This is my final report to you as President of the Clinical Society. The end of my fourth year is approaching. On January 1, 2016, our next President, Shannon Boyle, LCSW of the Nassau Chapter, will take office. She comes with excellent administrative skills and several years of State Board experience, having served on the Executive Committee as Treasurer for two terms and as President-Elect. She has my total support and I trust she will have yours.

I hope you were able to attend the 46th Annual General Membership Meeting on October 17. The morning began with an outstanding presentation by Bruce Hillowe, J.D., Ph.D. on clinical documentation and criteria for medical necessity. Many thanks to Helen Hoffman, LCSW, Chair of the Vendorship and Managed Care Committee, for organizing this 2-credit hour program.

The business meeting that followed included the election of state officers, conducted by Beth Pagano, LCSW, Elections Chair, and the annual report on the health of the Society. Our newly elected officers are Andrew Daly, LCSW (Staten Island), First Vice President; Chris Ann Farhood, LCSW (Met), Treasurer; Martin Lowery, LCSW (Westchester), Member-at-Large; Antoinette Mims, LCSW (Met), Member-at-Large; and Patricia Traynor, LCSW (Nassau), Member-at-Large.

We marked the passing of several Society members whose professional and personal contributions provide a lasting legacy (see page 13): David Phillips, DSW, LCSW (Met), Past President of the Society and State Ethics Committee Chair; Seena Freeman, LCSW (Met) Co-chair of the LGBTQ Committee; Carol Kamine-Brown, LCSW (Met) Past President of the Brooklyn Chapter; and Florence Holm, LCSW (Nassau).

It takes many people to keep this organization functioning on your behalf. I want to especially recognize Ivy Miller, who is celebrating her 20th year as Editor of The Clinician, our print newsletter. Then we have Sheila Guston and Kristin Kuenzel at TMS, our Administrators. And most important, we have more than 80 colleagues who have donated hours of critical thinking, planning and delivering educational and informational programs to you this year. Their names and contact information are available on our website, www.NYSSCSW.org.

**Fiscal update:** I am pleased to report that the fiscal health of the Society continues to be excellent. Chris Farhood, LCSW, our new State Treasurer, replaced Shannon Boyle, LCSW when she became President-Elect.

**Chapter leadership:** The Suffolk Chapter has been revived with the energetic reappearance of Sandra Jo Lane as President. Other recently elected or reelected Chapter Presidents are: Lynne O’Donnell, LCSW, Queens; Karen Kaufman, Ph.D., LCSW, Met; Joseph Reiner, LCSW, Nassau; and Janice Gross, LCSW, ACSW, Staten Island. Congratulations to them all! Other chapters (Mid-Hudson, Rockland and Westchester) will elect officers soon.
### 2016 NYSSCSW BOARD OF DIRECTORS

#### STATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>President</td>
<td>Shannon Boyle, MSW, LMSW</td>
<td><a href="mailto:shannonboyle@hotmail.com">shannonboyle@hotmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st Vice President</td>
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<tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secretary</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treasurer</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Past President</td>
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<td><a href="mailto:mwineburn@aol.com">mwineburn@aol.com</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### MEMBERS-AT-LARGE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Name</th>
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</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Metropolitan</td>
<td>Antoinette Mims, LCSW</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nassau</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rockland</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staten Island</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Westchester</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### CHAPTER PRESIDENTS (P) & VOTING REPS (VR)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Metropolitan P.</td>
<td>Karen Kaufman, Ph.D., LCSW</td>
<td><a href="mailto:karenkaufman17@gmail.com">karenkaufman17@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mid-Hudson P.</td>
<td>Rosemary Cohen, MSW, LCSW</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nassau VR.</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Queens P.</td>
<td>Joseph Reiher, LCSW</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Suffolk P.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Westchester VR.</td>
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#### STATE COMMITTEE CHAIRS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Committee</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>By-Laws</td>
<td>Beth Pagano, MSW, LCSW</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Creativity and Transformation</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>E-News</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
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<tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Issues of Aging</td>
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<tr>
<td>Leadership</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Membership</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mentorship</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Newsletter – The Clinician</td>
<td>Helen Hinckley Krackow, MSW, LCSW, BCD</td>
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<tr>
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#### 2016 ACE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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<tr>
<td>Secretary</td>
<td>Amy Meyers, Ph.D., LCSW</td>
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<td>Other Members</td>
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### The Advanced Clinical Education Foundation of the NYSSCSW

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### The New York State Society for Clinical Social Work, Inc.

**2016 NYSSCSW BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**STATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

- President: Shannon Boyle, MSW, LMSW [shannonboyle@hotmail.com]
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- 2nd Vice President: Helen H. Krackow, MSW, LCSW [hhkrackow@aol.com]
- Secretary: Richard B. Joelson, DSW, LCSW [rbojoelson@aol.com]
- Treasurer: Chris Ann Farhood, MSW, LCSW [chrisfarhood@yahoo.com]
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- Nassau VR.: C. Thaddeu Compain, LCSW (VR) [thaddeucompain@yahoo.com]
- Queens P.: Joseph Reiher, LCSW [mitygoodtherapy@gmail.com]
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**2016 ACE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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- Secretary: Amy Meyers, Ph.D., LCSW [amy.meyers2002@yahoo.com]
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- Other Members: Shannon Boyle, LCSW [Shannonboyle@hotmail.com]
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- Other Members: Susan A. Klett, LCSW-R, BCD [SuzanneKlett@aol.com]
Although the New York State Legislature does not come back into session until January 2016, activity continues in the back rooms. Here is a summary of the bills that may or will effect us in 2016:

- **Worker’s Compensation:** It has been a 25-year struggle for LCSWs to become providers of mental health services for workers’ compensation victims. In 2015, our bill was passed by the Legislature, only to be vetoed by Governor Cuomo. In his veto message, he cited a plan to reorganize the workers’ comp system. Hopefully, with the admitted shortage of mental health providers, we LCSWs will be included by regulation, or in the Governor’s budget, instead of having to pass yet another bill. We are working to keep LCSWs uppermost in their minds.

- **The “waivers for agencies”** proposal is coming up again in 2016. Through these waivers, agencies can avoid hiring duly licensed staff to provide mental health services. Although the licensing bill passed 11 years ago, this proposal still persists. Despite the fact that more agencies than ever oppose this proposal, it remains a hot topic in Albany. State agencies are working for permanent elimination of the waivers.

