



PUSH FOR PARITY

Parity (Equal Access) Bill Introduced into State Legislature

Insurance Committees of Senate and Assembly Now Considering Bill

Society Members Urged to Support Passage

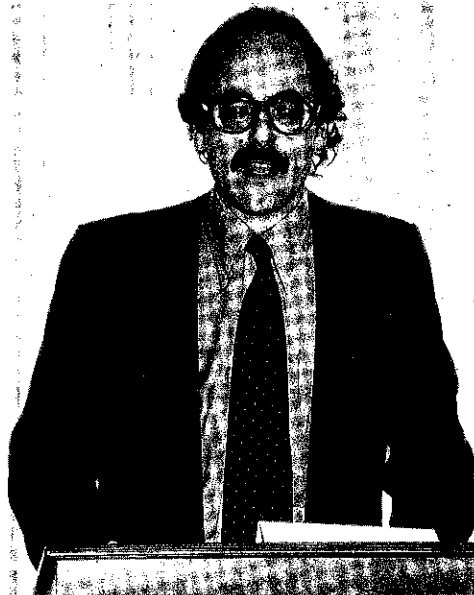
Report by Barry K. Mallin, Esq., Legislative Advocate

On February 26, 1981, the Parity Bill (also known as Equal Access) was introduced simultaneously in both the State Assembly (Bill A.4538) and Senate (Bill S.3542) and is under consideration by the insurance committees of both houses. The bill, drafted and sponsored by the Society, calls for health insurance reimbursement for psychotherapy services provided by duly qualified clinical social workers on the same basis that is now accorded psychiatrists and psychologists.

Strong support for the legislation has been demonstrated by the number of cosponsors—14 in the Senate and 9 in the Assembly. Senate sponsors are John E. Flynn, Gary L. Ackerman, Leon Bugues, Anthony V. Gazzara, L. Paul Kehoe, Kenneth P. LaValle, Franz S. Leichter, Martin Markowitz, Manfred Ohrenstein, Major R. Owens, Frank Padavan, Joseph R. Pisani, Richard E. Schermerhorn and Linda Winikow.

Assembly sponsors include May W. Newburger, William B. Finneran, Howard L. Lasher, William B. Hoyt, Ivan C. Lafayette, Clarence D. Rappleyea, Jr., Robin L. Schimminger, Mark Alan Siegel and Sheldon Silver.

Opposition is mounting from employer and insurance groups. For that reason, letters of support are urgently needed and should be sent immediately to legislators and officials.



Barry K. Mallin

Write to:

Senator Martin A. Auer, Chairman of
the Senate Insurance Committee
Assemblyman Howard L. Lasher,
Chairman of the Assembly
Insurance Committee
Senator John E. Flynn
Assemblywoman May W.
Newburger
Senator Warren M. Anderson,
Majority Leader
Assemblyman Stanley Fink,
Speaker of the Assembly

Society members are urged to express appreciation to State Senator John E. Flynn and Assemblywoman May W. Newburger for their leadership in sponsoring the Society's Parity Bill in both the Senate (Bill S.3542) and the Assembly (Bill A.4538).

Albert B. Lewis, Superintendent of
the State Insurance Department
Be sure to identify the bill by number, as
noted above.

Address for Senators:
Legislative Office Building
Albany, New York 12247

Address for Assembly:
Legislative Office Building
Albany, New York 12248

State Insurance Department:
2 World Trade Center
New York, New York 10047

... Suggested Content

The following are suggestions as to points members may wish to make in writing to legislators to urge passage of the bill and is meant only as pertinent information.

1. The bill will provide for reimbursement for services provided by duly qualified clinical social workers under group health insurance contracts that now cover mental health treatment.

2. The bill will correct the inequitable and discriminatory system of reimbursing only the patients of psychiatrists and psychologists, while denying such reimbursement to patients of clinical social workers for the same services.

3. Under current law patients are frequently prevented from utilizing the more economical services provided by clinical social workers, yet reimbursement is available for the identical services when provided by psychologists or psychiatrists, usually at higher fees.

4. Passage of this legislation will help alleviate the serious shortage of mental

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Issued three times during 1980
April, July, November

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Executive report

Parity... An Issue for Institutions

As part of its strategy for gaining passage of the Parity Bill, the Society has appealed to various influential groups within the community. One of these targeted groups consists of those administrators, board members, social workers and individuals, professional and non-professional, responsible for policy formation within the many hospitals, institutions, agencies, clinics, graduate schools and training institutes throughout the state.

