**Election Results**

As outgoing Secretary of the Board of Directors, I am pleased to announce the following results of our 2005 Chapter elections. All terms became effective on July 1, 2005. Please join me in welcoming our newly elected Board members as well as in extending a sincere thank you to the Chapter Committee on Nominations and Leadership Identification (CCNLI) for all their time and work on our behalf.  

Lesa Huff, NASW Idaho Board of Directors, Outgoing Secretary

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**Treasurer-Elect – Shelley Holmes**  
Chapter Board of Directors  
1-year term followed by  
3-year term as Treasurer

**Secretary – Wendy Perez**  
Chapter Board of Directors  
3-year term

**North Branch Chair – Amelia Ware**  
Chapter Board of Directors  
3-year term

**Southeast Branch Chair – Linda Sharp**  
Chapter Board of Directors  
3-year term

**MSW Student Representative – Kimberly Bickley**  
Chapter Board of Directors  
1-year term

**BSW Student Representative – Sarah Knott**  
Chapter Board of Directors  
1-year term

**CCNLI Far North Branch Representative – Christine Bunton**  
CCNLI Committee Member  
3-year term

**CCNLI South Central Branch Representative – Ruth Bondurant**  
CCNLI Committee Member  
3-year term

**CCNLI Southwest Branch Representative – Jim Knapp**  
CCNLI Committee Member  
3-year term

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**Special Recognition of our Outgoing Elected Chapter Leadership**

Linda Burch, President

Throughout her multi-year term, Linda has led the Idaho Chapter and chaired the Board of Directors contributing countless volunteer hours. She has accomplished so much during her tenure including updating our Chapter bylaws, representing Idaho as the co-chair for the Western Coalition to the recent 2005 Delegate Assembly, serving as the Treasurer for the national NASW Council of Chapter Presidents, spearheading the effort to hire a social worker in the role of Chapter Lobbyist/Member

Continued on Page 3
Idaho Chapter

P.O. Box 7393, Boise, ID 83707
Email: naswid@qwest.net
Phone: (208) 345-4060
Fax: (208) 345-4062
Website: www.naswidaho.org

Chapter Staff
Executive Director:
Linda L. Vermette, Ph.D.
Administrative Assistant:
Position Vacant
Lobbyist/Member Mobilizer:
Delmar Stone, LMSW
Office Intern:
Mary Kay Brunner
Newsletter Designer:
Larry A. Patrick
Webmaster: APT, Inc.

Office Location
1025 S. Capitol Blvd., Suite 105
Boise, Idaho 83706

NASW National Office
National Association of Social Workers
(800) 638-8799
Website: www.socialworkers.org

Submission Deadlines
January 1 Winter Issue
April 1 Spring Issue
July 1 Summer Issue
October 1 Fall Issue

Submission of Materials/Articles
Contact NASW Idaho Chapter at P.O. Box 7393, Boise, Idaho 83707 or call (208) 345-4060.

Editor’s Note
In the interest of unbiased and accurate communications, THE GATEKEEPER subscribes to the importance of avoiding materials that might imply discriminatory language, sexual, racial, ethnic, or other kinds of stereotyping or bias. THE GATEKEEPER is committed to the fair and equal treatment of individuals and groups. Materials submitted should not promote discriminatory attitudes or assumptions about people. Views expressed in this publication are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official position of NASW.

NASW Idaho Chapter Leadership

Elected Board Members – (voting)

President: JR Seaman, PhD, ACSW (208) 345-4060 (jr@jrseaman.com)
Vice President: Don Pierson, DSW, ACSW (208) 282-2170 (pierdona@isu.edu)
Secretary: Wendy Perez, LSW (wendy_hs31@hotmail.com)
Treasurer: Jacque Drake, LMSW (208) 344-5442 (jacquie@jhecker.com)
Treasurer-Elect: Shelley Holmes, LMSW (208) 319-0760 (saholmessw@yahoo.com)
Far North Branch Chair (Coeur d’Alene area): Chris Hartley, LSW (208) 699-4486 (chartley11@cs.com)
North Branch Chair (Lewiston area): Amelia Ware, LMSW, CADC (208) 305-5739 (ameware@netzero.net)
Southwest Branch Chair (Boise area): Lorrie Sloan Breshears, LMSW (208) 841-8256 cell (lorrie@apeboymonkeygirl.com)
South Central Branch Chair (Twin Falls area): Sue Sanden, LMSW (208) 734-7714 (susieq999@hotmail.com)
Southeast Branch Chair (Pocatello area): Linda Sharp, LCSW (208) 478-2050 (lindamoemom@cableone.net)
MSW Student Representative: Kimberly Bickley, BS (208) 426-4259 (kimberlybickley@boisestate.edu)
BSW Student Representative: Sarah Knott (208) 651-1788 (jazzlifeup@yahoo.com)
Legislative Committee Chair: Sunny Reed, MSW, BSW (208) 424-0943 (legiscom@qwest.net)

Elected Leadership – (non-voting)

Chapter Committee on Nominations & Leadership Identification (CCNLI) Chair:
Cheryl Simpson-Whitaker, MSW (208) 429-1203 (cheryls-w@cableone.net)
CCNLI Far North Representative: Christine Bunton, MSW (chrisrb12@hotmail.com)
CCNLI North Branch Representative: Wendy Nunez, MSW (208) 843-7330 ext 2123 (wendyn@nezperce.org)
CCNLI Southwest Branch Representative: Jim Knapp, LCSW (208) 426-1782
CCNLI South Central Branch Representative: Ruth Bondurant, LCSW, QCSW (208) 423-4934
CCNLI Southeast Branch Representative: Judy Deffinger, LCSW (208) 239-1631
Alternate Delegate to 2005 Delegate Assembly: Andrea Leeds, LCSW, ACSW (208) 322-6775 (aleeds@msn.com)

Appointed Leadership

CEU Committee Chair: Loretta Constantinidis, LCSW (208) 381-3958 (constanl@slrmc.org)
United Vision for Idaho Representatives: Bill Simpson-Whitaker, Ph.D., ACSW (208) 426-2579 (wwhitak@boisestate.edu) and Shelisa Miller, BSW Student
Idaho Women’s Network Delegates: Sunny Reed, MSW, BSW (208) 424-0943 (smreed@ideasforyou.com); Linda Vermette, Ph.D. (208) 345-4060 (naswid@qwest.net)
Better Way Coalition Representative: Kennette McWilliams, LMSW, LSW (208) 381-2721
Mentoring Program Chair: Maureen O’Leary, LMSW (208) 345-4060 (constanl@slrmc.org)
Committee on Ethics:
End-of-Life Committee Chair:
PACE Committee Chair:
Hello colleagues!! For the 2006 year, your Board of Directors has set out a busy agenda for the membership, the details of which you can read about in our work plan (see page 7). They include goals such as promoting the social work profession in Idaho, advancing professional values and ethics, advocating for social work jobs, and providing training through conferences and Branch offerings.