- **The lack of parity** between physical health and mental health in the new insurances has come to the attention of the NYS Attorney General. As prescribed by Timothy’s Law, passed several years ago, insurance companies must offer patient advocates, FAQs on their website and a person to answer questions. Reports indicate that insurers are denying people health in the new insurances has come to the attention of the NYS Attorney General. As prescribed by Timothy’s Law, passed several years ago, insurance companies must offer patient advocates, FAQs on their website and a person to answer questions. Reports indicate that insurers are denying people

- **We are still working to change the corporate laws** so that we can become full legal partners with the other autonomous professions, e.g., veterinarians, dentists, physicians and psychologists. All of these practices have a mental health component, and with the new federal emphasis on continuity of care and one-stop medical homes, we need the legal authority to be equal partners if we choose, rather than only employees.

- **Out-of-Network legislation** has been introduced in the Senate and Assembly, but its passage is doubtful. Single payer legislation has been introduced. This effort is in its early stages and will take years to gain traction, but it just might.

- **Telehealth legislation** has been passed in a rush. We are awaiting the regulations to see what exactly is covered, under what circumstances and by whom. For example, are there situations in which mental health is included, but services cannot be provided by telephone, only by Skype?

- **School guidance counsellors** are trying to upgrade their titles and job descriptions to become “School Counselors,” offering more than guidance about curriculum, schedules and college applications. Problems have arisen, since the new title suggests they are competent to do mental health counselling. The Education arm of the State Education Department has failed to consult with the mental health licensing boards of SED, so there is plenty of confusion.

I have been asked by the incoming President to continue as Legislative Committee Chair for the next three years, and I have accepted. Stay tuned for legislative activity reports in the Friday E-News and The Clinician.
Membership campaigns: Richard Joelson, DSW, LCSW, the State and Met Chapter Membership Committee Chair, has introduced a 2-for-1 agency recruitment initiative, and a member-get-a-new-member promotion which offers a $10 gift card for finders. We recruited 161 new Society members as of October.

Online communications: Helen Hoffman, LCSW continues to update our much-improved website with important information and features. Another of Helen’s initiatives, E-News, is a weekly digital newsletter that is emailed to all members on Fridays. It’s chockful of useful information. But when we measured the readership recently, we found that only 741 members opened the last issue.

Of course, we can’t make you open and read it, but if you do, you will find valuable updates on practice issues such as PQRS and ICD-10, and relevant legislative news, as well as a list of CE-qualified educational programs around the state, organized by month. E-News is well worth your time... Also, please note that members can now join multiple listservs for a small fee, and that the “likes” on our Facebook page are multiplying daily.

Committees: We have a new Ad Hoc Committee, Issues of Aging, Co-chaired by Helen Krackow, LCSW, BCD and Henni Fisher, LCSW, BCD. In other news, Sandra Indig, LCSW, ATR-BC, Chair of the Committee on Creativity and Transformation, has added tours of MoMA and other art exhibits.

Updated Bylaws: At last, we have integrated the LCSW legislation into the Society’s Bylaws. Now only LCSWs can be elected to the State Board. The Board makes policy for our organization, and therefore it makes sense that every Board member hold a clinical license. This includes Chapter Presidents too, as they sit on the Board and vote on policy issues.

We have also added an LMSW seat to the Board to give a voice to those seeking the clinical social work level of our profession. These changes, overseen by Beth Pagano, LCSW, the State Leadership and Bylaws Committee Chair, were sent to our members last summer and successfully adopted.

Affiliations: NYSSCSW is a member of a group of associations in New York State that is tracking and responding to mental health initiatives arising out of public agencies, as well as insurance coverage issues. In addition to NYSSCSW, this group includes the NYS Psychological Association, the State Chapter of NASW and the NYS Psychiatric Association.

We continue our affiliation with the Clinical Social Work Association (CSWA). This is a small national association that tracks federal initiatives and intercedes on behalf of the clinical social work profession. Recently, they fought for 100% reimbursement for Medicare mental health services, to be on par with psychology and psychiatry. Unfortunately, they were undercut by national NASW, which argued for 85% since “we are not doctors.” This is the latest example of NASW’s inability to represent clinical social work, even though their membership includes many of the 240,000 licensed clinicians in the country. NASW is continuing its policy of benign neglect and/or active undercutting of the interests of social work clinicians, particularly those in private practice.

In another matter, NYSSCSW received a gift from ICAPP when it closed.

Distance learning in MSW programs: The NYS Education Department has the best regulations for online clinical education of all jurisdictions in the country. The Council for Social Work Education (CSWE), the accrediting body for BSW/MSW schools of social work, has failed to set standards online education in its new regulations. These regulations are only reviewed every seven years, so we can’t look to this group to control quality for online programs. No guidelines have come from national NASW either. Here in New York, one must be supervised face-to-face by a person licensed in the state in order to sit for the LCSW exam. We are following national developments in this arena through CSWA.

ACE – A Singular Achievement: The launch of the Advanced Clinical Education Foundation of the NYSSCSW (ACE) was this year’s most important achievement for the future of our organization.

When the State Legislature implemented continuing education requirements for social work professionals last year, we saw an opportunity. Since January 2015, social workers have been required to accumulate 36 contact hours every three years, recorded when they re-register their licenses. Since there are about 30,000 clinical social workers and 30,000 LMSWs in the state, we have a very large potential audience for the high quality clinical education we deliver.

ACE has become an approved provider of Continuing Education programs by the State Education Department and we have hired a Director of Professional Development, Susan A. Klett, LCSW, BCD, former State Education Committee Chair. To date, 36 programs have been approved for a total of 123.5 contact hours. [Approved CE programs, locations and registration information can be found in E-News every Friday and at ACE-Foundation.net.]

Many other state societies folded once they reached their goals of insurance reimbursement and clinical licensing. But not us! We are still here, meeting the new demand for clinical education with state and chapter programing, conferences, workshops and office-based courses.

We are the only organization solely committed to representing and protecting our legal right to diagnose and treat mental illness. So keep learning, keep active in your chapters and get involved!
In its first year, the Advanced Clinical Education (ACE) Foundation of the NYSSCSW was approved by the NYS Education Department to provide social workers with high quality continuing education programs. To date, 36 programs for 123.25 contact hours have been approved. Additional proposals are being reviewed, all of which cover a wide variety of subjects for clinicians at all levels of practice. Please check the website, Ace-Foundation.net, for a full list of offerings.

