

CONGRESSIONAL SOCIAL WORK CAUCUS

**112th Congress Update
December 2012**

CONGRESSIONAL SOCIAL WORK CAUCUS (CSWC)

"I am excited about the possibilities for our newly created Congressional Social Work Caucus. This Caucus will provide a platform in Congress where social work voices can be heard, social work concerns can be addressed, and social work's best and brightest can serve their fellow Americans in meaningful ways."

Chairman Edolphus Towns (D-NY)

The Congressional Social Work Caucus (CSWC) was created in the 111th Congress by social worker and Congressman Edolphus Towns (D-NY). The CSWC represents the interests of over 650,000 professional social workers nationwide and serves as a congressionally-approved bipartisan group of Members of Congress dedicated to maintaining and strengthening social work services in the United States. Through Capitol Hill briefings and events, the CSWC educates national legislators and their staffs on issues of importance to the social work profession and the clients served by social workers.

Every day social workers assist those who are disadvantaged, the elderly, children, Service Members and Veterans, and others facing possible life-limiting challenges. They find solutions to poverty, divorce, addiction, emotional distress, and other psychological, economic, and social issues. Social workers form society's social safety net. The CSWC puts a spotlight on the dedicated work of social workers in child welfare agencies, health clinics and outpatient healthcare settings, hospitals, mental health clinics, schools, government agencies, legislatures, social services agencies, private practices, criminal justice settings, and many more settings in the public and private sectors.

The CSWC was created at a time of considerable change and great uncertainty in our nation. The economic recession, which began in 2007, was wreaking havoc on families and communities. House foreclosures and high unemployment and poverty rates were making the case for social work clear. Joblessness and economic insecurity are foundational challenges for many individuals in need of social services, and poverty contributes to the incidence of mental illness, family violence, suicide, substance abuse, crime, and diminished capacity for health, family, and community functioning.

At the same time that social service needs were rising, social workers and social service agencies and organizations were dealing with budget cuts, fewer resources, and the expectation to do more with less. Although the nation was understandably facing a moment when fiscal responsibility was essential, investments in the social work profession save money in the long-run as a struggling social work profession has far-reaching and long-term negative consequences for our country. Although the need for social work services is continually rising, many social workers face low salaries, high educational debt, and safety concerns, and the profession is finding it difficult to recruit and retain enough professionals to keep pace with this demand.

Congressman Towns created the CSWC in response to all of these challenges and in order to ensure that a strong social safety net would remain intact for millions of individuals in need.

“The safety and happiness of society are the objects at which all political institutions aim.”

– James Madison

(quotation in the Library of Congress James Madison Building, where the CSWC launch was held)

OBJECTIVES OF THE CSWC

Initiate and support legislation to address unique challenges and opportunities for social workers.

Monitor and evaluate programs and legislation to assist and support individuals, families, and communities across the lifespan who are coping with economic, social, and health problems, particularly those with limited resources.

Provide congressional staffers with educational tools and resources directed toward improving the social work profession and the people served by social workers.

Assist in education and awareness efforts regarding the breadth and scope of the profession.

The CSWC accomplishes its goals and objectives through:

- Regular hill briefings
- Media statements
- Convening experts on specific issues
- Fostering interdisciplinary cooperation with relevant disciplines
- Working with various stakeholders in local government and communities
- Expand congressional and legislative internship opportunities for social workers

ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE CSWC



Congressman Edolphus Towns and Congresswoman Allyson Schwartz at the CSWC launch.

Official Launch of the CSWC

The CSWC was officially launched on March 15, 2011 at the United States Library of Congress James Madison Building. Congressman Towns created the CSWC, and fellow social workers and Members of Congress Susan Davis (CA), Luis Gutierrez (IL), Barbara Lee (CA), Allyson Schwartz (PA), and Nikki Tsongas (MA) were the first members to join. Congressman Towns invited all Members of Congress who had worked in social services or non-profit organizations, or who had an interest in the profession of social work, the services provided by social workers, or the 10 million clients served by social workers each day, to join the CSWC. The launch was attended by over one hundred professional social workers, Deans of schools of social work, Members of Congress, government officials and staff, and relevant stakeholders.