Achieving any or all of these goals requires each of us to commit to giving some part of our time and effort to our colleagues and our profession. NASW is a volunteer organization with part-time staff, but we can achieve lofty goals if we each take some responsibility for a piece of the work. Think about it for a minute and pledge to give something back to NASW during this year.

Your Board meets every three months to oversee the administrative and financial activities of the state organization. I would like to extend an invitation to each of you to provide some input to your Board. If you have any time to give us at the State or Branch level, we would also love to hear from you. You can e-mail (naswilqwest.net) or call the office (208/345-4060) or you can e-mail me. It is easy to remember my e-mail address: JR@jrsamman.com.

As you know, I am from Coeur d'Alene. Electing a President from the north end of the state shows you have a venturesome spirit, commitment to statewide issues and a willingness to trust that you can be served from other than just southern Idaho. Your Board is comprised of representatives from all parts of the state; so your interests are not limited geographically. Also, we have a new Executive Director, Dr. Linda Vermette. You will find she is friendly, capable and very helpful. She has been a joy to work with as both of us start to find our sea legs. We are here to serve you, help you and listen to you.

The community education programs, beginning in September, to which we offer our sincere appreciation to Linda and hope she finds time for some well deserved rest and relaxation!

Lesa Huff, Secretary

In addition to maintaining our official Chapter minutes during her multi-year term, Lesa has been an active member of our Board of Directors offering her guidance and wisdom regarding the direction of the Chapter as well as serving as a liaison between the Board and the Chapter Political Action Candidate Election Committee. Many thanks and best wishes to Lesa!

Ruth McQuinn, North Branch Chair

Ruth has dedicated her time and energy during her multi-year term to providing high quality continuing education to North Branch members and serving as a valuable mentor to other incoming Branch Chairs. She also shared her area members' views with the Chapter office and the Board of Directors and provided valuable oversight during Board meetings regarding the overall management of the Chapter. Our gratitude goes out to Ruth!

Deanah Messenger, MSW Student Representative, and Allison Burton, BSW Student Representative

Deanah and Allison have both served a one-year term on the Chapter Board of Directors representing the unique student perspective. We appreciate their commitment to providing this valuable input and look forward to their ongoing contributions, both to NASW and the profession as they embark on their social work careers!

Chris Magera, CCNLI South Central Branch Representative

Sheryl Ford, CCNLI South Central Branch Representative

Chris, Deme and Sheryl helped identify potential candidates in their respective areas of the state to run for elected Chapter leadership positions and then assisted in the overall election ballot process following very detailed guidelines from national NASW. Their contributions will have a critical and lasting impact on the Chapter as those elected into leadership will help NASW and the social work profession navigate the many future opportunities and challenges ahead.

Kudos to all of you!

NASW Idaho Chapter
Hires a New Executive Director

The NASW-Idaho Chapter Board of Directors hired Linda L. Vermette, Ph.D. as the new Executive Director effective June 1, 2005. Linda comes to us with a wealth of administrative and mental health experience. She has experience as an executive director of non-profit organizations. She also has served as an administrator for the Boise School District where she developed a nationally recognized prevention/intervention substance abuse program serving over 25,000 children attending grades K through 12.

Linda’s experience also includes serving as University Coordinator for the Substance Abuse and Violence Prevention Program at Iowa State University. In her private practice she specialized in working with high-risk adolescents and their families. Most of her clients were involved with substance abuse and addiction or were children impacted by Fetal Alcohol Syndrome and Fetal Alcohol Effects.

Please join us in welcoming Linda to NASW-Idaho Chapter.
As part of the National Social Work Public Education Campaign, NASW has created a consumer website which can be found at www.helpstarthe.or.g. The objectives for this website are to:

- Provide individuals and families with relevant and accurate online information,
- Feature the best of social work in a user-friendly and engaging format,
- Showcase social work experts on a range of consumer-interest topics,
- Make finding a social worker and social work services easier, and
- Invite people to tell their positive stories about social workers in their communities.

The new site will be promoted to the public starting this August and we need your help to make it an invaluable community resource. Two ways of supporting this effort are to add yourself to the user friendly social worker search tool found on this site and to submit web content still needed in a variety of areas. Adding your name to the social worker database tool:

www.helpstarthe.or.g/aspdocs/nasw_landing.asp

To submit web content in the form of current trends, options, how social workers help, tip sheets, resources and real life stories go to www.socialwork-ers.org/consumers Web/contribut/default.asp. Submissions will be reviewed by the National NASW staff and you will be contacted if your information is selected for posting.
NNU GRADUATE SOCIAL WORK PROGRAM ACCREDITED

The Northwest Nazarene University (Nampa, ID) Department of Social Work received word on June 13th that the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) granted the MSW Program accreditation in its June 2005 meeting. Accreditation has been extended for students graduating during the academic year 2002-2003 through June of 2009. A process is in place for continuous renewal of the accreditation according to a schedule established by CSWE.

NNU’s MSW program has been accredited through the Northwest Association of Colleges and Universities since 2001. Under this accreditation, all graduates from NNU’s MSW Program are qualified to practice as LMSW or LCSW’s in the state of Idaho. Graduates currently licensed and working in Idaho at either of the above levels of social work licensure are guaranteed continuous masters’ level eligibility as long as they renew their Idaho State License on a yearly basis.

You can learn more about the program at www.nnu.edu. Click on “academics”, then “grad programs” and then “social work” or e-mail the Program Coordinator, Carolyn Lancaster, at CKLancaster@nnu.edu.