Susan A. Klett, LCSW-R, BCD, ACE’s Director of Professional Development, works closely with the ACE Foundation Board and with prospective presenters to develop their program proposals. The approved programs have included large annual conferences, chapter-hosted presentations, in-office courses taught by Society members and smaller conferences.

As we continue to expand, we will be exploring the development of webinars and other forms of presentations that will provide members with their needed contact hours. If you have questions and/or ideas for future programs, please feel free to get in touch with any of the ACE Foundation Board members or Susan Klett. For contact information, visit www.Ace-Foundation.net.

A Sample of Upcoming Programs

**Treatment of Addictions: Integrating the Recovery Process in 12-Step Programs with Dynamic Psychotherapy**
Manhattan, Dec. 4, 2015; 3 Contact Hours will be awarded.

**Keeping It Real: Bringing Couples to Genuine Connection**
Westchester, Dec. 5, 2015; 1.5 Contact Hours

**Psychoanalytic Complexity, System Sensibility and Multi-Dimensionality of Therapeutic Change**
Manhattan, Dec. 5 & 19, 2015; 6.0 Contact Hours

**Play Therapy: Its Purpose, Method and Value for Therapists**
Mid-Hudson, Jan. 23, 2016; 3.0 Contact Hours

**I Just Got a Referral. Now What Do I Do?**
Manhattan, Jan. 28 and Feb. 4, 2016; 3.0 Contact Hours

**Countertransference and Treatment Failure**
Manhattan, Jan. 29, 2016; 3.0 Contact Hours

**The Post Traumatic Growth: Its Clinical and Neuro-Psychoeducational Vicissitudes**
Manhattan, Feb. 21, 28 and March 6, 2016; 9 Contact Hours

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SAVE THE DATE: NYSSCSW & ACE PRESENT THE 47TH ANNUAL EDUCATION CONFERENCE

**Master Clinicians: Past in the Present**
Saturday, March 12, 2016 | 5 Contact Hours
9:00 AM – 4:00 PM | The New York Blood Center, 310 East 67th Street, New York, NY

**MORNING SESSION**

**The Therapist’s Use of Subjectivity in Contemporary Clinical Practice**

Lewis Aron, Ph.D., ABPP will trace the lines of the development of the Relational Approach in Psychoanalysis and Psychotherapy. He will bring you into the world of brilliant theorists and transport you into a live therapeutic session through the medium of film, with ample time for a rich in-depth discussion.

**AFTERNOON SESSION**

**The Women: Our Psychoanalytic Mothers**

Louise DeCosta, Ph.D., LCSW, as creative director and narrator, will take you on a journey through history, introducing you to six remarkable women who have contributed to the development and evolution of clinical work. She offers you a unique, creative, intellectual learning opportunity through a theatrical performance, where you will discover how culture, gender, personality and history influenced their contributions to psychodynamic theory and treatment. The audience will be invited to engage with our psychoanalytic ancestors.
Allen A. Du Mont, LCSW, BCD, Senior Fellow

Allen A. Du Mont was recently reappointed Vice President of Membership of the National Academies of Practice (NAP), the only interprofessional organization of healthcare practitioners and scholars to advise the U.S. government on the healthcare system. A Past President of NYSSCSW, Du Mont is the first social worker to have attained the position of Vice President in NAP, which represents 14 different health professions, since it was founded in 1981. He first took office in 2013, and was reappointed for another two-year term.

In 2014, Du Mont received the Nicholas Cummings Award, NAP's highest honor, for his “extraordinary contributions to interprofessional healthcare.” As a member of the Executive Committee, Du Mont said, he will “continue to represent the values of social work” in pursuing NAP’s mission of advocating for affordable, accessible, coordinated healthcare, and increased interprofessional education and collaboration. On another note, Du Mont said that he “regretfully concluded” his tenure with the International Conference for the Advanced Professional Practice of Clinical Social Work (ICAPP), where he served as Treasurer and Past President. ICAPP provided unique clinical educational conferences worldwide for 51 years, until it closed in 2014.

Susan A. Klett, LCSW-R, BCD


One book reviewer wrote, “The authors have quite deftly managed to do something rare: write a book about complex and painful issues that is tonally perfect. Their approach uniquely pairs the clinical experience of analysis with the deep, non-intrusive empathy required when working with incest victims. With remarkable frankness, compassion, simplicity and intelligence, they allow us to accompany them on the very demanding journeys they undertook with their patients... Truly, a wonderful book.” —Michael Larivière, Psychoanalyst, Former Associate Professor of Psychiatry, Faculty of Medicine, University of Strasbourg.

NOTE: Please send news about NYSSCSW members to ivy.lee.miller@gmail.com
The Vendorship and Managed Care Committee, comprised of representatives from each chapter, meets by teleconference about eight times a year and also communicates by email. Members are available to answer your questions about insurance issues. Recently, we have been addressing the issues listed below. Please visit our web pages for bulletins and updates.

- Advised members on compliance with the Medicare PQRS requirements.
- Prepared members for the transition to ICD-10 on October 1, 2015.
- Sponsored a presentation on documentation by Bruce Hillow, Ph.D., JD at the 46th General Membership Meeting on October 17, 2015.
- Updated “Billing Essentials,” a compendium of billing resources on the NYSSCSW website, to include more information about practice management software and online practice management systems.
- Noted new Telemedicine and Telehealth laws which were passed by the New York State Legislature on December 29, 2014.
- Discussed the safety of video counseling, online billing and storing records online.
- Followed NASW efforts to change the Medicare reimbursement rate for LCSWs to 85% of the Physician Fee Schedule.
- Tracked New York State legislation which would provide for Universal Health Insurance (“Single Payer”).
- Followed the New York State Psychiatric Association’s class action lawsuit against United Behavioral Health, which attempts to show that UBH uses a more restrictive standard for justifying mental health treatment than that used for medical and surgical treatment.