The following are just a few reasons why it would be advantageous for agencies, clinics and institutions that employ social workers to support the passage of the proposed amendment (Parity Bill) in 1981:

1. Since social workers constitute the majority of practitioners within agencies, mental hospitals, mental health clinics, etc., passage of the proposed bill will insure and provide for these various institutions a large and sound source of revenue. With increased budget cuts and inflation, the present practice of restricting third party payments by various insurance companies to psychiatrists or psychologists continues to limit an institution's real potential for revenue.

2. Passage of the proposed bill will also extend and maintain fair delivery of services to various population groups (including lower and middle income families) that might otherwise be excluded from receiving services because their insurance coverage restricts direct reimbursement.

3. Restrictions of reimbursement for social workers not only denies an individual freedom of choice in selecting a therapist but also influences the policy of administrative hiring practices. Agency administrators may be forced to hire on the basis of discipline (psychologist, psychiatrist, etc.) rather than on the basis of competence.

4. Discriminatory reimbursement often restricts the full and extensive use of an agency's staff and its programs. Cases may be assigned according to discipline rather than qualified practitioners; reports are signed by one discipline "under the supervision" of another; extensive and intricate records to meet various insurance companies' demands require extensive clerical time where social workers are employed and practice responsibly.

5. Any institution, public or private, must maintain high professional standards and quality services. This can be done only by hiring and keeping qualified professionals. Permitting social workers equal access to third party reimbursement will offer agency administrators, responsible for employment, the advantage of selecting from a wider range of competent professionals. Agency administrators and others involved with agency policies should support the bill to strengthen their own position of furthering and continuing freedom in the practices and policies under which they now function.

The above by no means exhausts the reasons agency personnel should support the proposed bill. Instead they are intended to highlight and spark further elucidation for those who formulate policy.

*Robert P. Galardi, CSW
1st Vice President*

Push for Parity

Continued from page 1
health professionals. Clinical social workers across New York State are more accessible to patients than are psychiatrists or psychologists, who are often available only in highly populated areas.

5. The mental health needs of New Yorkers will be more effectively met by legislation that results in the increased availability of qualified mental health professionals who can render services at more economical fees. The present system is inflationary because it forces consumers to seek the higher priced services.

For further information members may call Andrew M. Stromberg, co-chair of the Parity Committee, at 212-533-9624. □

New Institute for Private Practitioners

Robert E. Addison and Martin S. Pollens, long-time Society members and former officers, have joined to establish an agency-institute that is expressly committed to supporting clinical social workers and other qualified practitioners to negotiate the often difficult and frightening "passage" from agency/clinic practice to independent practice.

The emotional/psychological, financial, insurance, real estate, professional clinical consultation and legal aspects will be addressed, and professionals in these areas will serve as faculty.

The Westchester Management Institute for Independent Psychotherapists is the first organization of its kind in the New York metropolitan area. The Institute will offer week-end seminars/workshops and retreats; individual and group consultations will provide professionals with concrete, practical assistance in beginning, maintaining and developing an independent practice.

The programs of the Institute are open to certified social workers, psychologists, board certified psychiatrists and registered psychiatric nurses who meet Institute standards.

Practitioners are invited to approach the Westchester Institute with their practical concerns. The mailing address is: 3 Webb Road, North Tarrytown, NY 10591. Telephone: 914-631-3714. □

1981 Membership Meeting Set

Society members are urged to attend the important General Membership Meeting on Saturday, May 16, 1981, at the Gramercy Park Hotel, New York City, from 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM. Preceding the meeting, at 11:00 AM, a champagne brunch is planned.

Kenneth L. Adams, National Advocate, and Barry K. Mallin, legal counsel for the Society, and other various prominent local legislators and Society officers will address and report to the membership on crucial Federal and State Legislative Action, pertaining to "Parity '81."

All are urged to attend this meeting! If you attend the champagne brunch, the cost is \$25 per person, with a contribution toward furthering efforts and support of the final passage of the Equal Access (Parity) Bill, now under consideration in both houses of the State Legislature. Strong support and a well informed membership will better guarantee its passage.

If you can't make the brunch, come to the meeting and if you can't come to the meeting, please send a contribution. Let us be united in our active effort to preserve the Social Work Profession, keeping it an independent discipline, through support of "Parity '81"! □

New Membership Directory

A new Membership Directory will be compiled this year. Each member will receive a Directory Information Slip to fill in and return in a self-addressed envelope. Please complete this form *legibly* and return it promptly. Be sure all numbers are easily read. We are able to list only one address and 2 telephone numbers (home and office). If completed slips are not returned by the due date, we will use the information in our records, current or not.

And, if you have not yet renewed your membership for 1981, why not do so now and be assured of a listing in the new directory. If your qualifications and experience are not reflected in your present membership status, you may request upgrading at this time and be listed at a higher level in the upcoming directory.