Congressional Briefing: The Dorothy I. Height and Whitney M. Young, Jr. Social Work Reinvestment Act (Washington, DC)

The CSWC, in conjunction with the National Association of Social Workers (NASW) held a congressional briefing on the Dorothy I. Height and Whitney M. Young, Jr. Social Work Reinvestment Act on Wednesday, November 17, 2011 on Capitol Hill. Congressman Towns and Senator Barbara Mikulski introduced the Social Work Reinvestment Act into the 110th and 111th Congress.

Professional social workers provide and advocate for essential human services for individuals across the lifespan. They serve as the primary workforce for guiding people in crisis to critical resources, often counseling them on important life decisions and offering support to families.

"Not everyone will need a social worker, but when life presents serious obstacles to one's well-being, a social worker can be an invaluable ally," said Congressman Towns. "We want to make sure that when people do need a social worker, professional help will be available."

U.S. Senator Barbara Mikulski (MD), Senate sponsor of the legislation, added, "We must have the workforce in place to make sure that our returning soldiers have access to mental health services, our elderly maintain their independence in the communities they live in, and abused children are placed in safe homes. In these tough economic times social workers can play a critical role in keeping communities together and helping individuals and families cope with the new stresses they are facing."

Congressman Towns, and other social work advocates like him, believe it will become harder for average Americans to get the help they need, when they need it, if additional federal and state investments are not made in the profession now. Services for older adults, Veterans, and abused children are already at risk.

For more than 100 years, social workers in the United States have entered the profession with a desire to serve people in need, especially the most vulnerable. They have also led efforts to improve access to psychosocial services for people from all walks of life. Every day, social workers touch millions of lives through their work in hospitals and clinics, schools and universities, community and government agencies, private practices and corporations, as well as prisons and the military.

However, a job as one of the nation's 650,000 professionally trained social workers can also mean serious injuries on the job, significant educational debt, and a non-competitive salary. While the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics projects that an additional 100,000 social workers will be needed by 2018, our country's 600 accredited schools and programs of social work often struggle to recruit and graduate enough students to keep pace with the volume and complexity of social needs in their communities.

The Dorothy I. Height and Whitney M. Young, Jr. Social Work Reinvestment Act is designed to explore and address challenges that limit the profession's ability to help millions of people in the future. This legislation will create the foundation for a professional workforce to meet the ever-increasing demand for the essential services that social workers provide. Professional social workers have the unique expertise and experience that will enable them to help solve the social and economic challenges that our nation is facing.

In an effort to address the long-term concerns facing the profession, the legislation would establish a Social Work Reinvestment Commission, which would analyze the current state of the profession and develop long-term recommendations and strategies to maximize the ability of the nation's social workers to serve their clients with competence and care. Demonstration projects would also address the immediate needs of the profession and would be established in the areas of workplace improvements (providing funding in areas such as social work supervision, incomparable salaries, and high caseloads), education and training

(funding the education of social workers at the BSW, MSW, and doctoral levels), research (supporting postdoctoral social workers in their research pursuits), and community-based programs of excellence (providing funding to replicate successful social work agencies and organizations so as to provide clients and communities across the country with leading-edge services). Together, these components would create the foundation from which the social work profession could continue to serve as a voice for not only the most vulnerable in our country, but for individuals from all walks of life in need of social work services.

This congressional briefing sought to educate policy makers, the media, and the public about the important work that needs to be done to reinvest in social work, a profession that has always sought to care for others. The briefing highlighted the importance of advocating and standing up for the needs of social workers, in order to support and protect society's most vulnerable.

Speakers included:

- **Dr. Jeane Anastas**, President, National Association of Social Workers/Professor, New York University
- **Dr. Richard Barth**, Dean, University of Maryland School of Social Work
- **Dr. Elizabeth J. Clark**, Executive Director, National Association of Social Workers
- **Dr. Avis Jones-DeWeever**, Executive Director, National Council of Negro Women
- **Dr. Tricia Bent-Goodley**, Professor, Howard University, & National Association of Black Social Workers
- **Ms. Mildred Joyner**, President, Council on Social Work Education/Department Chair, West Chester University Undergraduate Social Work Program
- **Dr. Joan Levy Zlotnik**, Director, Social Work Policy Institute, NASW Foundation

Congressional Briefing: Implications of Health Care Reform on the Social Work Profession (Washington, DC)



Speakers: Robyn Golden, Stephen Gorin, Asua Ofofu, Kevin Mahoney, and James Zabara.

