



Kentucky Association for School Social Work

Supporting School Social Workers in the Quest for Student Success

NEWSLETTER



Spring 2013

Message from the President

Greetings and Happy New Year from the Kentucky Association for School Social Work! My name is Melinda McClung, and I was recently selected to serve as your KASSW President. I am currently the Guidance Specialist at The Academy for Leadership at Millcreek Elementary in Lexington, and have been in this position for the last six years. Previously, my experience was in community mental health working with children and families. Shortly after beginning in the school system, I became acquainted with several others involved in KASSW and joined myself. I have served as Vice President and most recently as Treasurer for the last few years.

Joining KASSW soon after I began this position was one of the best decisions I have made. It allowed me to quickly become connected with others in similar positions and learn from their expertise. As many of you may have experienced, the school social worker role tends to vary from district to district, and sometimes from school to school. We wear many different hats! While I had experience in other areas, learning the "ins and outs" of the public school system, is a whole different ball game! The support and professional advice from my colleagues has been instrumental in easing my transition into this work environment.

I feel KASSW is entering a new chapter. Overall, we would like our focus to be on our membership and those we serve across the state. We are looking for innovative ideas to increase our membership and visibility. We are also interested in increasing the practical benefits given to our members, ultimately helping them enhance their "day to day" work. Be thinking...what do you look for in a professional organization? What would make KASSW a group that you would tell new social workers in your district is a must?

We need your feedback and input in our decision making. Be looking for more interactive methods between the Board and members for gathering information in the future. Please join us in these endeavors! Thanks in advance for your support, and I look forward to serving in this role.

Melinda McClung, LCSW

KASSW President

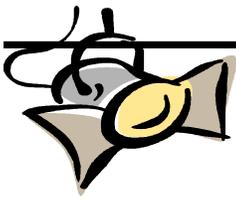
Celebrate SSW Week!

Join SSWAA and KASSW in celebrating National School Social Work Week March 3-9. To get some ideas for your celebration, check out the list below. Feel free to get creative and add your own ideas, let us know about your celebrations!

LET'S CELEBRATE!

- Sponsor a breakfast at your school thanking staff for their support
- Exchange "secret SSW" gifts with other SSW's for the week and have a get together on Friday to celebrate
- Write a short description of school social work for local paper acknowledging SSW week
- Send dates to your local union to include in calendar
- Make a sign for the teachers lounge
- Present to the school board acknowledging SSW week and your job (bring statistics and a PowerPoint)
- Send thank you notes to the other SSW in your district
- Send a thank you for your support email to teachers and the principal
- Contact special education director/district level supervisor to thank them for supporting your work
- Bring in a dessert for lunch to share with staff.
- Host an "Open House" in your office so staff can see what you do!
- Present at a staff meeting about your job - statistics, etc.
- Have a party for the students you see to thank them for being great kids
- Smile all week and remember your work is important and valuable,

THANK YOU!!!



KASSW Member Spotlight— Megan Hanser



My name is Megan Hanser and I am excited to have just joined the KASSW board as treasurer. I look forward to serving those in the profession of school social work and promoting the valuable job that we do each and every day!

I am a 2010 graduate of the University of Kentucky's Masters in Social Work program and I have been working as a school social worker since 2011. I began my career in Fayette County Public Schools and I am currently employed as a Child Guidance Specialist in Scott County.

One of my professional interests is research. I believe in staying current in terms of evidence based practices and I am a lifelong learner, always striving to know more. In my free time I enjoy spending time with my family, singing, and exercising.

New FERPA Rules for Foster Students

The Uninterrupted Scholars Act, which amends the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) to allow child welfare agencies access to foster student records, was passed by Congress in and signed into law this month. It is designed to facilitate the availability of school records to child welfare workers who are working with children placed into foster care. The measure will help ensure that school records, including IEPs, are transferred quickly when a child moves to a different school due to a foster care placement; and it will eliminate inadvertent obstacles to information-sharing between education and child welfare agencies.

The legislation allows education agencies to release education records to child welfare case workers or other representatives of a state or local child welfare agency or tribal organization. It also eliminates the requirement that the education agency provide duplicative notice regarding the release of education records to parents already receiving notice from the court. Please address any questions to Amy Peabody, amy.peabody@education.ky.gov, in the Office of Guiding Support Services.