GRADUATES OF ADLERIAN PROFESSIONAL STUDIES PROGRAM

Congratulations to the individuals listed below who have taken advantage of the Adlerian training series NASW-Idaho Chapter has been offering in northern and eastern Idaho. They have all successfully completed the necessary requirements to obtain a Certificate in Professional Studies of Adlerian Psychology by completing three, two-day workshops and attending an Adlerian conference sponsored by the Idaho Society for Individual Psychology (ISIP) here in Boise.

Dean Allen  Karen Burton  Mary Conder  LaFawn Hamm
Tim Hansen  Eric MacEachern  Samee McMichael  Ruth McQuinn
Linda Sharp  Phillip White

We will continue to partner with ISIP to make this valuable learning opportunity available as long as interest persists. Members desiring access to similar training in the Treasure Valley should contact Tom McIntyre, ISIP Executive Secretary at (208) 344-7194.

CONGRATULATIONS!!

Idaho NASW Idaho Chapter member, Josephine Halfhide, has been selected as a 2005-2006 Consuelo W. Gosnell Memorial Scholarship recipient from the National Association of Social Workers Foundation. The Gosnell Scholarships are awarded to masters’ degree candidates in social work who are interested in working with American Indian/Alaska Native and Hispanic/Latino populations, or in public nonprofit agency settings. We commend Josephine’s efforts to provide social service outreach in these important areas!

RENEW ONLINE

Now NASW members can renew their memberships online. If your membership expires within the next three months, you are eligible for online renewal.

1. Go to www.socialworkers.org
2. Click on “Member Log In.”
3. Enter your NASW username and password.
4. Click on “Member Center.”
5. Click on “Renew Your NASW Membership Online.”

e-Renew today.
Highlighting NASW FY 2005 Work Plan Accomplishments

Strategic Areas

Promote the Social Work Profession

- Kennette McWilliams, LMSW, appointed to continue NASW representation on statewide coalition, “A Better Way”, for death and dying issues
- Submitted article to statewide papers and BSU Focus Magazine regarding annual SW Award winners (SW of the Year on faculty at BSU)
- Contracted with Northern Rockies News Service to promote SW issues thru statewide radio spots
- 3-month long display at Boise Public Library focusing on NASW and SW practice
- SW exhibit at “Get the Scoop” community resource conference in Nampa

Advance Professional Values and Ethics

- Appointed new COI Chair, Elizabeth Allen, LMSW, ACSW, Esq.
- ED and COI Chair participated in training regarding recent changes in national COI procedures
- Provided 1-2 hr ethics workshop in 3 of our 5 Chapter Branches (free to members)
- Southeast Branch also offered EOL ethics presentation during 1-day workshop
- NASW Cultural Competency Standards published in fall newsletter
- Hosted SW Month Celebration at Idaho Hispanic Cultural Center with keynote speaker on “Working with Diversity”

Advocate for Social Work Jobs

- Lobbyist attended pertinent Legislative Committee meetings and met with various legislators on issues of concern
- Testimony provided at committee hearings on key issues
- Letters and emails sent to legislators on key issues
- Met with IDHW on regular basis regarding issues such as PSR services, Any Door Initiative, Medicaid, agency budget development
- Met with Joe Brunson, Deputy Director, IDHW, to discuss areas of member interest
- NASW representation at all Licensing Board meetings
- Career development article in spring newsletter and related resource links on website

Strengthen the Organization

- Secured professional graphic design services for newsletter and brochures
- Secured professional website design and management
- Partnered with various schools of SW as well as other professional membership organizations to sponsor educational offerings
- Obtained grant funding to help support training events
- Hired a new Executive Director
- Recruited a SW intern to provide Chapter program support and another to assist with legislative efforts
- Moved to larger office space and purchased updated office equipment

Provide Valued Membership Services

- Sponsored multiple statewide trainings spanning from 2 hours to 2 days
- Offered Branch workshops which were free to members
- Offered 3 two-day Adlerian trainings in north and southeast areas
- Offered 3 Licensure Exam Prep courses in Boise, Nampa and CDA
- Offered one-day EOL workshop in Idaho Falls
- Offered one-day SW Month training in Nampa – three practice areas
- Held a two-day Legislative Advocacy event
- Continued to provide Mentoring Program, led by new Chair, Maureen O’Leary
- Published quarterly newsletter, THE GATEKEEPER, containing resources, policy updates, informational articles, and other information of interest to members

Effective Participation in Policy Making Efforts

- Active NASW representation on United Vision for Idaho’s Board, the Legislative Committee within the Idaho Women’s Network, and the Leadership Team for the Better Way Coalition
- Hired an LSMW as Chapter Lobbyist/Member Mobilizer
- Endorsed several legislative candidates supporting SW issues
- Invited all endorsed, elected candidates to evening dinner reception and Gary Bailey keynote address at 2005 Legislative Advocacy Day
- Helped organize legislative candidate election forums
- Had opinion editorial piece on family planning health care services extension legislation from Legislative Committee Chair published in The Idaho Statesman
- Sent out press release regarding 2005 Legislative Advocacy Day
- Sent out press release regarding marriage amendment to state constitution
- National President, Gary Bailey, and NASW Idaho President, Lobbyist and Student Intern met with key policy makers during Legislative Advocacy Day
- Participated in organizing a press conference regarding proposed social security changes
- Developed a list of member experts to testify on key issues

National Social Work Public Education Campaign

If we don’t tell our story, who will?

Every day, millions of people are helped by a social worker. They make a difference. Help us let the world know. It’s time to tell our story.

Help make this historic campaign a reality.

Donations of $50 or more will receive a Professional Social Worker pin. Donations of $100 or more will receive a 34kg, gold-embossed Professional Social Worker pin. Donations to support social workers as educators, experienced and skilled. Work to show your commitment to the social work profession.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SOCIAL WORKERS
750 First Street NE, Suite 700
Washington, DC 20002-4241
NASWF

For additional information, or to contribute online, visit www.naswfoundation.org or call 800/742-4089.
NASW FY 2006 Work Plan Update

The following items are priorities for FY 2006:

Promote the Social Work Profession

1. Promote social work contributions to the community:
   - In coordination with Advocacy Days, NASW-Idaho Chapter will staff an exhibit table during Legislative Session at the Idaho Statehouse. Chapter members including Legislative Committee members, Board members, and Branch Chairs will be needed to help staff the booth. The student intern working with the Legislative Committee will coordinate this.
   - A chair update section will be added to the newsletter beginning with the Fall 2005 issue to better inform members of what is happening in their local areas. Linda Vermette will develop a calendar related to The GATEKEEPER so chairs all know when articles would be due.
   - Promote NASW-National’s Public Education Program to facilitate the Chapter reaching its goal of having 10 members statewide join this program.
   - The Board will develop a list of ideas about what “community outreach activities” are and how we might go about coordinating the events.
2. Priority: one ethics workshop will be held in each branch during FY 2006.
3. We explore the possibility of developing a professional development workshop or training for social workers. Sunny will look into resources and will report back to the board.