Vendorship and Managed Care Committee

This page contains a list of committee members with their contact information. The committee also includes information on the transition to ICD-10, a presentation on documentation, updated billing information, new Telemedicine and Telehealth laws, and discussions on video counseling, online billing, and storing records online. They have also followed NASW efforts to change the Medicare reimbursement rate for LCSWs and tracked New York State legislation for Universal Health Insurance. The committee is actively engaged in addressing these issues and providing updates through their website.
We continue to enjoy excellent growth in membership since last spring. All chapters have benefitted from our statewide and local recruitment events and other strategies designed to attract a diverse population of clinical social workers. More chapters than ever are using their regular monthly meetings and clinical presentations to help non-member social workers understand why and how to join our robust professional community.

The twice-yearly membership reception of the Met Chapter, sponsored by the Membership Committee, is a good example of an event that accomplishes many things. Over 90 people attended the most recent reception, on October 16, including long-standing and new members, and numerous clinical social workers interested in learning more about us before deciding whether or not to join. Many social work students and recent graduates were there, as well as new members attending their first Society function since joining. Guests were encouraged to bring their non-member social work friends and colleagues, and a great many of them did. As always, brochures, bookmarks and our promotional pens were available for the taking.

New and prospective members were invited to sign up for a “Society Partner,” that is, a more seasoned member they can call upon to provide information and an ongoing personal connection. This initiative is designed to help retain members who might otherwise drift away over time.

Society events also provide valuable opportunities for us to identify people with leadership potential. For example, one sharp-eyed member of the Met Chapter who spoke with Lauren Shah, LCSW at an event referred her to me as someone with the capacity to lead. I am pleased to announce that Lauren has agreed to chair the New Professionals Task Force, which represents the interests of social work students and new professionals so that our organization can best meet their needs.

Despite all of our recruitment successes, we are concerned about the number of people who join, stay for a year, but do not renew their membership for a second year. To learn more about the factors responsible for this and we can do to help members get the most out of their Society involvement, the Met Chapter Membership Committee developed a survey and sent it to our members. If the analysis of the data from this sample provides useful information, the survey will be sent to all chapters within the next few months. To date, we have received 200 survey responses out of a total Met membership of 834, or a 24% response rate. Results of the survey will be reported in a future edition of The Clinician.

On November 4, we held a reception for the winners of the Diana List Cullen Memorial First Year MSW Student Writing Scholarship. The students, from all six metropolitan-area schools of social work, received a $500 scholarship for their second year of graduate school, and a free membership in the Society for one year. They also had an opportunity to present a summary of their winning papers to the audience at the event, including Society members, and deans and faculty members of the various schools, as well as family and friends. As always, it was a memorable evening and an excellent opportunity to strengthen our relationship with the schools of social work, an increasingly important source of new members. Many thanks to Chris Farhood, LCSW for her excellent work on this event.

As mentioned in my previous report, I believe that a good deal of our recruitment and retention success can be traced to the personal interest we show each new member. It includes welcome letters from the State and their chapters of choice, invitations to receptions, emails and phone calls. The outreach to each new recruit helps to make them feel welcomed and valued, and find a place in this ever-growing organization that has so much to offer clinical social workers in New York State.
## NEW MEMBERS OF NYSSCSW*

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**CHAPTER KEY:** MET—Metropolitan, MID—Mid-Hudson, NAS—Nassau County, QUE—Queens County, ROC—Rockland County, SI—Staten Island, WES—Westchester County.

*These new members joined between April 1 and October 1, 2015.

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### Ethics & Professional Standards

It is with great sadness that we mourn the death in April of David Phillips, LCSW, DSW, a key member of the NYSSCSW Board and Co-chair of the Ethics and Professional Standards Committee for many years. He is in our thoughts often, especially when we are dealing with the complex issues that come before us.

As Chair of the Committee, I am grateful for the help that President Marsha Wineburgh has provided, and for the willingness of Jay E. Korman, LCSW to join the Committee. Jay is in private practice in New York and a faculty member of The Training Institute for Mental Health.

Jay notes that since joining the Committee, the issues he has dealt with have “centered around potential cases of fraud by clinicians or patients in the name of trying to receive a ‘better’ reimbursement; the importance of informed consent; who is being served when a third party, e.g., an attorney, requests records; and ‘questionable’ behaviors that could cause a complaint against a clinician’s license… Many of the issues I have seen,” Jay continued, “have been legal rather than professional, and I have suggested that the clinicians consult a lawyer.” — Martin Lowery, MSW, LCSW-R, Committee Chair

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Fall 2015 • 9
Metropolitan Chapter

Karen Kaufman, Ph.D., LCSW, President
KarenKaufman17@gmail.com

I am honored to begin my third term as Met Chapter President in January 2016 and to continue working with the Board to develop new ways to provide our members with high level and stimulating educational, social and networking programs.

The Chapter’s committees include Education, Family Practice, Trauma Studies, Psychoanalysis, Membership, LGBTQ, Addictions, Older Client and Older Clinician, Listserv, Leadership Development, and Mentorship. The educational committees are all planning programs for the current year, many of which will provide contact hours for our continuing education requirement. The Listserv Committee keeps the membership informed; Leadership Development seeks to identify members who wish to become more involved and explore future leadership roles in the chapter; and Mentorship hosts many active groups for new professionals.

This fall, working in collaboration with the ACE Foundation, the Met Chapter Conference Committee hosted two programs: “Stop, Think and Listen; Welcoming Race Talk in Psychotherapy” and “Suicide Stigma and its Effect on the Bereaved.” Both were well received and we will continue to explore other programs to offer in the coming year.

The Membership Committee held its popular Member Reception in October and the turnout was enormous. Member Receptions offer wonderful opportunities for veteran, new and prospective members to meet each other and get acquainted with board members and committee chairs. Don’t miss the next reception, which will take place in the spring.

The Student Writing Awards Ceremony, held in November, involved six schools of social work this year: Columbia University, Silberman School of Social Work at Hunter College, Fordham University, New York University Silver School of Social Work, Wurzweiler School of Social Work at Yeshiva University, and Lehman College. It was a successful event to honor the students with their families, colleagues, faculty from their schools, and chapter members in attendance.

Our annual holiday party will be held on Sunday, December 13 from 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm at the 107 West Restaurant. It is another popular event and an opportunity to meet with your colleagues and members of the Board.

We invite your participation in the leadership of the chapter and welcome your inquiries and ideas for new committees and programs. Find an area of interest and get involved in a vibrant clinical community, and be sure to watch the Listserv for announcements of events. Contact information for board members and committee chairs can be found at www.nysscsow.org/metropolitan.

