

CONFERENCE COMMENTS

Louisiana Conference of Health and Social Services
Volume 1
May 1999

"Nouveau Fois" - A New Time

99 State Conference

Nothing could put a damper on the excitement at the State Conference held in Lake Charles in March. Nearly 200 members and friends gathered to consider how prepared we are for Y2K and to enjoy after hours receptions and entertainment.

Some of the excellent speakers included Dr. Jerry Patterson, Director of Graduate and Professional Programs at Birmingham Southern College, Rebecca White of LSU's Cooperative Extension Program and Uncle Noon - Johnny Hoffman.

We were fortunate to have some excellent workshops -Organ Donor Program, Mandatory Drug Testing, Group Benefits, Elderly Affairs, Violence in the Workplace, Strategies for Mental Health Advocacy, LaCHIP,

Adoption and Safe Families Act, and Customer Service.

As we say in some parts of Louisiana, "A good time was had by all!" If you were there, you are probably already making your plans for next year. If you weren't, start planning for being in Monroe next year. Don't miss a moment of the learning and fun.

'Nouveau Fois'

'Nouveau Fois' - A New Time. The Monroe Region is looking forward to hosting the first annual LCHSS State Conference. The conference will be held at the Holiday Inn/Atrium - March 15 - 17, 2000. Brenda Randall, Regional Chairperson and other Monroe Region members have already started working on arrangements. Monroe is a fun place to go for a conference and everyone should plan to attend.

\$100 Bill Winners

The three winners of the \$100 raffle were:

James Travis
Angie Gary
Darrell Blair

Congratulations to all of you!!



Out With The Old & In With The New

March 31, 1999 was the last day that LCSW was in existence. The By-Laws have been approved and will govern the administration of the Louisiana Conference of Health & Social Services under the new Articles of Incorporation. The Conference will provide a forum for the discussion of health, human, and social service problems; the institutions, agencies, and organizations seeking to alleviate the problems and provide services; and discuss programs for increasing effectiveness of programs and services. It will engage in studies and research information that is relevant to the health, human, and social service problems. The Conference will monitor, evaluate, and take appropriate action on administrative practices and regulations of the health, human, and social services agencies which are active in Louisiana, public and voluntary, whether at local, state or national levels, for the purpose of promoting the best possible services to the public, and it will engage in social action which may include all strategies within the law. We are truly excited about our new organization - Louisiana Conference of Health and Social Services and hope that the members share with the State Board in this excitement.

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LCSW Awards

LCSW Scholarship Award

The 1999 winner of the \$1,000 LCSW Scholarship is **Ms. Casey Weston** from Oakridge, Louisiana. She is the daughter of Larry and Pat Weston. Pat is employed by the Monroe Region of SES.

Casey is a senior at Riverfield Academy in Rayville. She has an overall GPA of 3.083 and scored a 25 on the ACT.

Casey is a member of the National Honor Society and the Fellowship of Christian Students. She has participated in 4-H activities, is an active member in her church youth group and volunteers at St. Francis Hospital.

Casey's classmates selected her as Class Favorite and the Christmas Court.

Casey plans to attend Louisiana Tech where she will be majoring in psychology.

LCSW Distinguished Service Award

Tara Nelson was this year's recipient of the LCSW Distinguished Service Award. Tara joined LCSW in 1985. During the 14 years that she has been a member of the Conference, Tara has served on the Board in various capacities. In 1991 Tara began by serving as the 2nd Vice Chairperson for the Baton Rouge Region. Tara was appointed State Publicity Chairperson in March 1991. She changed the look of Conference Comments, adding various articles each quarter highlighting the different agencies and members. In 1993 the Publicity and Membership duties were combined and Tara

performed these duties until 1995. Tara has also held the position of Baton Rouge Region 1st Vice Chairperson, and Chairperson.

Last year Tara designed the LCSW T-Shirt which was sold at the State Conference in Lafayette.

Tara recently redesigned Conference Comments and assisted the Publicity Chairperson with the newsletter.

Congratulations Tara!!

George Freeman Award

Jackie Drodgy is this year's recipient of the George Freeman Award.

Jackie has been a member of LCSW for 20 years. She has held offices on the Regional and State level. She is currently the President. Jackie served as the Vice President for two terms and as the Regional Chairperson for Lake Charles Region for 5 years.

Jackie has been extremely active in various welfare organizations. She has been a member of the LA Eligibility Workers' Association, LA Case Supervisors' Association and Parish Administrators Assoc. holding officer positions in all of them. Jackie has been a member of the American Public Health and Human Services Association since 1986.

In 1994 Jackie received the Charles E. Dunbar Honorable Mention Career Service Award.

Jackie has been a very active member in her community participating in KinderFest, PTA, Little League Mothers, United Way, MDA Fund Raisers, Red Cross Advisory Board and the Gulf States Networking Committee.

As Assistant Parish Manager for the Calcasieu Parish Office, she made a commitment to herself to

reduce the error rate, improve the morale of the staff and to help improve the image of the agency to the community. Jackie is currently the Asst. Director for the Food Stamp Program. The effectiveness of her management capabilities was underscored recently when the Food & Nutrition Service conducted a management evaluation of Program activities where no deficiencies were found. This was the first time that this had happened. During FFY 1997 she played an active part in the states attainment of a payment accuracy rate of 94.4% in the Food Stamp Program.

Jackie graduated from LSU in May 1995 with a grade point average of 3.65. She did so by taking classes during the evening and some times during the day while raising her son.

Congratulations Jackie!!