Strengthen the Organization

1. Priority: Focus on non-members.
   - By the October Board meeting, President JR Seaman will develop a non-member survey.
   - Linda Vermette will send a letter to 10 non-members each month beginning September 2005.
   - Linda Vermette and JR Seaman will develop a new member recruitment proposal which will be discussed at the next board meeting.
2. Priority: Give a copy of Social Work speaks to each Social Work School to have in the library on reserve.
3. Priority: ED going to orientation in October and February.
4. Make all board positions 3 year terms.
5. Develop guidelines & explore development of an LSW Exam Prep Course.

Provide Valued Membership Services

1. Priority: Recruit members for the Mentoring Program Committee.
2. Maintain an effective level of professional social work participation in areas of policymaking and implementation:

Welcome New Members!

The NASW-Idaho Chapter extends a warm welcome to all who have joined our professional organization since April!!

Far North Branch
Jennifer Murphy James Edwards
Lucinda George Kristy Schoonmaker
Roxanne Anderson-Printz

North Branch
Molly Tucker Kristina Taylor
Amanda Swam

Southwest Branch
Debra Ploss Jennifer Andrew
Melissa Paller Diane Hinds
Heather Donahue Jenni Eldredge
Jenny Kendall Stacie Kinney
Jacob Durtschi Jan Taylor

Southeast Branch
Kit Allan Katey Gott
Carla Harada Teresa Knox
Cory Price BA Tweedy
Russell Nugent Timmie John

“Ethical Decision Making with Difficult Cases: Practical Guidelines and Strategies for Minimizing Risk”
Frederic Reamer, MSW, PhD
An in-depth exploration of complex, challenging ethical dilemmas. A series of “hard” ethics cases, identify conflicting professional duties and obligations, and apply decision-making and risk-management protocols designed to protect clients, relevant third parties, and practitioners will be the focus. This will be an in-depth case discussion rather than a broad, introductory overview of ethical issues.

October 7, 2005
Bellevue Red Lion, Bellevue, WA
6 CEUs – Register at www.nasw-wa.org or Contact NASW-WA at info@nasw-wa.org
Resources
For Professionals

Co-Occurring Disorders

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) recently published Treatment Improvement Protocol 42 (TIP 42), “Substance Abuse Treatment for Persons with Co-Occurring Disorders”.

Content highlights include definitions and terms, workforce development, assessment, treatment approaches, traditional settings and models, special settings and specific populations, and mental disorders. To obtain this helpful resource contact SAMHSA’s National Clearinghouse for Alcohol and Drug Information at 1-800-729-6686 and ask for No. BKD515 or go to www.coc.samhsa.gov.

Research Information Regarding Children and Families

Child Trends, founded in 1979, is a non-profit, nonpartisan research center dedicated to improving the lives of children and their families by conducting research and providing science-based information to the public and decision-makers. For additional information about Child Trends, including a complete set of available Research Briefs, visit their website at www.childtrends.org. For the latest information on more than 90 key indicators of child and youth well-being, visit the Child Trends Databank at www.childtrendsdatabank.org.

New Web-based Statewide Continuing Educational Calendar for Healthcare Professionals

This new interactive calendar can be searched by discipline and location of CE event. Just log onto www.IdahoAHEC.org and click on the Continuing Ed Calendar feature at the left. For more information, contact Nancy Bardsley at nbardsley@mtnstatesgroup.org.

“*The purpose of life is a life of purpose.*”
Robert Byrne

Health, Racial Equality Go Hand in Hand

*Dr. Al Sanchez, NASW member, NNU Professor of Social Work and Executive Director of the Idaho Hispanic Caucus, had the following excellent opinion piece in a recent issue of the Idaho Statesman.*

(Edition Date: 07-27-2005)

Earlier this month, 29 Latino farm workers were exposed to harmful pesticides without protective equipment or any warning that the fields had just been sprayed. The workers had to be rushed to the hospital for nausea, headaches and severe lung damage. Many of these workers are uninsured.

Shortly after, the Idaho Community Action Network released a report, written by the Northwest Federation of Community Organizations and the Applied Research Center, titled “Closing the Gap: Solutions to Race-Based Health Disparities.” As the title suggests, this excellent report presents a number of issues and solutions that affect people without access to health care.

The report says a lot about what we should be doing right here in Idaho. Even though health in the United States has improved, people of color still suffer higher rates of death and illness from conditions like asthma, diabetes, cancer, heart disease, and a range of other illnesses. The asthma death rate for Latinos is twice the rate for whites in some parts of the country, and for African Americans the death rate from asthma is up to seven times as high as whites. These differences in the status of our health are known as “health disparities.”

One of the most significant issues that is causing these disparities is that people of color do not have the same access to health care as other Americans. For example, one in three Latinos, one in four American Indians and Alaska Natives, and one in five African and Asian Americans lack health insurance, compared to one in nine whites.

Unsafe working conditions, lack of interpreters, and lack of access to health care are all linked to a severe but often overlooked health crisis. This is a crisis that is literally killing our people. This disparity is becoming one of the nation’s greatest and most pressing health challenges.

Nationally, we have a pretty good picture of what is going on with the health of people of color. Here in Idaho, we know very little about their health status. We know that health care facilities collect the vital statistics on health data care provision by race and ethnicity, but little information is made available.

Beyond the immediate emergency care that was provided, how will the innocent farm workers who were recently poisoned in Canyon County get their health needs met, and how will we know?

We need to support and enforce policies that govern safe work places, schools and neighborhoods. We also need sound information about the health status of our communities of color to help us better understand how to improve access, where to direct resources, and how to address the disparities that exist for people of color.