Mid-Hudson Chapter

Rosemary Cohen, MSW, LCSW, President
rosemarycohen@gmail.com

The Mid-Hudson Chapter offers its workshop participants three (3) CE contact hours for attendance at each of its first three workshops for fall and winter 2015. NYSED approval has followed on the strong commitment of the Chapter’s Education Committee, the support of our Chapter Board members, and the guidance of Susan Klett, LCSW-R, BCD, the ACE Foundation’s Director of Professional Development. In the application process, our presenters provided an extended description of their clinical presentation, participant goals and bibliography for each workshop.

On September 26, Sylvia Rosenfeld, LCSW, a Met and Mid-Hudson chapter member, presented her workshop, “Transforming Limiting Beliefs about Intimate Connection: Helping Your Clients Reclaim Their Sexuality,” at the Mental Health America (MHA) conference room in Poughkeepsie. On November 14, Jacinta “Cindy” Marschke, Ph.D., LCSW, a Chapter member and former Society President and Legislative Committee member, will present “Attachment Theory: History, Concepts and Clinical Application,” at Health Alliance Hospital, Mary’s Avenue Campus auditorium (formerly Benedictine Hospital) in the Administration Building in Kingston.

Gloria Robbins, LCSW, has served as President of the Mid-Hudson Chapter and State Member-at-Large. She presents her workshop, “Play Therapy: Its Purpose, Method and Value in Clinical Practice,” on January 23, 2016 at MHA. We commend the generous assistance of both MHA and Health Alliance, who provide the use of their beautiful conference room and auditorium space for our training workshops for mental health professional clinicians and students in the Mid-Hudson valley.

Nassau Chapter

Joseph Reiher, MSW, LCSW, BCD, President
mitygoodtherapy@gmail.com

The Nassau Chapter is getting ready for a busy and exciting year. The Chapter is in good shape: we have had an increase in membership, our finances are good, and we have several exciting programs under development. These will be submitted to the ACE Committee shortly and hopefully will be approved for contact hours (CEUs).

Congratulations to the Society’s new President, Shannon Boyle, LCSW, who begins her term of office in January 2016. Shannon has been State Treasurer and an active Chapter Board member for many years, and we are very proud of her and excited for this opportunity. Our thanks also go to Linda Wright, LCSW, for many years a State Board Member-at-Large and our Chapter’s Recording Secretary. Unfortunately, Linda has had to resign these positions, and she will be missed. Thankfully, Patricia Traynor, LCSW stepped in as Member-at-Large and Francine Futterman, LCSW took on the Recording Secretary position.

Special thanks and commendation go to Prudence Emery, LCSW and her
Administrative Assistant Bunny Chapman for their work in producing *Nassau NewsNotes*, a publication that affords members the opportunity to have their articles published. The Chapter is proud of their efforts. I do not think that any other society or chapter produces a publication of this quality.

In October, we will hold a Chapter meeting and election, and members will have the opportunity to express concerns and make recommendations. We will also host Jackie Bluzer, a professional medical biller, who will give an update on ICD-10 codes, followed by a speed-networking session and refreshments.

**Queens Chapter**

*Lynne O'Donnell, LCSW-R, ACSW, President*  
*Odonnell80@gmail.com*

The Queens Chapter has undergone many changes. I am honored to step into the presidency, attempting to fill the big shoes of Fred Sacklow, LCSW-R, who has led the Chapter for seven years. Carol D’Andrea, LCSW is generously giving of her time and wisdom in the role of Vice President. Lisa Laudante, Ph.D., LCSW-R is chairing the Education Committee, seeking interesting speakers and navigating the new and winding road of CE accreditation.

Fran Lombardi, LCSW-R is our new Secretary. Shirley Sillekens, LCSW continues to help us navigate the waters of Vendorship and Managed Care, a vital service provided by the Society.

Sandy Hamberger, LCSW continues to work faithfully to increase and enrich our members as Chair of the Membership Committee. Fred Sacklow, LCSW-R and Al Dumont, LCSW, BCD, as Members-at-Large, continue to share their energy and wisdom in leading this Chapter forward.

Long-time Society member Debbie Kaplan, LCSW has retired and moved to North Carolina. She resurrected the Queens Chapter in 1999, serving first as Interim President, then as President from 2000 to 2001, and she has been a vital force in our Chapter ever since. Bob Hazleton, LCSW and Nancy Hazleton, LCSW are in the process of moving to California. They were recent Board members who also played active roles in growing our Chapter through their work on the Education and Membership committees, and in the development of our brochure. You can imagine how they will be missed!

We are working to help our members meet their new CE requirements. Our first offering in May was a presentation on “Comprehensive Behavior Intervention for Tics” by Sabina Wilheim, Ph.D., a professor at Harvard Medical School and a well-known researcher on OCD, Tics and Body Dysmorphic Disorder. In October, Maddy Cunningham, DSW, Associate Professor, past Clinical Chair and current Curriculum Chair at Fordham University Graduate School of Social Service, gave a fascinating presentation on “The Role of Spirituality in Clinical Practice.”

We are planning two more seminars for March and April. One will be on “CBT and Body Dysmorphic Disorder,” by Stephen Teraciano, Ph.D., ABPP. The other, on “Emotionally Focused Therapy for Couples,” will be by our own Janice Gross, LCSW, President of the Staten Island Chapter.

Since Holliswood Hospital closed, we have become a somewhat nomadic chapter, working very diligently to find a new home. We are currently in negotiations with St. John’s University and Queens General Hospital for space, and will inform you via listserv as soon as possible about when and where our next seminars will occur.

Mentorship and Peer Consultation Groups are now being offered; please contact Carol D’Andrea for more information. In addition, we are considering starting a clinical book club if the interest is there. Please contact Fred Sacklow for more information.

We are a thriving Chapter of dedicated “old” and new members with a strong commitment to personal growth and to the advancement of the social work profession in the field of mental health. We take great pride in our role in the NYSSCSW.

**Rockland Chapter**

*Orsolya D. Clifton, LCSW-R, President*  
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The Rockland Chapter is very excited to begin offering CEUs at chapter events. The Chapter invites colleagues to join one of our engaging monthly programs, from educational presentations, clinical case discussions, and networking, to dinner and a movie.