2012 KASSW Conference Report

The KASSW Conference 2012 was held at the University of Louisville, Shelby Campus Conference Center in Louisville, KY on October 4-5, 2012. The theme was "Protecting our Future, One Child at a Time". We had a Pre-Conference on Thursday, October 4th having sessions on Ethics and Pediatric Brain Trauma.

Our Keynote speaker was Ms. Marta Maria Miranda, LCSW President/CEO of the Center for Women and Families who spoke about Children Who Witness Violence and her new Violence Collective Impact Initiative.

We offered seven sessions after the keynote for your learning pleasure. We did not have good attendance at this conference as we normally do, but if you did not attend, you missed a great conference!! Thanks to the conference co-chairs that worked so hard to put it together for you!

Hopefully you will be able to attend this year as we are now working on that conference which will be in Lexington, KY. Check out the 'save the date' information in this newsletter edition!

Hope to see you there!

2013 KASSW Annual Conference

KASSW Fall Conference
September 26 - 27, 2013

Location:

Indiana Wesleyan
Education and Conference Center
2530 Sir Barton Way
Lexington, KY

Thursday Pre-Conference Speaker:

Dr. Susan Slade, Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist
Topic: Treating Anxiety in Children and Adolescents
Friday Schedule TBA



Online Reporting of Suspected Child Abuse Now Available

The Kentucky Department for Community Based Services now provides educators and others who are required by law to report suspected child abuse the ability to do so online in nonemergency situations.

School administrators and teachers who wish to report suspected abuse may now do so online at <https://prd.chfs.ky.gov/ReportAbuse>. This site is available during regular school hours, 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, and should be used for reporting **nonemergency situations only**.

The individual who makes the report will receive an electronic confirmation that the report has been received, which satisfies the legal obligation of mandatory reporting.

To report emergencies or situations requiring an immediate response, educators can call the Child Abuse Hotline toll-free at (877) 597-2331.

Midwest Report

The 45th Midwest School Social Work Conference was hosted by the Wisconsin School Social Work Association. It was held in Green Lake, WI. from November 8-9, 2012 at the Heidel House Resort Hotel. The conference theme was *"What's Old is New Again: School Social Work Through an Rtl Lens"*. There were over 200 people in attendance and it was a very successful conference with great keynote speakers, conference presenters, top notch meals and hospitality.

The 2013 Midwest Conference will be held in Davenport, Iowa, November 7-8, 2013. The Theme is "Understanding and Restoring Traumatized Youth". Adam McCormack, PhD is the keynote speaker. We should have full details soon!

Kentucky will host the 47th Midwest Conference in 2014 at the Galt House Hotel in Louisville, KY. The last time we hosted the event was in 2004 as we have this opportunity to host every ten years. We need **all of you** to help make this conference a success and help us represent the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

If you have any interest in being a part of the **2014 Midwest Conference Committee**, please contact Tina Johnson at teenamj@aol.com, or Cheryl Esters at cheryle44@hotmail.com as we are the Midwest Conference Co-Chairs and we are beginning to form our committees.

You may also contact our President, Melinda McClung at Melinda.mcclung@fayette.kyschools.us to state your interest. It takes about two years of planning and working to host a successful and well attended Midwest SSW Conference.

WE NEED YOU!!

Friend of School Social Work Nomination Form

Name of Nominee: _____

Position of Nominee : _____

Name of Nominator: _____

Position of Nominator : _____

Contribution made to school social work by the nominee:

Send nominations to KASSW President by May 17, 2013.

KASSW

Melinda McClung, President
864 Laurel Hill Road
Lexington, KY. 40504

Nominee Criteria:

- A. May not be a practicing school social worker
- B. Can be an organization or an individual
- C. Must have made a significant contribution to the development or progress of school social work in the state of Kentucky.