Other states have established offices of minority health as a way of helping to address these issues, and to eliminate health disparities for people of color. An office of minority health can guide policymakers as they make decisions that affect the health of people of color, not only in areas like Canyon County, but across the state.

As we work toward this goal, health and racial equity must go hand in hand. We have a long way to go before everyone lives, works and learns in safe and healthy environments. It is truly a matter of life and death.
What is a durable power of attorney?
A durable power of attorney (also known as a financial power of attorney) is a legal document where one person (the principal) authorizes another (the agent) to act on the principal’s behalf regarding financial decisions. It allows a person to plan for care and control of property in the event he or she becomes incapacitated.

Powers of attorney are the single most important documents to put in place so that a family member or trusted friend will have the legal authority to carry out your wishes if you can no longer speak or act for yourself.

Without a power of attorney, if something happens to you that results in your inability to make decisions, your family may later face court proceedings and court-supervised guardianship and/or conservatorship.

Do I need a lawyer to draft my power of attorney?
No. But without proper, specific wording, your agent may not be able to deal with some of the issues that are important to you. Clients have come with “form document” powers of attorney they purchased at an office supply store or downloaded off the Internet. While these documents legally authorize persons to act on another’s behalf, there are certain things a traditional or standard power of attorney may not address. In fact, the law provides there are certain matters your agent cannot handle unless there is specific wording in the document which empowers them to do so. Such matters include the power to make gifts on your behalf and the power to remove and/or add assets to a trust.

Case in point...
Janet came into our office to discuss Medicaid planning for her mother, Mildred*. Mildred was in a nursing home costing over $5,000 a month. Her income was only $800 per month. With assets totally $80,000, Janet knew her mother would run out of money quickly. Janet was interested in learning how gifts affected her mother’s Medicaid eligibility. If Mildred gifted money and then met the spend down and thereafter qualified for Medicaid benefits, Janet could use the gifted funds to help keep Mildred in a private room.

Mildred was incapacitated, but Janet had a power of attorney that allowed her to hire an attorney on Mildred’s behalf. I told Janet that as long as her power of attorney had the proper language, Mildred may have provided that Janet could make a gift of her mother’s assets and Mildred might thereafter qualify for Medicaid. Any transfer must be considered carefully to take into account penalty periods or periods of Medicaid ineligibility that might be incurred as a result of that gift.

Upon review of Mildred’s power of attorney, I had to explain to Janet that she did not have the authority to make any gift of her mother’s money. I further explained that if Janet did begin gifting under the current power of attorney, it may be considered elder abuse.

Janet was devastated: “But, I am her only child... she left everything to me.” I had to tell Janet it did not matter. “I am on all of her bank accounts,” she said. I told her that unless she contributed money to those accounts, it did not matter. Janet then pointed out the standard language in her mother’s power of attorney which states, “I authorize my attorney-in-fact to engage in, transact and perform any and all actions as my attorney-in-fact may think proper; as fully to all intents and purposes as I might or could do personally if personally present at the time thereof.” Again, I had to tell Janet it did not matter. Unless the power of attorney specifically authorizes the agent to make gifts to him or herself or to some third party, an agent cannot legally transfer assets in that manner pursuant to a financial power of attorney.

Unfortunately, this situation is not unique. Many people feel their power of attorney allows their agent to do anything and everything. Had Mildred gone to an elder law attorney familiar with Medicaid and estate planning while she was still competent to sign a power of attorney, she would have had a power of attorney in place that would allow greater flexibility.

Bottom line...
If you want to include language which would empower your agent to have the most flexibility to deal with issues seniors face, you should consult with an experienced elder law attorney for assistance in drafting your durable financial power of attorney.

If you want to include language which would empower your agent to have the most flexibility to deal with issues seniors face, you should consult with an experienced elder law attorney for assistance in drafting your durable financial power of attorney.
Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage Summary for Medicare Providers

Medicare’s new Prescription Drug Coverage will begin in January 2006. This coverage will be available to all Medicare beneficiaries regardless of how they get their health care today or whether they have existing drug coverage.

**People with both Medicare and Medicaid (“Dual Eligibles”) will transition from Medicaid prescription drug coverage into a Medicare Prescription Drug Plan effective January 1, 2006.**

This new benefit requires every Medicare beneficiary to make an important health care decision. Patients may ask you, a trusted source as their healthcare providers, for information about the new drug coverage. The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) appreciates your tireless efforts caring for Medicare beneficiaries, and will assist you and your patients as the drug benefit implementation unfolds.

Information designed especially for Medicare providers about the new Medicare Drug benefit is available on the CMS website: www.cms.hhs.gov/medicare/medform/pdbma/provider.asp.

**Here is a snapshot of the Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage:**

- Medicare drug coverage is available starting January 1, 2006, to all Medicare beneficiaries who enroll in a Medicare drug plan.
- All dual eligibles will be transitioned from Medicaid drug coverage to Medicare drug coverage as of January 1, 2006.
- There will be a nominal cost per prescription for every beneficiary regardless of income and assets.
- Help for paying drug plan costs is available for Medicare beneficiaries with incomes under 150% Federal Poverty Level (FPL).
- Institutionalized dual-eligibles have no cost sharing.
- Plans must include retail, home infusion, long-term care, and I/T/U pharmacies.
- Plans must provide convenient pharmacy access.
- Formularies must include a broad distribution of therapeutic categories and classes, an exception and appeal process, and protections for those transitioning from Medicaid drug coverage to Medicare drug coverage.

**Beneficiary Costs for those with incomes above 150% FPL:**

- Generally about a $37 monthly premium and an annual $250 deductible.
- 25% of drug costs from $250 to $2,250 (Medicare pays 75%).
- After $3,600 total out-of-pocket spending on prescriptions, 5% of subsequent drug costs for remainder of the year (Medicare pays 95% at this point).
- There are higher premiums for those who wait to enroll and do not have drug coverage at least as good as Medicare’s prescription drug coverage.

**Summer mailings/outreach events:**

CMS will be sending letters to people who receive Medicare and Medicaid informing them of their automatic eligibility to receive financial assistance, otherwise called “low-income subsidy” (LIS), to pay for their drug benefit cost sharing.