Congressman Towns, in conjunction with NASW, hosted a congressional briefing on the implications of healthcare reform for the social work profession on Wednesday, February 16, 2011 on Capitol Hill. "Social workers provide a wide range of services in healthcare settings," Rep. Towns explained. "With the influx of millions of newly insured Americans into the healthcare insurance pool, the demand for highly-skilled social workers will increase significantly. We want to be prepared."

All Americans deserve quality health care services when they need them. When the provisions of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) are fully implemented by 2014, approximately 32 million Americans, who currently do not have health insurance coverage, will be covered, and coverage will be more affordable for many millions more. The ACA makes vital improvements to health care access, quality, and services for millions of Americans with health and behavioral health needs.

Social workers practice as part of health care teams, and are specifically trained to address the psychosocial implications of acute

and chronic illnesses. They practice across the continuum of care including community and public health clinics, hospitals, nursing homes, home health care, primary care, Veteran service networks, and hospices. The new law contains key provisions that address critical changes that social workers believe are needed to improve the public's health, and to start moving towards a system that focuses on keeping people healthy and one that is affordable for all.

This briefing addressed the many areas where social workers can, and must, take the lead in the implementation of the ACA so that millions of patients can receive competent care in a timely fashion.

Speakers included:

- **Ms. Robyn Golden**, Director of Older Adult Programs, Rush University Medical Center
- **Dr. Stephen H. Gorin**, Professor of Social Work, Plymouth University
- **Dr. Kevin J. Mahoney**, Professor, Boston College Graduate School of Social Work
- **Ms. Asua Oforu**, Manager, Government Relations, National Association of Social Workers
- **Dr. James R. Zabora**, Dean, Catholic School of Social Services



Guests at the Briefing on the Implications of Health Care Reform on the Social Work Profession.

Congressional Briefing: Prevention, Treatment, and Services Research Funding in the National Institutes of Mental Health Budget (Washington, DC)

The CSWC, in conjunction with NASW, held a briefing on Prevention, Treatment, and Services Research Funding in the National Institutes of Mental Health (NIMH) Budget on May 25, 2011 on Capitol Hill. Congressman Towns noted that, "Americans, regardless of age, deserve quality mental health care services." This sentiment drove his interest in holding a briefing to examine these issues further.

"The mental well-being of our residents in this country is important to me and to social workers," Towns continued. "We must invest in social work to serve the mental health needs of our citizens and we need adequate funding."

Dr. Robert Heinssen, Director, Division of Intervention and Services Research at NIMH said that in 2006, the direct cost of mental health services in the U.S. totaled \$57.5 billion. He explained the number of people who receive treatment for mental health disorders has been frustratingly low. For example, he said experts estimate 60 million people in the U.S. suffer from some type of mental disorder; 17 million of them can be labeled as "severe." Of that number, however, less than half receive services. Of those who receive services, less than half garner minimally acceptable care. The director said the NIMH, in an effort to address the challenge of broadening treatment for those who need it most, introduced a strategic plan in 2008:

- Research brain and behavioral sciences to fuel research on the causes of mental disorders.
- Chart mental illness trajectories to determine when, where and how to intervene.
- Develop new and better interventions that incorporate the diverse needs to circumstances of people with mental illness.

- Strengthen the public health impact of NIMH supported research.

The latest goals for the department include additional research that addresses decreasing mortality associated with serious mental illness and increasing widespread use of evidence-based practices, access to services and quality improvement methods.

Panelist Stephen Baron, director of the District of Columbia Department of Mental Health, explained how his department benefits from mental health research and how important it is to continue funding efforts for NIMH.

Enola Proctor, Professor and Associate Dean at George Warren Brown School of Social Work, was also on the panel. She said social workers make up the majority of mental health providers in the U.S. “We provide mental health services in many settings, especially those that are publicly funded,” she explained.

Proctor said mental health care in the U.S. is in urgent need of attention due to more Veterans returning from war, a rise in natural disasters, and continued high unemployment ratings. She noted that for severe mental disorders such as schizophrenia, 95 percent of these clients receive no care or poor care. Racial disparities in care also continue.

“What we need now is more mental health research on improving systems of care,” Proctor explained. “We need to improve access to services and reduce disparities and reduce staff turnover.” She added, “We’re falling behind meeting our nation’s mental health needs. I want to urge the highest possible levels of support for research at NIMH.”

“I will work with you any way I can,” Towns told the panel members. “I will encourage more funding (at NIMH).” He said it is more cost effective to society to prevent and treat mental health disorders than it is to ignore the issue.