KASSW Board Members

President

Melinda McClung, Fayette County

Past President/

Midwest Sub-Consultant

Tina Johnson, Jefferson County

Vice President

Jennifer Stevens, Fayette County

Secretary

Lori Vogel, Fayette County

Treasurer

Megan Hanser, Scott County

Newsletter Editor

Vacant

Midwest Council Representative

Jennifer Brown, Jefferson County

Publicity and Promotions

Toni Dunn, Fayette County

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Flo Lankster, UK College of SW

U of L Liaison

Andy Frey, Kent School

Bluegrass Representative

Janet Doss, Fayette County

Central Representative

Bernice Jones-Nyarko, Hardin County

Eastern Representative

Shawn Crump, Ashland Independent

Jefferson Representative

Cheryl Esters

Northern Representative

Vacant

Southern Representative/

Membership

Linda Hendren, Laurel County

Western Representative

Vacant

SSW of the Year Nomination Form

Nominee must be a practicing school social worker for a minimum of three years and a member of KASSW by the time the Board reviews the nominations in June.

Name of School Social Worker Nominated: _____

Nominee's School/s: _____

Highest Degree Earned by Nominee: _____

Position Title: _____ Number of Years in School Social Work: _____

Primary Responsibilities of Nominee:

Professional organizations of which the nominee is a member:

Innovative and creative programs and practices in working with students, parents and/or faculty:

Achievements and contributions to school social work through demonstrated leadership and professional participation at the state or district level:

Please attach a statement of approximately 100 words stating why this nominee should be selected as the School Social Worker of the Year. The statement of the winner is read when the award is made. Also, letters of recommendation and support from colleagues are encouraged. They are used in the selection process and the notebook that is developed for the winner.

Winner of the SSW of the Year receives the following:

- A plaque awarded at our State Conference Luncheon/Banquet
- Expenses of up to \$400 to attend the Midwest School Social Work Conference.

Please return Nomination Form by **May 17, 2013** to: KASSW, Melinda McClung, President, 864 Laurel Hill Road, Lexington, KY. 40504 or e-mail the completed form to Melinda.Mcclung@fayette.kyschools.us

SSWAA (School Social Work Association of America) Is At the Table: Myrna Goes to the White House and MUCH MORE!!!!



Myrna Mandlawitz, SSWAA Government Relations Director, had a very busy week last week, advocating for School Social Workers! She was invited to the **White House** to participate in one of several meetings Vice President Biden held last week to develop recommendations and was able to speak directly about the need for School Social Workers!

After the White House, she and her Co-Chair of the National Alliance of Specialized Instructional Support Personnel (formerly NAPSPO) met with key personnel at the **U.S. Department of Education**. The next day, Myrna was the only school representative at a meeting with the **Mental Health Liaison Group** and able to talk about the critical role of school-employed mental health providers. But wait, there's even MORE!!!! Representative Gwen Moore from Wisconsin will be going to reintroduce the **School Social Workers Improving Student Success Act**.

Your SSWAA Membership Dues at Work!

Rural Dropout Prevention Webinar Scheduled

On February 28th from 1:30-3:00 p.m. ET, the U.S. Department of Education, with Jobs for the Future, is sponsoring a webinar on rural dropout prevention and recovery, *Utilizing the Village: Effective Reengagement and Recovery Programming in Rural Communities*. Presenters will highlight lessons learned about effective use of curriculum, building partnerships, and helping students transition to postsecondary opportunities or careers. These lessons will be applicable for rural districts and community partners looking to build or strengthen their own recovery program. Participants will also have an opportunity to share reengagement and recovery strategies with peers. Register for this free event and learn more at: <http://ruraldropoutprevention.weebly.com/webinar-three.html>.

Please contact Monica Melville at mmelville@mahernet.com if you need registration assistance or do not receive a registration confirmation within 24 hours.

The 2013 Promising Practices Application is Open!

Does your school or district have a specific and unique practice in character education that is simple in scope yet easy to emulate? Share it and, if you are declared a 2013 Promising Practices winner, your character education practice will be shared with colleagues around the world!

The 2013 Promising Practice Online Application requires basic information about your school, district, or organization, and a few paragraphs explaining the character education practice itself and its impact on students. You will be prompted to upload a photograph of your practice in action. A fee of \$20 helps to cover CEP's costs to administer the program; you will be prompted to pay at completion of the application via a credit card. The Character Education Partnership's 2013 Promising Practices Application is available at www.character.org.

If you are a past Promising Practice winner, your official winning practice itself is no longer eligible for a Promising Practice award. However, if your school, district, or organization has additional, different character education practices, they are eligible for consideration.

The deadline for applications is March 17, 2013.