Other people with incomes under 150% FPL and limited resources will receive letters with LIS applications from the Social Security Administration alerting them that they may be eligible to receive the assistance. People who don’t receive an application may still qualify! Encourage them to apply for extra help with their Medicare drug costs!

In July pharmacies and many other organizations will be holding LIS enrollment events in their communities to assist Medicare beneficiaries. Drug plans will be approved in September. Enrollment in Medicare drug plans begins November 15, 2005.

This CMS document “Part B versus Part D drug benefit coverage” maybe of interest to you and can be found at: www.cms.hhs.gov/medicare/medform/pdbma/

To speak with staff from the CMS Region 10 Provider Services Branch, or to arrange a speaker for an event or a conference call training for your association or practice, please contact Toni Lysen, Provider Liaison, CMS Seattle Regional Office at antonette.lysen@cms.hhs.gov or call (206) 615.3802.
WHO TOOK THE “SOCIAL” OUT OF SOCIAL WORK?

by Charlie Pohl, LMSW – Member of NASW-Idaho’s Legislative Committee

One Aesop’s fable has an elderly man teaching his 12 sons a lesson. He gives each of them a stick and asks each to break it, which they easily do. Then he ties 12 sticks into a bundle and asks each of them to try to break it and none of them can. The moral of the story had something to do with the strength of numbers and unity. Cohesion has traditionally been a hallmark and strength of the social work profession. However, lately it feels like our bundle is breaking down into individual sticks and our voices and those of our vulnerable clients are being lost.

Several trends seem to be emerging over the past several years. The first is the decreasing membership in almost every professional organization of which I am a member. The fewer voices that an organization represents, the softer, and more easily ignored, professional voice it has resulting in fewer collection points for interaction. Ideally organizations such as ours can perform the function of the village well, a point of contact where all who thirst could gather to have their thirst slaked physically, mentally, socially and spiritually.

Another trend is the increased advertising for CEUs online or by use of audio and videotapes. While undoubtedly a boon to those with tight finances or living in remote areas, it does not allow for the face-to-face questioning that happens at a conference nor the reflection with colleagues during breaks nor socializing in the evenings. The applicability of the material to practice is lost. New knowledge, instead of being mulched to nourish a growing practice, can become a simple ground cover of dogma.

The other trend that is alarming is social service agencies particalizing their service delivery systems. New workers, many of whom are recent graduates, are expected to find their own supervision. One hour a week of off-site remote supervision is not nearly enough to develop competent professionals. In my early days in the profession 20+ years ago, the clinical supervisor was on the agency roster and available for extended orientation, urgent and emergent consultation, staff meetings and case conferences. There were other senior clinicians with whom one could consult and consort. Now, many new professionals seem to feel like street orphans and the traditions, knowledge, values and wisdom accumulated over the past century is being lost.

With funding for social services shrinking, the level of individual competitiveness has been rising along with concerns about how to fill one’s office practice. Every other practitioner can feel like a threat. However, what about all the other vulnerable people who do not have access to services? Systems theory informs us that the locus of control is not always in the individual parts and may instead be in the surrounding systems. Individually, we cannot impact the greater systems. We cannot help 45+ million Americans who are uninsured for example. Only as a cohesive group working together can we impact the great social ills. We can be brilliant clinicians and still fail the mission.

On a daily basis, outrageous and false statements are made about our collective values. Tolerance and the importance of understanding others and their cultures are becoming endangered-species values in the country. Yet, rarely do we see social workers speaking out in the media or being politically active. We are watching the foundations of our most sacred principles erode away and it is hard to find even a whimper of protest. As a bumper sticker recently proclaimed: “If you’re not outraged, you’re not paying attention!” Benjamin Franklin once said about our Founding Fathers during the Revolution that if they did not hang together they would all hang separately. Are we in danger of doing this now?

Someone once said that all that was necessary for evil to take over the world was for the good people to do nothing. In a profession that prizes the virtues of listening and understanding, the time is here for us also to embrace the virtue of finding our own voices, and take a stand for and tell the stories of those being ground under the wheels of the “free market economy” in these neo-Dickensonian times. And we do not need arias; we need a full chorus singing with one voice.
The following is a graduation address given by NASW Student Member Donald Schweitzer just before receiving his MSW from Boise State University.

I want to start by saying how personally thrilled I am that you chose me to speak here today. I feel my only real qualification is that I have suffered right along side each of you. But we have made it.

I love to read. And one of my favorite characters in literature is Don Quixote, that madman who traveled across Europe in search of the next great struggle for freedom and justice, but is remembered more often for foolishly tilting at windmills he thought were dragons. I believe that social workers and Don Quixote have a lot in common.

When it comes to making positive changes to our society, social workers are often viewed as modern day Don Quixotes. The difference is that we actually see the dragons in our society while others see harmless windmills. And so our ideas and viewpoints are frequently scoffed at, ridiculed, or outright attacked.

We are told our opinions are too simplistic, will never work. They are just too Pollyannaish. I hate it when someone pats me on the head and says, “Now isn’t that a cute little social worker, trying to save the world.” Well, as my mama used to say, “If that’s what they think, they got another think coming.”

Social work is not the profession of placaters and I will not have my social work values pushed to the back of the bus. I’m proud to be a social worker. Social workers have a rich and significant history in this country. Many of the privileges we, and all society, enjoy today are due in large part because somewhere in history a social worker stood up and said, “no more.”

No more to 14-hour work days for children.
No more to women not having the right to vote.
No more to standing by while entire groups of citizens are denied basic human rights because of the color of their skin.

As social workers we have received the Nobel Peace Prize; we have sat on the President’s cabinet; we have created schools and clinics for the poor, and we have started colleges to train the next generation of social workers. I say again, I am proud to be a social worker.

Soon, if not already, we will be thrust into the job market. Thoughts of licensure, supervision, and CEU’s will dominate our every thought. And we will enter this job market in a variety of positions as therapists, case managers, PSR workers, or maybe even directors of programs or agencies.

While those are honorable and vital positions, I want to encourage us to strive for something more, to embrace the fullness of the social work profession.

Because the fact of the matter is we are NOT therapists; we are NOT case managers; we are NOT PSR workers. We are social workers and while social workers carry out those jobs, we do more. We knock on the doors we have been told are shut for eternity and if no one answers: we organize, we advocate, we agitate, we protest, we demonstrate.

