

COMMITTEE REPORTS

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

On June 9, the Legislative Committee completed a final draft of the New York State Clinical Social Work Licensing Bill, with the able editorial assistance of Hillel Bodek and Joe Ventimiglia. We hope the bill will be introduced when the new State Legislature meets in the fall of 1991. We cannot overstate the importance of this bill.

Our present certification bill only grants use of the title and states the requirements for certification. It does not describe the functions performed by holders of the title. Our new bill is more inclusive. It defines the functions of clinical social work and fosters protection for consumers. Furthermore, it ameliorates difficulties encountered with insurance companies based outside of New York State, which often refuse reimbursement to Certified Social Workers. These companies are, however, increasingly allowing reimbursement for mental health services rendered by practitioners who hold the title of Licensed Clinical Social Worker. In its present form, the bill will also automatically grant "R" status to those who receive licensure.

The activity of other mental health professions warrants a watchful eye. New York State psychologists have introduced a bill aimed at gaining hospital privileges with full membership and voting rights. This action reflects the fact that the highest percentage of mental health spending is for inpatient treatment. In this effort, psychologists demonstrate their orientation toward the future.

New York State nurses are also on the move. They introduced a vendorship bill (A4233, S2826) that calls for independent reimbursement for their psychiatric services. This bill did not pass the legislature. A broad-based bill was also introduced, which would give all Registered Nurses third-party reimbursement. This bill (A2194, S5109) calls for reimbursements for discharge planning and coordination of outpatient services, tasks traditionally managed by hospital social workers.

On a national level, psychologists are seeking Medicare reimbursement equal to that of medical doctors. Other non-medical providers would receive lower reimbursement. We are actively opposing this legislative effort.

John Chiaramonte, CSW

VENDORSHIP COMMITTEE

The Vendorship Committee has forwarded an updated list of self-insured companies, which do not reimburse clinical social workers, to the National Institute for Clinical Social Work Advancement (NICSWA) for marketing on a national level. NICSWA continues its discussions with Merrill Lynch, General Electric and AT&T. American Express Travel Related Services reimburses CSWs, but their Informational Services Corporation does not. We are working to market this branch of American Express.



PSYCHOTHERAPY OPENINGS

The Advanced Center for Psychotherapy has openings for therapists, preferably with an "R", part-time, Saturdays, afternoons and evenings, on a fee basis. Opportunity to work with experienced colleagues and receive outstanding supervision. Two locations in Queens. Pleasant surroundings; interesting range of patients. Send resume to:

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