We strive for 100% accuracy in this project (no doubt an impossible dream) and your cooperation is the only way we can even come close!

Mitzi Mirkin
Executive Secretary

THE DIVISION OF SOCIAL WORK SERVICES at the INSTITUTE FOR SOCIOTHERAPY IN NEW YORK CITY

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IN COMMITTEE . . .

CHAPTER DEVELOPMENT

The Society currently has ten active chapters throughout the state. Continuing efforts are directed to membership and chapter expansion, especially in the less populated Upstate and Western regions. The Capital District chapter serving the Albany area was the first of these efforts, developed last year under the leadership of Ruth Thayer Hartman (see April 1980 *Newsletter*). As chapters form in these areas, the Society is prepared to extend support and resources, including defraying certain transportation costs for those members actively involved.

The second annual Chapter Development Workshop, including brunch, will take place prior to the Society's Annual General Membership Meeting on May 16th. The workshop will be geared to the needs of members interested in forming chapters. Those wishing to attend should contact chair Donna Rohlf.

Donna Rohlf, CSW

EDUCATION

Some 200 people attended the full-day conference on December 6th at the Barbizon-Plaza hotel. Dr. Peter L. Giovacchini presented a lively and informative program at the morning session on countertransference and the problems it presents for the therapist. The 10 afternoon workshops led by members provided a varied and interesting format for attendees to pursue their special areas of interest with peers and colleagues.

The 1981 conference is scheduled for early November; this year's guest will be Gerda L. Schulman, LL.D., M.S.

Alan L. Shanel, CSW

MEMBERSHIP

"One for all and all for one" best describes the prominent information exhibit co-sponsored by the National Federation and the NYS Society at the recent American Orthopsychiatric Association Conference. The 5-day event at the Sheraton Centre, New York City, attracted professionals practicing in all mental health disciplines nationwide.

Abbie Blair represented the Federation in jointly organizing the exhibit and recruiting volunteers. The exhibit booth included materials from several Federation member states as well as NYS Society's literature and provided an ideal opportunity for Federation chapter members to reach potential members and share professional chapter functions.

Visitors were encouraged to sign the mailing lists and file membership applications for NYS membership. Co-hosting proved a valuable way of attaining mutual goals of visibility and increased awareness of the clinical social workers' role in mental health delivery.

Volunteers from Metropolitan, Queens, Rockland and Westchester chapters gave generously of their time, both in preparing the materials and manning the exhibit during the conference.

Gemma F. Colangelo, CSW

PARITY

At a meeting on March 14, 1981, Barry K. Mallin, Society counsel and lobbyist, informed Parity Bill committee representatives that the bill had been introduced into the New York State Legislature in both the Senate and Assembly, co-sponsored by members of both bodies. A number of the sponsors also serve on the Insurance Committees in their respective houses.

To support the passage of this Equal Access Bill, the parity committee has mounted an aggressive lobbying effort.

The bill has also gained the endorsements of District Council 37 (public employees) and Local 215 of District Council 1707 (employees in non-profit and social service agencies). Further action suggested at the meeting involves the proposed formation

of a separate Political Action committee, whose purpose would be contributing to legislative campaigns.

In the meantime, members are asked to contribute to offset the costs of additional lobbying efforts before the legislative session recesses. Chapter representatives will handle this within their respective chapters.

Co-chairs Susan Finkelstein and Andy Stromberg have developed a system whereby telegrams bearing members' names can be sent to appropriate legislators on short notice. This too will be handled at the chapter level.

Paul Chaisson, CSW

PSYCHOANALYSIS

The committee is addressing the urgent need for adequate malpractice insurance; the question of whether the present insurance underwriter will cover the practice of psychoanalysis has prompted further exploration as to where Society members may obtain such coverage.

Mark Siegel, Chairman of the NYS Assembly's Higher Education Committee, chaired a public hearing on March 5th on the regulation of mental health services. Counsel Barry Mallin offered testimony on behalf of the Society; the Society's position was that the practice of mental health services should be open to all disciplines but with clearly delineated and appropriate standards for training and practice.

A report on the comparison of training standards in a number of psychoanalytic training institutes is being studied by committee members prior to submitting a position paper on such training for clinical social workers to the NYSSCSWP Board.

The query letters submitted to psychoanalytic training institutes resulted in replies from 18 of the 21 questioned. The survey is being evaluated to determine the percentages of clinical social workers on staff.

Crayton E. Rowe, Jr., CSW

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St. John's University, Jamaica, NY

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PANEL DISCUSSION (10:45-noon)

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E. James Anthony, M.D.
Aaron Esman, M.D.
Melvin Scharfman, M.D.