We smash that door down. That is what social workers do. That is our history and that is the only way we will have a future.

The essence of social work is about working for social change. And we are needed today more than ever. Right here in Idaho, our own state government seemingly meets each year to worship at the altar of big business. They offer up endless tax cuts to corporations while sacrificing quality social and education programs. They have turned our institutes of higher learning into nothing more than giant advertising billboards to promote a second-rate product.

At the National level, the very programs that provide life-sustaining services to most of our clients are under attack. The federal government is slashing funding for Medicaid, low-income housing, and economic development in rural areas such as Idaho.

As we sit here today, they are going after social security, a program developed by social workers. They want nothing less than to kill it. For they know if they can destroy social security, the remaining programs that we’ve worked so hard to develop, will be easy to dispose of.

This is not the time for social workers to become complacent. There are too many vulnerable people out there counting on us to stand firm, to hold the line, to stand in the gap. It is now our turn to say “no more.”

“No more” cuts to education, “no more” cuts in social programs, and “no more” to the bigoted hateful attack on the gays in our community. “No more.”

As social workers, we must muster the courage to do this. We can make a difference, but only if we act. Let the madman Don Quixote guide us when he says,

“One man scorned and covered with scars still strove with his last ounce of courage to reach the unreachable stars; and the world was better for this.”

As we go from here today, let’s celebrate, let’s enjoy our accomplishments, but let us NOT be satisfied with simply making a living, let’s make a difference. Thank you.

Ed. Note – Donald Schweitzer recently left Idaho to accept a professional position. We wish him well. He will be sorely missed.
NASW Joins Effort to Eliminate Poverty

by Lyn Stoesen, NASW News Staff

NASW has joined ONE: The Campaign to Make Poverty History. NASW representatives attended the ONE Campaign meeting in Scotland to urge international leaders to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDG).

NASW is partnering with the ONE Campaign to help Americans learn about and respond to the AIDS crisis and extreme poverty, in part by supporting the MDGs which were established in 2000 as a set of goals agreed upon by 189 UN-member countries to advance social, political and economic development by 2015. THE MDGs include eradicating extreme poverty, achieving universal primary education, promoting gender equality, reducing child mortality, improving maternal health, combating HIV/AIDS and other diseases, ensuring environmental sustainability and developing a global partnership for development.

The ONE Campaign is urging the United States to help achieve the MDGs by promoting an increase in the volume and quality of development assistance, just and fair trade agreements and the elimination of debt for heavily indebted poor countries.

“We are strongly supporting the goals of the ONE Campaign and others to eradicate poverty,” said Leticia Diaz, NASW’s Senior Policy Associate.

“Social workers should care about this,” she said. “What happens in developing countries affects us, no matter where we are.”

As part of NASW’s work to end poverty, the association urges members to send letters to President Bush asking him to provide greater support for equitable economic development.

Luisa Lopez, NASW Director of Human Rights and International Affairs, said NASW will “have the opportunity to work much more closely with organizations to get social workers more connected” with groups working to eradicate extreme poverty in the U.S. and internationally.

“This is a time in history when significant change can be achieved if we can create the will to do it,” Lopez said.


Misunderstood Field

Charlie Pohl, LMSW, NASW member and active Chapter Legislative Committee member, had the following published in “The Idaho Statesman” in June 2005.

In response to Dan Popkey’s article (Dan Popkey is a writer for the Idaho Statesman newspaper) regarding State Hospital North, I would like to nominate social work as the least understood profession in America. We simply can’t escape the frozen icons of handing out food stamps and taking people’s children. “Kessinger is a social worker, not a doctor or a hospital administrator,” said Popkey.

Coursework in administration has been a standard part of social work education for decades. Master-of-social-work students are prepped to be leaders in the field, and many of us who have agency careers will administrate eventually.

Administration is more than giving orders. It requires group work to develop teams, sensitivity to the client’s perspective and ability to work with families, community care systems and government entities. An administrator must work toward compromise, understand research, work within parameters, stretch resources and foster creativity. Social workers are uniquely trained in all these.

Repairing damage to the social fabric and the individuals who comprise it is the primary focus of social work, whatever form it takes. Administration of programs is absolutely a key component of the social work mission. I would be happy to take a day with Mr. Popkey to introduce him to the world of social work.

“The experience of democracy is like the experience of life itself – always changing, infinite in its variety, sometimes turbulent and all the more valuable for having been tested by adversity.”

– James Earl “Jimmy” Carter, 39th President
Can a Married Couple Qualify for Medicaid and Still Keep Everything They Own...

The Answer May Surprise You.

by Pete Sisson, Esq.

As of July 1, 2005, the rules regarding the minimum amount of income the community (healthy) spouse is entitled to received increased. It is possible for one spouse to qualify for Medicaid benefits while protecting all of the couple’s resources and income. The following common scenario illustrates how.

Alice and her daughter Susie are beside themselves. Alice’s husband Ralph moved to a nursing home in late May. Alice paid the bill for June and now that she’s had time to clear her head and realizes how much nursing home costs for Ralph will be each month, she’s starting to worry she won’t have enough income to live on. She brings Susie with her to see you. Ralph and Alice both grew up during the Depression and have always tried to save something each month. Their assets, totalling $120,000, not including their house, are as follows:

- Savings Account $35,000
- CD’s $65,000
- Money Market Account $17,000
- Checking Account $ 3,000
- Ralph gets a Social Security check for $700 each month, Alice’s check is $300.

The financial strain on Alice is overwhelming when she thinks “At $5,000 plus for the nursing home, prescription drugs and doctors every month, our entire life savings will be gone in less than two years!” What’s more, she’s afraid she won’t be able to pay her monthly bills because a neighbor told her that the nursing home will be entitled to all of Ralph’s Social Security check.

There is good for Alice as long as she gets competent advice. You tell her that it’s possible she will get to keep everything... all of the assets and all of the income... and still have the state Medicaid program pay Ralph’s nursing home costs. While the process may take a little while, the end result will be worth it.

To apply for Medicaid, Alice will have to go through the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare. If she does things strictly according to the way the Department tells her, she will only be able to keep about ½ of her assets (about $60,000) plus she will be entitled to a minimum monthly income to pay her expenses as she always has.