Membership

Alexandria	50
Baton Rouge	117
Hammond	28
Lafayette	107
Lake Charles	80
Monroe	32
Orleans	36
Shreveport	21
State Total	471

Quarterly Quote

"Kind words produce their own beautiful image in man's soul. Everyone knows the pleasure of receiving a kind look, a warm greeting, a hand held out in time of need. And such gestures can be made at so little expense, yet they bring such dividends to the investor." ~ The War Cry ~

A Message From Jackie -

It has been my pleasure to serve as President of an organization that is dedicated to improving the health and welfare of the citizens of Louisiana. I have formed many valuable friendships that I look forward to sustaining as I continue to be an active member of LCHSS.

A Note From the President

Merci boucoup to the Lake Charles Region for yet another fantastic State Conference. If you didn't make it, you missed a good one.

One of the major goals of the Louisiana Conference of Health and Social Services for this coming year is to increase our membership in all regions of the state. If you have any suggestions, please send them to me or any of the conference officers.

The State Board approved a name change to Louisiana Conference of Health and Social Services in order to attract new membership from all agencies in the fields of Health and Social Services. We need your help to accomplish this goal. Please try to recruit one new member during the next 12 months. If we all do a little we can accomplish a lot!

I am looking forward to working with you in the coming year.

See you later, Gerald

Regional News

Orleans Region

The Orleans Regional Conference is scheduled for Friday, May 21 at Nunez Community College. All members in the Orleans Region will be mailed an informational flyer.

Monroe Region

The Monroe Region is busy planning our state conference for next year. Anyone interested in finding out what all is available in the Monroe area is invited to call Thelma or Stephanie at the Monroe/West Monroe Convention Center & Visitor's Bureau at 1-800-843-1872.

Election Results

State Board Members

Gerald Butaud - President
Pam Brown - 1st Vice Pres.
Darrell Curtis - 2nd Vice Pres.

Baton Rouge Region

Liz Reno - Chairperson
Michelle Guillory - 1st Chair
Philip Stewart - 2nd Chair

Lake Charles Region

Christine Nicholson - Chairperson
Chris Forestier - 1st Chair
Polly Strickland - 2nd Chair

Shreveport Region

Sondra Alexander - Chairperson
Veda Emerson - 1st Chair
Virginia Cardot - 2nd Chair

Photographs

The photographs in this issue of Conference Comments were taken at the State Conference in Lake Charles.

1. Incoming members waiting to Register.
2. Hospitality - Wednesday evening. Melanie Pinto, Peggy Murla, Jason Dupuy
3. Wednesday Night Dance Thibodaux Group with the Lake Charles Ice Gator.
4. Wednesday Night Dance The Line Dancers
5. Darrell Blair and Date
6. Ms. Casey Weston presented the 1999 LCSW Scholarship by Pam Brown, LCSW 2nd Vice President.
7. Tara Nelson, Baton Rouge Region Chairperson was presented the 1999 LCSW Distinguished Service Award by Pam Brown, 2nd Vice President.
8. Jackie Droddy, LCSW President was presented 1999 George Freeman Award by Pam Brown, 2nd Vice President.
9. Wayne Guidry, LCSW Treasurer was presented a certificate of appreciation for serving as LCSW Treasurer for 22 years.

Mental Health Reform Coalition News

House Bill 436 and Senate Bill 235 failed to get out of committee. House Bill 1300 was amended and did pass out of committee. As amended the bill now requires parity for the following illnesses:

- Major Depression
- Bi-polar disorder
- Obsessive Compulsive Disorder
- Schizophrenia
- Schizo-affective disorder
- Pervasive developmental disorder or autism
- Panic Disorder
- Anorexia/bulemia
- Post traumatic stress disorder
- Psychosis NOS (not otherwise specified) under age 17
- Intermittent explosive disorder
- Tourette's Syndrome
- Asperger's Syndrome
- Rett's Syndrome

The bill was also amended to provide for the minimum standards of 52 outpatient visits and 45 inpatient days per year. The bill also contains language that insurers have to offer optional parity coverage for the illness not included in the list.

Membership Application

Please enroll me as a member of the Louisiana Conference of Health and Social Services.
Enclosed is my check for

- \$12.00 Individual Membership
- \$ 6.00 Retirees
- \$ 6.00 Full Time Students

Please make check payable to LCHSS and mail it to:

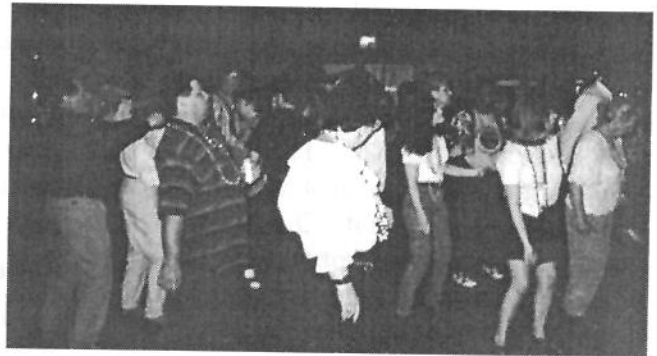
Louisiana Conference of Health & Social
Services
926 Hwy 190
Eunice, LA 70535

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY & ZIP: _____

AGENCY: _____



Dear Jackie and LCSW members

The family of
 Mayner "Mac" McManus
 gratefully acknowledges
 and thanks you for your

kind expression of sympathy
 The spray was very beautiful and
 your support is appreciated
 fondly
 Barbara