Speakers included:

- **Mr. Stephen T. Baron**, Director, District of Columbia Department of Mental Health
- **Ms. Denise Juliano-Bult**, Program Specialist, Division of Intervention and Services Research (NIMH)
- **Dr. Ronald Feldman**, Professor, Columbia University School of Social Work
- **Dr. Robert Heinszen**, Director, Division of Intervention and Services Research (NIMH)
- **Dr. Enola Proctor**, Professor and Associate Dean, Washington University, George Warren Brown School of Social Work

“The Caucus is being created at a time of considerable change for our nation, and a time of critical importance for our profession. The recent economic crisis has reinforced the value of a strong and stable social safety net. We look forward to seeing the work of our Social Work leaders in Congress used to help more Americans access better services when they need them.”

– Elizabeth J. Clark
*Executive Director of the
National Association of Social Workers*

Symposium: The Future of New York City's Children and Youth (Brooklyn, NY)

The CSWC, in conjunction with NASW, sponsored a half-day symposium on "The Future of New York City's Children" Friday, September 16, 2011 at NYU/Polytechnic University in Brooklyn, New York.

The symposium panels assessed current resources and systems devoted to serving at-risk children and youth in New York City through education and social services. Invited speakers discussed current policies, programs, and funding levels and offered policy recommendations to enhance funding and resources directed to children and youth in New York City.

"This country has been cutting services for the poor, children, and seniors for years. Go back and look at the record and you will see that this is a fact. And if you add up all the money we are spending on children and seniors it would not begin to make a dent in the federal deficit," says Congressman Towns. "I think that we need to recognize that when we make these choices we end up having to create other policies, laws, and institutions to address bigger problems on the back-end, and we do not save money."

Speakers included:

- **Mr. Bob Schachter**, Executive Director, NASW New York City Chapter
- **Mr. Jerry M. Hultin**, President, Polytechnic Institute of New York University
- **Congressman Edolphus Towns**
 - ~ **Panel One:** Educating New York City's Children: A discussion about policies and programs related to the New York City educational system and early education opportunities
 - ◇ **Dr. Irwin Garfinkel**, Professor of Contemporary Urban Problems at Columbia University School of Social Work

- ◇ **Mr. Robert Jackson**, Council Member, New York City District 7, Chair, Education Committee
- ◇ **Dr. William Pollard**, President, Medger Evers College of The City University of New York
- ~ **Panel Two: Positive Youth Development for At-Risk Children and Youth:** An exploration of policies and programs designed to address the psychological, emotional, and behavioral needs of at-risk children and youth
 - ◇ **Dr. Joan Levy Zlotnik**, Director, Social Work Policy Institute, NASW Foundation
 - ◇ **Dr. Emma Jordan-Simpson**, Executive Director, Children’s Defense Fund
 - ◇ **Mr. Richard Buery**, President and CEO, Children’s Aid Society
 - ◇ **Dr. Vincent Guilamo-Ramos**, Professor, New York University Silver School of Social Work
 - ◇ **Dr. Mary McKay**, Professor of Psychiatry, Mount Sinai Medical Center
- ~ **Panel Three: *Protecting and Enhancing Investments in Children***—A discussion about ideas and policies to ensure that adequate resources are available for children and youth through public sector funding and ways to spur private investment in children’s programs.
 - ◇ **Dr. Mary McCarthy**, Director, Social Work Education Consortium, University of Albany, State University of New York (SUNY)
 - ◇ **Ms. Zeinab Chahine**, Managing Director for Strategic Consulting, Casey Family Programs
 - ◇ **Mr. Bill Chong**, Deputy Commissioner, NYC Department of Youth and Community Development
 - ◇ **Dr. Katharine Briar-Lawson**, Dean and Professor, University at Albany, State University of New York (SUNY)
 - ◇ **Dr. William Meezan**, Director of Policy and Research, Children’s Rights



Gary Bailey, IFSW President, presenting Congressman Towns with the Global Agenda.

Anniversary Celebration (Washington, DC)

The CSWC celebrated its one year anniversary on World Social Work Day, March 20, 2012, on Capitol Hill. Joined by NASW and CSWE, over 100 guests reflected on the events and activities held by the CSWC aimed at educating policy makers, the social work community, and the public about the critical role of professional social workers in all areas of society. NASW CEO Elizabeth Clark welcomes Congressman Towns, and noted that he has been “an incredible friend of, and advocate for, our profession. He has consistently used his social work skills and training to work in a bipartisan and effective way to achieve sustainable results. His community, the country, and the profession of social work have been left better due to his efforts.”