The results can actually be much better than the traditional spend-down, which everyone talks about. That’s because under Idaho law, Alice is entitled to keep her own Social Security income of $300 each month, as well as Ralph’s income of $700, for a total of $1,000. Because Alice is entitled to a minimum monthly income of $1,604 (eff. 7/1/05), she has a shortfall of over $600 per month.

Idaho law next allows Alice to go to the earnings off Ralph’s assets in order to meet her minimum monthly income. Based on a 5% rate of interest from the total assets of $120,000, the earnings of $500 per month will bring Alice’s total income to $1,500. Therefore, if she does it properly, Alice will be entitled to keep their entire savings, AND both of their incomes, there will be no spend-down, and Medicaid will pay for the costs of Ralph’s nursing home care.

Does that mean a married couple can always keep everything and avoid a spend-down? No. Medicaid planning is very fact specific and the proper strategies can only be developed after a review of all the relevant facts and circumstances.

The great benefit to Alice is that she knows the financial worries are behind her so she can concentrate on the most important issue - making sure Ralph gets the best care possible at the nursing home. The law does not intend to impoverish one spouse because the other is incurring high costs for long-term care. This is certainly an example where knowledge of the rules and how to apply them is vitally important to persons facing long-term care expenses.

“We find greatest joy, not in getting, but in expressing what we are... Men do not really live for honors or for pay; their gladness is not the taking and holding, but in doing, the striving, the building, the living. It is a higher joy to teach than to be taught. It is good to get justice, but better to do it; fun to have things but more to make them. The happy man is he who lives the life of love, not for the honors it may bring, but for the life itself.”

– R. J. Baughan
Calendar of Events

NASW-Idaho Chapter Board of Directors’ Meetings
Saturday, October 15, 2005 – 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Perkins Family Restaurant, Broadway and Myrtle, Boise, Idaho
Friday, January 20, 2006 – Saturday, March 25, 2006 – Saturday, June 24, 2006

NASW IDAHO SPONSORED EVENTS –
Friday, September 23, 2005 and Saturday, September 24, 2005 – Pocatello
Part 2 – “Adlerian Psychotherapy”
NASW Idaho approved for 12 CEUs at the LSW, LMSW and LCSW levels of licensure. Co-sponsored by NASW-Idaho Chapter and the Idaho Society of Individual Psychology. All NASW members in the south central and eastern part of Idaho should have received a brochure in the mail. If not, you can access one on our website at www.naswidaho.org or call the Chapter office at 208/345-4060.

Thursday, September 29, 2005 and Friday, September 30, 2005 – Post Falls
“Assessing and Working with Affective, Anxiety and Eating Disorders”
NASW-Idaho Chapter approved for 12 CEUs at the LSW, LMSW and LCSW levels of licensure – 3 of these are specific ethics hours. Sponsored by NASW-Idaho Chapter in partnership with the LCSC Social Work Program, Idaho Society for Clinical Social Work and NASW Insurance Trust. All NASW Chapter members should have received a brochure in the mail. If not, you can access one on our website at www.naswidaho.org or call the Chapter office at 208/345-4060.

Friday, November 4, 2005 and Saturday, November 5, 2005 – Lewiston
Part 1 – “Adlerian Theory of Personality Development and Family Functioning”
NASW-Idaho Chapter approved for 12 CEUs at the LSW, LMSW and LCSW levels of licensure. Co-sponsored by NASW Idaho and the Idaho Society of Individual Psychology. All NASW members in the northern part of Idaho will receive a brochure in the mail. If not, you will be able to access one on our website at www.naswidaho.org or call the Chapter office at 208/345-4060.

Saturday, November 5, 2005 - Boise
“Licensure Exam Preparation Course”
This course is for those preparing for the LMSW or LCSW Idaho state licensure exam and is sponsored by NASW Idaho. A flyer has been inserted in this newsletter issue.

NASW IDAHO APPROVED CEU EVENTS –
Friday, September 30, 2005 – Lewiston
“Domestic Violence: Private Actions, Public Responsibility”
NASW-Idaho Chapter approved for a varying number of CEUs, including specific ethics credits, at each level of licensure dependent on which break-out sessions registrants choose to attend – contact sponsor for details. Sponsored by the YWCA of Clarkston, Washington and Lewiston, Idaho. For more information, contact Patricia Dill at 208/743-1535 or ywca@lewiston.com.

Friday, September 30, 2005 – Idaho Falls
“Understanding Attachment: The Circle of Security Approach”
NASW-Idaho Chapter approved for 6.5 CEUs at the LSW, LMSW and LCSW levels of licensure. Sponsored by Cascadia Training. For more information, contact Brian Andersen at 206/441-6892 or bandersen@nwresource.org.

Friday, November 4, 2005 – Boise
“Impact of the No Child Left Behind Act on Special Education”
NASW-Idaho approved for 6.0 CEUs at the LSW and LMSW levels of licensure in Idaho. Sponsored by Lorman Education Services. For more information, please contact Kari Campbell at 715/833-3940 or kcampbell@lorman.com.

Wednesday, November 16, 2005 – Boise
“Medical Records Law”
NASW-Idaho Chapter approved for 6.0 CEUs at the LSW and LMSW levels of licensure in Idaho. Sponsored by Lorman Education Services. For more information, please contact Kari Campbell at 715/833-3940 or kcampbell@lorman.com.

Friday, December 9, 2005 – Boise
“Developing Behavioral Plans for Aggressive Children”
NASW-Idaho Chapter approved for 6.0 CEUs at the LSW, LMSW and LCSW levels of licensure in Idaho. Sponsored by Lorman Education Services – for more information, please contact Kari Campbell at 715/833-3940 or kcampbell@lorman.com.
NASW-Idaho Chapter Board of Directors’ Meetings:

Saturday, October 17, 2005
Perkins Family Restaurant, Boise

Saturday, March 25, 2006
Perkins Family Restaurant, Boise

Friday, January 20, 2006
Perkins Family Restaurant, Boise

Saturday, June 24, 2006
Perkins Family Restaurant, Boise

NASW-Idaho Workshops:

Friday and Saturday
September 23 and 24, 2005
Adlerian Psychotherapy
Pocatello

Saturday, November 5, 2005
Licensure Exam Preparation Course, Boise

Friday and Saturday
November 4 and 5, 2005
Adlerian Theory of Personality Development
Lewiston