

Approved by the Board of Directors September 30, 2006

2007 PUBLIC POLICY LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

Advocate for funding and access to quality, affordable health care, and mental health and other health services:

Areas of Focus:

- a. Expand access to quality health care, mental health and other health services for all Indiana residents
- b. Support legislation and administration policies that fund, expand and strengthen the Medicaid system.
- c. Promote and support initiatives that will fund and create wrap-around programs to address unmet needs among the insured and uninsured
- d. Advocate for a Single Payer system as well as a Universal Health Care Program

Encourage respect and support for GLBT civil rights:

Areas of Focus:

- a. Ensure equal protection for everyone under Federal and Indiana State law
- b. Expand the rights of residents not limit them; amend the State Civil Rights laws to include sexual orientation and gender identity
- c. Support policies that protect GLBT families and their children
- d. Oppose any constitutional amendment that restricts or prohibits same-sex marriage
Please reference NASW FACT SHEET at naswin.org

Support public policies that strengthen families and build communities:

Areas of Focus:

- a. Support efforts to reduce poverty and advocate for every Indiana resident to achieve self-sufficiency
- b. Educate leaders and educators about the need for primary prevention of violence
- c. Advocate for safer environments for children from neglect and abuse
- d. Support employment initiatives for all residents of Indiana
- e. We support careful stewardship of taxpayer funds in any plan to privatize parts of state or municipal government or state-administered programs or services, NASW believes that a critical evaluation and oversight process must be in place to protect all resident. NASW believes this process must ensure that goals and objectives are being met, positive outcomes are being achieved, economic savings are realized, and due process guarantees are in place to redress grievances.

Encourage, honor and support cultural and ethnic diversity, and strive to end discrimination and oppression:

Areas of Focus:

- a. Oppose any legislation or policy that might limit access to necessary human services to any resident of Indiana
- b. Ensure that all State laws and policies protect the best interest of all, and do not deny services to any one person based on their ethnicity, culture, citizenship status, or family income
- d. Promote increased resources and access to higher education for minorities and disadvantage groups
- e. Advocate for research, policies, and practice initiatives that will eliminate racial and cultural inequities in all human service and criminal justice systems
- e. Support initiatives, funding and programs that create opportunities for individuals to prevail over bias and discrimination

Promote appropriate education:

Areas of Focus:

- a. Support and advocate for funding and services that promote the healthy development of children
- b. Develop community supports for families within existing establishments (i.e. schools, hospitals)

- c. Abolish corporal punishment within school systems throughout the state
- d. Develop and expand Adult Basic Education programs within the community
- e. Promote comprehensive, and accurate sex education
- f. Advocate for alternative supports and educational services for high-risk children and families
- g. Advocate for increased graduation rates for all students
- h. Promote funding and support for all services and initiatives that improve the success of students in public schools

Advocate for and influence administrative rules, policies and legislation that promote ethical professional practice of social work:

Areas of Focus:

- a. Support and advocate for high standards of professionalism and competency within social work to protect consumers
- b. Educate lawmakers regarding the high standards of social work practice and the different degree and licensure distinctions for social workers
- c. Promote licensure laws and policies that reflect the exemplary education, competency, and ethical integrity of professional social workers
- d. Provide public testimony on issues of importance to the profession

Monitor the following areas and respond as appropriate:

- a. Voting Rights
- b. Mental Health
- c. Addictions
- d. Poverty
- e. Seniors/Aging Population
- f. Employment
- g. Insurance Availability and Viability

PUBLIC POLICY/LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE CHARGE

The Public Policy/Legislative Committee of the NASW Indiana Chapter proactively monitors and recommends advocacy on Federal, State and local policies, administrative issues and legislation affecting the clients, consumers and communities served by social workers. In conjunction with the Indiana Chapter Board of Directors, the Committee also connects NASW members with resources and issues impacting the social work profession, working with local and statewide coalitions in order to secure the best environment for those we serve.

► For further information, visit www.naswin.org or contact the Indiana Chapter of NASW at 317-923-9878 or naswin@naswin.org ◀