Gary Bailey, President of the International Federation of Social Workers, and Mit Joyner, President of the Council on Social Work Education and Board Member of the International Association of School of Social Work, presented the Global Agenda for the Social Work Profession to Congressman Towns. The Global Agenda was created to support universal implementation of human rights and social justice globally.

Congressional Briefing: Strengthening Social Work's Response to Addressing Poverty (Washington, DC)



Briefing Moderator Elizabeth Hoffer.

The CSWC, in conjunction with NASW at their Annual Leadership Meeting on April 12, 2012, held a congressional briefing on *Strengthening Social Work's Response to Addressing Poverty*, as it is a foundational issue that all social workers must strive to understand and address. Congressman Towns introduced the event, and it was moderated by Elizabeth Hoffer of NASW, who noted that the original mission of the profession included, "relieving the misery of the most desperate among us and of building a more just and humane social order." She also referenced the *NASW Code of Ethics*, which begins by stating that, "the primary mission of the social work profession is to enhance human well-being and help meet the needs of all people, with particular emphasis to the needs of people who are vulnerable, oppressed, and living in poverty." Poverty underlies many of the challenges that social work clients struggle with whether they are domestic violence, substance use, incarceration, homelessness, health disparities, child welfare interactions, or mental health challenges.

In response to these challenges, the CSWC brought together four expert social workers who addressed inequality and poverty in our nation and how social workers can lead the response to these issues. Dr. Jared

Bernstein, Former Chief Economist to Vice President Joe Biden and Senior Fellow with the Center for Budget and Policy Priorities noted that social workers can advocate for equal opportunities for clients in their communities, and that their efforts should be based on the concept of “We’re in this together” instead of “You’re on your own.” Dean Larry Davis from the University of Pittsburgh pointed out the complex linkages between inequality and race, while John Kuhn from the VA Center on Homelessness Among Veterans discussed the disproportionate number of Veterans living in poverty and how social workers have an obligation to address the causes. Finally, Dr. Mary McKay, Director of the McSilver Institute on Poverty Policy at New York University discussed current data on poverty and how social workers can address inequality through direct practice, as well as social justice advocacy.

Speakers included:

- **Dr. Jared Bernstein**, Senior Fellow with the Center for Budget and Policy Priorities
- **Dr. Larry Davis**, Dean and Director of the Center on Race and Social Problems at the University of Pittsburgh School of Social Work
- **Mr. John Kuhn**, Director of Homeless Evaluation at the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Center on Homelessness Among Veterans
- **Dr. Mary McKay**, Director of the McSilver Institute on Poverty Policy at the New York University Silver School of Social Work

Congressional Briefing: Increasing the Need for Minority Serving Mental Health Professionals

The CSWC, in conjunction with the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE), held a congressional briefing on the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Minority Fellowship Program on Tuesday, May 15, 2012.

The Minority Fellowship Program is designed to reduce health disparities by increasing the numbers and quality of trained minority healthcare

professionals serving high-need populations. Through grants to CSWE, and the American Nurses Association, American Psychiatric Association, American Psychological Association, and American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy, the Minority Fellowship Program prepares behavioral health care professionals to meet the unique needs of diverse communities by supporting doctoral and post-doctoral students who come from underrepresented populations who, upon completion, go on to serve in diverse communities.

The briefing featured a panel discussion with SAMHSA representatives and distinguished alumni of the program. The panelists discussed the program's aim to increase minority representation in the behavioral health workforce, with alumni discussing the program's profound impact on their respective career trajectories. One panelist stated that she "would not have been able to go to graduate school or be in academia without the minority fellowship program."

Among the greatest benefits of the program, according to the alumni panelists, are the lifelong relationships formed with other fellows. Over the last few decades, more than 1,500 fellows have participated in the program. This has nurtured a network of colleagues who mentor and support new fellows, as well as the ongoing careers of former fellows.

In regards to budget cuts potentially affecting the ability of the Minority Fellowship Program to continue, Rep. Towns noted that, "in the long run, the investments made through the Minority Fellowship Program will save money by helping to reduce the number of people coping with mental illness and substance abuse. Without the research contributions of minority scholars, many questions will remain unanswered." He added, "Reducing funding for the Minority Fellowship Program would be the wrong course of action."

