter the VA Medical Center Campus from the 3rd turnoff going north on 7th St., or first entrance going south on 7th St. There is no traffic light at that driveway. Turn into the VA property and look on your right to the Administration building with large columns. There is good parking there.

TOPIC: Social Work

Facilitator: Steve Weinberg

VA Hospital and Medical Center

For more information, contact Rhoda Cosmano, Rcisw2003@aol.com or Doug Mitchell (602) 277 - 5551 ext. 7680, Douglas.Mitchell@med.va.gov.