The year kicked off with a well-attended three-hour program on “The Uses of Hypnosis,” by Ita O’Sullivan, RN. This dynamic program offered theory, video and practice. In October, we held our first book event with author Dan Shaw, LCSW-R discussing chapters from his book, *Traumatic Narcissism and Relational Systems of Subjugation.* In November, we are planning another three-hour CEU program with Gayle Skovron, LCSW-R, “Transforming Trauma Using Rapid Trauma Resolution.”

On December 5, we will end the year with a film and stimulating discussion facilitated by Board member Isaac Shamah, LCSW-R. Stay tuned for a great 2016. For more information, please contact Education Chair Kevin Melandy, LCSW at kvmel@optonline.net.

**Staten Island Chapter**

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We are excited that the Staten Island Chapter’s membership has grown in the past year. We are hearing from more professionals than ever before who want to attend chapter programs and gain CEU credits. We are reaching out to MSW students and agency-based clinicians who want to expand their learning and expertise.

Last fall, our educational calendar kicked off with a light dinner and an interesting program on “Cognitive Behavioral Therapy” by Constance Salhanney, Ph.D., who made us aware of the new paradigms and usefulness of CBT. Michael DeSimone, Ph.D., LCSW presented stimulating ideas on “Recognizing and Working-Through Counter-Resistance in Psychotherapy,” with a Focus on Erotic & Aggressive Transferences.

Our Spring Conference and Brunch at the
Over 17 years of steady, positive and productive growth has made for an easy transition to a more than ever truly multidisciplinary group. We have enjoyed, embraced and are grateful for the many opportunities to present at various venues, both locally and internationally.

Our interdisciplinary panel (Sandra Indig, Inna Rozentsvit and Victoria Grinman,) presented at the annual conference of the International Research Initiative, Psychoanalysis of Our Time: Psychoanalytic Interrogation of Current Affairs. This year, the conference was held in Tallinn, Estonia, from March 13 to 15. Our panel, “Back to the Future of Psychoanalysis: From Neurology and Neuropathology—to Psychoanalysis—and Back to Neuroscience,” was well received.

Our talk acknowledged the paradigm shift of incorporating discoveries of neuroscience in the everyday practice of mental health practitioners. The life cycle of psychoanalysis originated from the neurosciences, but then they took very different paths. In our times of the multi-inter-disciplinary approach and evidence-based practice, their paths are crossing again. Objectives of our presentation were the neuroscientific phenomena important in sustaining psychoanalytic practice, particularly neuroplasticity, neurointegration and connectomes.

Inna Rozentsvit presented “Post-traumatic Growth: The Wisdom of the Mind to the East European Institute of Psychoanalysis” in St. Petersburg, Russia on March 17. This lecture was the first step in a collaboration with our Russian colleagues.

On June 5, our multi-disciplinary panel presented at the 38th Annual Conference of the International Psychohistorical Association, co-sponsored by NYU Silver School of Social Work. The subject of our panel was “Post Traumatic Growth: The Wisdom of the Mind; Its Clinical and Neuropsychoanalytic Vicissitudes II.” The presentation and lively discussion that followed gave all participants the opportunity to extend our knowledge in the disciplines of neurobiology, visual mentalization and developmental disabilities through the filter of epigenetic history.

On September 5, members of this committee presented “Despair and Desire in Times of Crisis” at the 19th International Congress for Group Psychotherapy and Group Process, in Rovinj, Croatia. Our talk included a revised and expanded version of our previous investigation into the phenomenon of post-traumatic growth, but this time as seen through the lens of group psychotherapy practitioners. It was a wonderful learning experience in a most beautiful environment. Sandra Indig also displayed six of her paintings and a poem of the same title, Camp 9: From Despair to Hope. We attended and enjoyed the often eye-opening experiential groups. Two outstanding groups were Healing the Broken Container with Group Analysis and Art, and I Built Myself Again Every Day. Inna Rozentsvit did an outstanding job of presenting “Dreaming the Memories of Our Parents: Understanding Neurobiology of Transgenerational Trauma and the Capacities for Its Healing” to a packed audience.


During the 2015-2016 academic year at ACE/NYSSCSW, we will offer our course, “The Post-Traumatic Growth: Its Clinical and Neuro-Psycho-Educational Vicissitudes.” The purpose of this workshop series is to promote awareness and knowledge of the phenomenon of post-traumatic growth (PTG), as well as the benefit of understanding neurobiological mechanisms of trauma and of PTG, and to demonstrate the benefit in clinical practice. Another purpose is to take a look at neuropsychoeducation as an important tool to sustain and promote this phenomenon.

As always, we are looking forward to several guided field trips to local cultural institutions such as the new Whitney, located in the former meat-packing district, MoMA (Picasso sculpture), and the Metropolitan Museum of Art (John Singer Sargent). Please look for our postings. Suggestions are always welcome.

Sandra Indig, LCSW-R/ LP, ATR-BC, State Chair, Creativity & Neurobiology Committee
Inna Rozentsvit, M.D., Ph.D., MBA, MSciEd, Neuropsychoeducation Workshop Chair

Committee for Creativity and Neuropsychoeducation In Clinical Practice
David G. Phillips
An early member of NYSSCSW, David G. Phillips, DSW, LCSW-R, passed away on April 4, 2015, two days shy of his 80th birthday. David was an intelligent, kind and thoughtful contributor to social work, clinical social work and clinical social work psychoanalysis. His tireless advocacy lead to the ascendance of clinical social work as a recognized mental health profession, both on the state and national levels. For nearly five decades, he excelled as a scholar, teacher and supervisor—a dedicated activist and social work ethicist, both in word and deed.

David earned his Bachelor’s degree at the University of Chicago, and his Master and Doctorate in Social Work at Adelphi University School of Social Work. In his DSW research, he explored the adherence to social work values among graduate students in psychology, social work and psychiatric nursing. This investigation evolved into his abiding interest in ethics. David went on to be the author or co-author of codes of ethics for the NYSSCSW, the Clinical Social Work Association, the National Association of Social Workers and the American Psychiatric Association.

He completed his training at the Postgraduate Center for Mental Health, and was then appointed as the Center’s Director of Social Work, as well as a faculty member, senior supervisor and training analyst. In its heyday, the Center was a hotbed of political activity for clinical social workers in private practice. David was among the postgraduate pioneers who contributed to the founding of the NYSSCSW. He served as President in the early 1990s, as Ethics Committee Chair for many years, and made countless other contributions to our Society. He was also President of the American Association for Psychoanalysis in Clinical Social Work (formerly NMCP), served as Co-chair of its National Study Group, and wrote the Code of Ethics for the organization.