Speakers included:

- **Dr. John M. Morrow**, Acting Director, Division of State and Community Systems Development, Center for Mental Health Services, SAMHSA

- **Dr. Sherry Davis Molock**, Associate Professor of Clinical Psychology, The George Washington University
- **Dr. Pamela L. Thornton**, Principal Health Care Advisor, MITRE Corporation; Adjunct Professor, University of Maryland Baltimore School of Social Work
- **Dr. Kenneth M. Rogers**, Professor and Chair, Department of Psychiatry, Greenville Hospital System/University of South Carolina School of Medicine-Greenville

Congressional Briefing: Children at Risk: Optimizing Health in an Era of Reform



Congressman Towns, Janet Schneiderman, Bryan Samuels, Joan Levy-Zlotnik, and Sarah Zlotnik.

The CSWC, along with the NASW Foundation Social Work Policy Institute (SWPI) and the University of Southern California School of Social Work hosted a briefing on October 19, 2012 on *Children at Risk: Optimizing Health in an Era of Reform*. Congressman Edolphus Towns (D-NY), Chair of the CSWC, gave opening remarks on his commitment to the health and well-being of children and the profession of social work.

SWPI Director Dr. Joan Levy Zlotnik moderated the congressional briefing which followed up on a SWPI symposium regarding the same topic. Co-sponsors of the event were the American Academy of Pediatrics, the National Foster Care Coalition, the National Child Abuse Coalition, the

Society for Research in Child Development, and the Friends of the National Institute of the Child Health and Human Development.

Dr. Schneiderman presented findings from the National Survey on Child and Adolescent Well-Being (NSCAW), which is a national representative longitudinal data set mandated by Congress as part of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act (P.L. 104-193) that focused on health problems experienced by children in child welfare systems. She concluded that children's developmental health and mental health are impacted by child welfare system experiences whether they are placed in foster care or remain with their families.

Ms. Zlotnik described efforts at PolicyLab to link research findings to policies that impact children in child welfare systems. She presented information from a national study of Medicaid data from 2002 to 2007 examining the use of pediatric psychotropic medication and pointed to legislation like the Fostering Connections Act of 2008 and provisions in the Affordable Care Act which are informed by research findings.

Commissioner Samuels focused on efforts by the Administration on Children, Youth and Families to move child welfare systems from a focus solely on the protection of children to one that will address the long-term effects of trauma among those who are at-risk. He pointed out that while it is necessary to move and place children, their traumatic experiences follow them and are often not sufficiently addressed.

Speakers included:

- **Mr. Bryan Samuels**, Commissioner of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Administration for Children, Youth and Families (ACYF)
- **Dr. Janet Schneiderman**, Research Associate Professor, University of Southern California School of Social Work
- **Ms. Sarah Zlotnik**, Senior Strategist, PolicyLab, The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia

Congressional Briefing: Social Workers Join Forces to Support Service Members, Veterans, and Their Families

On Wednesday, November 7, 2012 the CSWC, in conjunction with NASW, hosted a congressional briefing exploring the broad dimensions of social work with Service Members, Veterans, and their families. Moderated by Elizabeth Hoffler of NASW, this briefing explored issues related to the needs of Veterans, challenges related to mental and behavioral health, and issues facing women in the military. The central theme that emerged from the forum is that the sacrifice of military personnel and their families is broader than commonly recognized.

Dr. Jo Ann R. Coe Regan, an Accreditation Specialist with CSWE opened the session by describing her experiences as a social worker, educator, and the spouse of a military officer. She reported that there are currently 14 accredited MSW programs with a field of practice in military social work and a total of 29 programs with some content related to working with the military. Dr. Regan reported there were 623 students with field placements in a military-related setting and that the numbers are expected to grow. In addition, 13 programs have received grants from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) of the Department of the Health and Human Services (HHS) to fund field placements and provide certificate training in military social work.

Deborah Amdur, Chief Consultant, Care Management and Social Work Services in the Office of Patient Care Service at the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) reported that the VA trains 1,000 social workers annually. She noted that the VA employs 10,000 social workers, making it the largest single employer of social workers in the country and that many of those employed began there as interns. She stated that 41 percent of social workers currently employed by the VA were hired within the past four years, evidence of a growing demand for their skills and expertise.

LTC Jeffrey Yarvis, Deputy Commander and Vice President for Behavioral Health at Fort Belvoir Community Hospital, spoke of a call to action for social work in addressing the pressing needs of military personnel and their families. He noted there is often a conflict between the warrior ethos of the military, and the need for mental and behavioral health services.

Col. Ann McCulliss Johnson, Reserve Social Work Consultant to the Army Surgeon General, discussed the needs of Service Members in the National Guard and the Reserves who have had increasing exposure to combat during the past decade. In addition, she reminded the audience that the National Guard is often on the front lines in responding to disasters.

Rear Admiral Peter Delany, Director of the Center for Substance Abuse Treatment at SAMHSA, noted that substance abuse is often overlooked when addressing the psychosocial needs of military personnel and their families. RADM Delany noted that there is an increasing need for more social workers who specialize in substance abuse services and public health.

Speakers included:

- **Ms. Deborah Amdur**, VA Chief Consultant, Care Management and Social Work Service United States Department of Veterans Affairs
- **RADM Peter Delany**, RADM U.S. Public Health Service Director, Center for Behavioral Health Statistics and Quality Substance Abuse and Mental Health Service Administration
- **Dr. Jo Ann Regan**, Accreditation Specialist I, Council on Social Work Education
- **LTC Jeffrey Yarvis**, Deputy Commander/VP for Behavioral Health Fort Belvoir Community Hospital
- **Col. Ann McCulliss Johnson**, Reserve Component Social Work Consultant HQ, U.S. Army MEDCOM/OTSG

Congressional Briefing: Social Work and the Implementation of the Affordable Care Act (ACA)

The CSWC, in conjunction with the Society for Social Work Research (SSWR), will hold a congressional briefing addressing the implications of the ACA on the profession. Dr. Sarah Gehlert of The George Warren Brown School of Social Work at Washington University in St. Louis will serve as moderator.

Speakers will include:

- **Dr. Christina Andrews**, Assistant Professor, College of Social Work at the University of South Carolina
- **Dr. Julie Darnell**, Assistant Professor, Division of health Policy and Administration School of Public Health at the University of Illinois at Chicago
- **Dr. Tim McBride**, Professor, The George Warren Brown School of Social Work at Washington University in St. Louis

THE SOCIAL WORK PROFESSION HAS BEEN INSTRUMENTAL IN ACHIEVING CIVIL AND HUMAN RIGHTS ADVANCES IN THE UNITED STATES AND ACROSS THE GLOBE FOR MORE THAN A CENTURY. THE PRIMARY MISSION OF SOCIAL WORK IS TO ENHANCE HUMAN WELL-BEING AND HELP MEET THE BASIC NEEDS OF ALL PEOPLE, ESPECIALLY THE MOST VULNERABLE. SOCIAL WORKERS SERVE APPROXIMATELY 10 MILLION PEOPLE EACH DAY.



Congressman Towns Hands Reins of Congressional Social Work Caucus to Congresswoman Barbara Lee

Congressman Towns, who created the CSWC in 2010, announced his retirement at the end of the 112th Congress after a lifetime of service and commitment to those who most need a voice in Congress.

Congressman Towns has been an unwavering ally in the social work mission to address inequality and issues of social injustice, having served as Chair of the Congressional Black Caucus and the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee. He has consistently worked to ensure that his constituents, and fellow Americans, have access to services such as education and healthcare, and he has taken special care to support legislation that would protect our most vulnerable populations. Congressman Towns' vision not only served as the catalyst to create the CSWC, but also was pivotal in the creation of the most comprehensive piece of legislation ever introduced to address the workforce challenges facing the profession of social work, the Dorothy I. Height and Whitney M. Young, Jr. Social Work Reinvestment Act. Congressman Towns' efforts and accomplishments

have not only been important in securing the future of the profession, but also serve as a crucial reminder to our nation's decision makers of the invaluable services provided by social workers in every community in the country.

Congressman Towns quickly determined that the next Chair of the CSWC should be social worker and eight-term Congresswoman from California, Barbara Lee. Congresswoman Lee has been a consistent progressive voice on Capitol Hill, dedicated to social and economic justice, international peace, and civil and human rights. She notes that as a social work by profession, being an advocate for people in dealing with the federal bureaucracy has been one of her top priorities. She has aggressively represented the needs of the underserved and vulnerable people in her districts and throughout the U.S., having served as Chair of the Congressional Black Caucus, Co-chair of the Progressive Caucus, and co-founder of the Congressional Out of Poverty Caucus. Congresswoman Lee is Senior Democratic Whip and notes her top issues as safe communities, affordable housing, the homeless, low income energy assistance, job training, affordable health care, just immigration policies, a living wage, and women's rights. She was also the only Member of Congress to vote against the U.S.'s entrance into the Iraq War. Congresswoman Lee began her Congressional career as an intern in the office of Congressman Ron Dellums, who is also a social worker.