David’s broad clinical experience included work at the Veterans Administration, Jewish Family Services and in the private practice of psychoanalysis and couples therapy. In addition, he supervised and mentored more than 100 clinicians. An Adjunct Associate Professor in the Wurzweiler School of Social Work, he also taught at Fordham and New York University schools of social work. He was also a Contributing Editor for the Clinical Social Work Journal, and helped prepare the Psychodynamic Diagnostic Manual, the alternative to the DSM IV. A prolific writer of works on confidentiality, standards of practice, informed consent and licensing issues, his articles were published in many prestigious journals.

David was a scholar, activist and champion of clinical social work. His friendship, intellectual generosity, and contributions are irreplaceable and will be sorely missed.

—Marsha Wineburgh, President

Seena Freedman
In June 2015, the Met Chapter lost a valuable Board member, Seena Freedman, LCSW, who was Co-chair of the LGBTQ Committee. Among her many activities, Seena was a Senior Social Worker and Administrator at the Hebrew Home and Hospital for more than 30 years. She was also the Training Director for social work students on site, and contributed to the education of many clinicians in the field of gerontology.

A Met Board member for only a short time, she was active, creative and eager to contribute to an important and relevant committee. We are sorry we did not have more time to get to know her and all she had to offer.

Florence Home
Florence Home, LCSW graduated from Adelphi School of Social Work in 1979 and began work at Planned Parenthood of Nassau County. She later worked at the Adelphi Rape Hotline for several years and then started a private practice. Florence was very active in the social service community. She maintained a strong commitment to Planned Parenthood over the course of her career, and for many years served as a Board Member of the Coalition Against Child Abuse and Neglect, now part of Safe House. She will be greatly missed by her family, her colleagues and her many friends.

Carol Kamine-Brown
We acknowledge with profound sadness the untimely death in August of Carol Kamine-Brown, LCSW. She died of metastatic breast cancer following a brief illness. Carol was a member of the Met Chapter and Past President of the Brooklyn Chapter. A former Director of Social Work at the Visiting Nurse Service in Brooklyn, she worked with the AIDS population for several years.

Most recently, Carol was Director of COHME, a private home care agency in New York City. She wrote and received grants for training home attendants who care for dementia patients. She also maintained a private practice in Brooklyn.

Dedicated to and engaged in so many activities, Carol loved her work and loved life. She is survived by her daughter, Marissa Brown-Delia, and her brother. Carol will be very much missed by the many people she touched.
This is a brief summary of the wealth of material presented by David Hamilton, Ph.D., Executive Secretary of the State Boards for Social Work and Mental Health Practitioners.

Contact Hours (CEUs): As of January 1, 2015, all LMSW and LCSW must complete 36 hours of continuing education acceptable to the State Education Department every three years in order to register and practice one’s profession. Continuing education (CE) is not required in the first three-year registration period for any newly licensed LMSW or LCSW, or if a practitioner is inactive. In addition, adjustments can be made by the State Board for Social Work for good a cause (illness or active military duty). The licensee is required to pay an additional $45 CE fee with the triannual $179 registration fee. Implementation is phased in for licensees with registration that started before January 1, 2015. One can calculate the hours needed by starting in February, 2015 (January does not need a credit hour) with one credit, and advancing by one credit per month up to the date for renewed registration within the next three years. Thereafter, every three-year registration period requires 36 hours of approved continuing education.

The subject matter for social work continuing education is broad and varied, but whatever it is, it is judged by the Department on its contribution to the professional practice of social work. Beyond CE that one would expect, activities like preparing and teaching a class, or writing a first-time article or book chapter in social work or related fields, can be approved.

Courses must be taken from NYS Board approved providers. An entity must apply, pay a $900 fee, and meet the requirements in law and regulation. Providers must be approved every three years. A list of providers is posted at: www.op.nysed.gov/prof/sw/swceproviderlist.htm.

Each licensee must keep a record of completed, acceptable continuing education for six years from the date of the coursework/educational activity, including copies of professional articles, book chapters and presentations. When one reregisters, attesting to meeting the CE requirements is sufficient. Copies of records need only be sent if an audit takes place.

Professional Corporations: An LCSW may only form a professional entity with another LCSW. No other professional may be a co-owner. An LCSW may not employ a licensee with a scope of practice that is not within the LCSW, such as a physician, psychologist, nurse practitioner, or physical therapist, for example. Further, the name of the professional corporation must include the term LCSW.

Supervision of LMSWs or Other Professionals: An LMSW may only provide clinical social work services under an LCSW, licensed psychologist or psychiatrist who delegates the ability to diagnosis and treat his/her patients to the LMSW, but remains responsible for the patient. An LCSW may supervise or

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Major Changes Noted from DSM-IV to DSM 5

Presented by Helen Crohn, LCSW, DSW; Reviewed by Chris Ann Farhood, MSW, LCSW

Helen Crohn, LCSW, DSW, an Associate Clinical Professor at the Fordham University Graduate School of Social Service, using humor, slides and a detailed handout, guided the conference attendees through the myriad of changes to the DSM that have been in effect since January 1, 2014.

In addition to changing the title from roman numerals (IV) to Arabic numerals (5), the DSM 5 is coded to both ICD-9 and ICD-10, the use of which was mandated by October 1, 2015. It is extremely important to know that use of DSM-IV codes after October 1 will result in insurance companies rejecting the claim. In order to be thoroughly familiar with the new coding, Dr. Crohn recommended procuring a copy of the DSM 5, wryly noting that the $69 phone app provided guaranteed income revenue for the app supplier, but not necessarily the most accurate information to the app user.

Dr. Crohn highlighted the major changes in the new manual. The multiaxial system and GAF score have been eliminated, but external stressors can still be specified, and the V-codes have been greatly expanded, now including such stressors as military deployment and extreme poverty.

The diagnoses are listed in order of importance. There are 20 diagnostic classes of categories of mental disorders based on groupings of similar characteristics or representing spectrums of related disorders. An example of a new category is Neurodevelopmental Disorders, which includes Autism Spectrum, ADHD and other disorders reflecting abnormal brain development, based on the developing understanding that abnormal brain development underlies many types of disorders. This category includes many disorders previously classified as childhood onset disorders, but excludes separation anxiety and selective mutism. This led Dr. Crohn to ponder the impact of this classification on the study of child psychopathology.

Obsessive-Compulsive and Related Disorders is a new category, separate from Anxiety Disorders. Similarly, ASD and PTSD are in a new category of Trauma and Stressor-Related Disorders. A new category of Substance-Related and Addictive Disorders has been added, eliminating the distinction between substance abuse and substance dependence.

The new manual provides a means for rating the severity of symptoms and a greater emphasis on comorbidity, allowing clinicians to rate the level of anxiety in mood disorders. There are now two separate mood disorder categories, Depressive Disorders and Bipolar and Related Disorders.

Bereavement is no longer excluded from the category of Major Depression, Hypochondrias is eliminated, and Factitious Disorder was moved to Somatic Symptom and Related Disorders. Other dropped or consolidated diagnoses are Somatization Disorder, Amnesic Disorder, Dissociative Fugue, Pain Disorder, Asperger’s Disorder, Childhood Disintegrative Disorder, Vaginismus and Dyspareunia, Gender Identity Disorder and Sexual Aversion Disorder.

Moving out of the DSM-IV Appendix are Binge Eating Disorder, Premenstrual Dysphoric Mood Disorder, Mild Cognitive Disorder, Caffeine Withdrawal, and Factitious Disorder by Proxy. Dr. Crohn’s handout listed 20 diagnoses whose names have changed, and also provided the list of newly diagnosed disorders: Disruptive Mood Dysregulation Disorder (children) or DMDD, Somatic Symptom Disorder, Illness Anxiety Disorder, Hoarding Disorder, Excoration (Skin-Picking Disorder), Disinhibited Social Engagement Disorder, Avoidant/Restrictive Food Intake Disorder, Social (Pragmatic) Communication Disorder, Restless Leg Syndrome, and Rapid Eye Movement Sleep Behavior Disorder.

Dr. Crohn stressed the importance of procuring a copy of the DSM 5 to assist clinicians with proper diagnosis and assignation of treatment codes. A quick look online revealed that prices ranged from $32 for a used paperback version to $144 for a new hardback. While the monies benefit the coffers of the publisher, the American Psychiatric Association, hopefully the knowledge contained in the DSM 5 manual will enable the clinician to recoup some of the expense in un-rejected insurance claims.
Telepractice, CEUs

employ a licensee, permit holder or student-intern who is in a profession with a scope of practice that is encompassed by the LCSW scope of practice and in which the LCSW is personally competent by education, training, experience and certification. This includes LMSW, LMHC, LMFT, LCAT, and LPsyAn. An LCSW may not supervise a physician, registered nurse or psychologist.

Telepractice: Since Education Law and Regents Rules do not distinguish between services provided in person or services provided through technology, various kinds of telepractice are acceptable. However, the provider must be licensed and registered in New York State to treat a patient in the state. Services provided in another state may also require licensure in that state.

Fee Splitting: Education Laws and Regents Rules define fee splitting as unprofessional conduct. Paying a share or percentage of fees to a third party for rent or professional services is unacceptable. Fees may only be shared with members of the professional corporation, employees and staff. Unlicensed individuals may not be members of the corporation or share in professional fees.

Internet Coupons/Vouchers: Generally speaking, the offer of internet coupons/vouchers, in situations in which the recipient of the coupon/voucher has initiated contact with the marketing organization and requested notification of deals, may be structured in a manner that does not constitute fee-splitting or referral fee arrangements, as long as the negotiated fee between the internet coupon/voucher advertiser and licensee represents reasonable compensation for the cost of advertising, including reasonable profit.

Recordkeeping in the Cloud: Patient records that reflect the evaluation and treatment of the patient are required to be kept for at least six years, or one year after a patient reaches 21 years of age. However, there are no regulations specifying paper or electronic recording, only that the licensee is responsible for security and accessibility of the records.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
Social Work: www.op.nysed.gov/prof/sw/swceinf.htm
LMSW & LCSW FAQs: www.op.nysed.gov/prof/sw/swcefaq.htm
Provider Requirements: www.op.nysed.gov/prof/sw/swceproviders.htm
Approved Providers: www.op.nysed.gov/prof/se/swceproviderlist.htm
NYS Board for Social Work: SWBD@nysed.gov

Chapter Reports

Staaten restaurant drew 80 attendees for a very informative and dynamic program, “The Impact and Treatment of the Opiate Epidemic on Staten Island.” We were proud of our presenter, Chapter member Michael Zampella, LCSW, CASAC, whose presentation was approved for CEU credits. Luke Nasta, NPA, CASAC, provided a rich history of drug use and treatment options that were available on Staten Island.

In addition, “Engaging and Understanding Couples in Therapy,” a program presented through the ACE Foundation by Chapter President Janice Gross, LCSW, on December 4 and 11 will provide CEU credits. Special thanks go to Education Chair Catherine Putkowsi O’Brien, LCSW.

Congratulations to our longtime member and State Legislative Chair, Andrew Daly, LCSW. Active on the State Board for several years as a Member-at-Large, he has just been elected First Vice President.

Our Chapter’s members are active in agency practice and private practice, and many of them are on the faculty of CUNY College of Staten Island School of Social Work as lecturers and field work instructors. We meet regularly from October to June for networking and educational programs. We have experienced clinicians who can provide mentorship, as well as students and new agency clinicians. Please attend our programs or contact us for further information.
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Membership in CSWA is an investment in your professional growth and development. Remember, CSWA is the only national organization that advocates for your interests!

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CSWA has been on the front lines to ensure your ability to provide quality clinical care in the foreseeable future. We are currently actively involved in promoting clinical social work mental health services in the Essential Health Plan and protecting Medicare reimbursement. These legislative and policy changes, at the national level, directly affect your ability to practice within your individual states.

CSWA is an independent membership organization which means that social workers need to join as individuals, even if you are member of a state society. Without membership in organizations at state and national levels, your interests are not being protected. The CSWA needs your support to continue with the important work being done nationally – advocating for the clinical social work profession.

Please join us and receive the following benefits as a result of your membership:

• Legislative advocacy for adequate reimbursement for licensed clinical social workers.
• Ongoing efforts for more effective mental health treatment coverage in the essential benefits.
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