112TH CONGRESS MEMBERS OF THE CSWC

Edolphus Towns (NY-10) Chair & Founder

Rep. Jason Altmire (PA-4)

Rep. Karen R. Bass (CA-33)

Rep. Shelley Berkley (NV-1)

Rep. Sanford D. Bishop (GA-2)

Rep. Bruce Braley (IA-1)

Rep. Corrine Brown (FL-3)

Rep. G.K. Butterfield, Jr. (NC-1)

Rep. Andre Carson (IN-7)

Rep. Dennis Cardoza (CA-18)

Rep. Donna Christian Christensen (VI)

Rep. David N. Cicilline (RI-1)

Rep. Hansen Clarke (MI-3)

Rep. Yvette D. Clarke (NY-11)

Rep. Wm. Lacy Clay (MO-1)

Rep. Emanuel Cleaver, II (MO-5)

Rep. Steve Cohen (TN-9)

Rep. Gerald "Gerry" Connolly (VA-11)

Rep. John Conyers (MI-14)

Rep. Elijah E. Cummings (MD-7)

Rep. Danny K. Davis (IL-7)

Rep. Susan A. Davis (CA-53)

Rep. Rosa L. DeLauro (CT-3)

Rep. Lloyd Doggett (TX-25)

Rep. Keith Ellison (MN-5)

Rep. Bob Filner (CA-51)

Rep. Marcia L. Fudge (OH-11)
Rep. Raul Grijalva (AZ-7)
Rep. Luis V. Gutierrez (IL-4)
Rep. Alcee Hastings (FL-23)
Rep. Mazie Hirono (HI-2)
Rep. Eleanor Holmes Norton (DC)
Rep. Rush Holt (NJ-12)
Rep. Michael Honda (CA-15)
Rep. Darrell Issa (CA-49)
Rep. Jesse Jackson, Jr. (IL-2)
Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee (TX-18)
Rep. Barbara Lee (CA-9)
Rep. John Lewis (GA-5)
Rep. Dave Loebsack (IA-2)
Rep. Betty McCollum (MN-4)
Rep. Gregory W. Meeks (NY-6)
Rep. Michael H. Michaud (Me-2)
Senator Barbara Mikulski (MD)
Rep. Chris Murphy (CT-5)
Rep. Jerrold Nadler (NY-8)
Rep. Grace Napolitano (CA-38)
Rep. Donald M. Payne (NJ-10)
Rep. Todd Russell Platts (PA-19)
Rep. Jared Polis (CO-2)
Rep. Nick J. Rahall, II (WV-3)
Rep. Charles B. Rangel (NY-15)
Rep. Laura Richardson (CA-37)
Rep. Lucille Roybal-Allard (CA-34)
Rep. Bobby Rush (IL-1)
Rep. Linda T. Sanchez (CA-39)

Rep. Loretta Sanchez (CA-47)
Rep. Allyson Schwartz (PA-13)
Rep. Bobby Scott (VA-3)
Rep. Jose E. Serrano (NY-16)
Rep. Pete Stark (CA-13)
Senator Debbie Stabenow (MI)
Rep. Paul D. Tonko (NY-21)
Rep. Nikki Tsongas (MA-5)
Rep. Maxine Waters (CA-35)
Rep. Mel Watt (NC-12)
Rep. Henry Waxman (CA-30)
Rep. Joe Wilson (SC-2)
Rep. John Yarmuth (KY-3)

CONGRESSIONAL SOCIAL WORK CAUCUS **SOCIAL MEDIA**

SocialWorkCaucus-towns.house.gov
SocialWorkReinvestment.org

Twitter:

@socworkcaucus

Facebook:

www.facebook.com/pages/Congressional-Social-Work-Caucus

For more information about the Congressional Social Work Caucus or the National Association of Social Workers, please contact:

Mariah Jones, Office of Congresswoman Barbara Lee,
Mariah.jones@mail.house.gov

Elizabeth F. Hoffer, National Association of Social Workers,
ehoffer@naswdc.org



750 First Street NE, Suite 700 | Washington, DC 20002-4241