WORKSHOPS (1:15-3:00 P.M.)

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Federation Update . . . Winter Meeting

The winter meeting of the National Federation of Societies for Clinical Social Work was held in Cincinnati, Ohio, February 5-7, 1981. The agenda addressed itself to refining priorities of the National Federation. The following goals were agreed on by the member states:

1. To provide national level advocacy on behalf of clinical social work by maintaining a professional representative in Washington to represent our interests.
2. To provide leadership on national and state levels for legal regulation and vendorship. This would include a centralized data bank, consultation and training for members states, and assistance with sunset legislation strategies.
3. To facilitate communication of timely information between states.

Reagan and S.123

Ken Adams, national advocate, observed that the results of the November election will *not* create new problems for clinical social work. We can expect a continuation of the trend of cost consciousness, cost containment and cost benefit analysis. Programs with the least vocal constituency will be cut. Any change in Medicare/Medicaid legislation will bring efficacy legislation as well, but this should not be unfavorable to S.123. As you know, S.123 is the bill amending the Social Security Act to include clinical social workers as one of the qualified mental health providers of services to Medicare and Medicaid beneficiaries. Other qualified providers include board certified psychiatrists, certified psychologists and psychiatric nurse specialists. Mr. Adams suggested that clinical social work might argue in terms of competition and weakening the physicians' monopoly on delivering health services.

Inasmuch as President Reagan's view advocates that government should be less engaged, some may be persuaded to expand the number of providers to include qualified non-physicians to promote the kind of free market competition which is believed to be a way to control inflation of health care costs. Richard Schweiker, Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services, is not unsympathetic and is very much interested in preventive care. Hopefully, he will reflect the President's policies of less government control and more emphasis on the competitive approach to health care in the private sector.

Amendment S.123 was introduced into the Senate on January 15, 1981 by Senator Inouye and Senator Matsunaga. Federation responded very well to a request for letters of support. More than 100 were received from across the country. We will be meeting with our senators from New York in May at the next Federation meeting to urge them to co-sponsor this bill. Ken Adams is working with NASW to find a sponsor for the companion bill in the House within the next few weeks . . . NASW has gained a seat on JCAH—certainly a victory for social work.

The Budget Reconciliation Bill—For those of you who are following bills through the federal maze, this bill initially appeared as HR 3990. A demonstration project was passed as part of this bill to study direct Medicare and Medicaid reimbursement. The cost of reimbursing qualified mental health providers (without regard for discipline) will be evaluated in 45 organization settings across the country. Community mental health centers, partial hospitalization programs and private and public outpatient clinics will be used. As part of this study, all treatment plans must be signed by a physician/psychiatrist; one must demonstrate *improvement* or *preventive deterioration*—never maintenance, which is not considered cost effective. If properly designed, this study can provide an idea of what it actually costs to provide services and why.

. . . further

IRS—Ken Adams will further explore the possibility of including social workers on its Medical Care List. There is a dim hope.

Chiropractors lost an *antitrust suit* against physicians. This would suggest we should seek other avenues for parity than class action suits at this time.

. . . and

Champus, the largest single health insurance program in the country, is currently paying social workers directly, provided there is physician referral and supervision. Senator Inouye attached a rider to the Defense Department Appropriations Bill, which was passed in December 1980, requiring Champus to adopt a demonstration project involving direct reimbursement to clinical social workers without physician referral/supervision. Federation has offered its help in planning the project.

Membership Benefits—The Federation voted down a recommendation to sponsor a National Disability Plan, one substantially better than its competitors. The NYS Society is looking into this plan for its membership. If you are interested, let your chapter president know.
Marsha Wineburgh, President

The Westchester Management Institute For Independent Psychotherapists

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Fee: \$30

Workshop Leaders:

Robert E. Addison, MSW, CSW, Fellow, SCSWP

Martin S. Pollens, MSW, CSW, Diplomate, SCSWP

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Sydney Cohen, Ph.D., Dean of Training

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Chapter Update

METROPOLITAN

Met's education committee has organized a series of workshops and lectures. At the first of these, on March 7th, Jerry Reardon gave a most informative presentation on DSM III, followed by a video taped patient interview.

The membership committee has spent considerable time with the thorny issues of criteria for diplomate status and plans to share its work on the State level in an effort to codify the criteria more uniformly.

The new chapter newsletter made its debut in February; if anybody wants to know more about Met's activities, just read it. Vol. I, No. 1 was a great success, and we look forward to producing it tri-annually.

Barbara Pichler, CSW

MID-HUDSON

Monthly meetings continue to be well attended, and the program committee has received positive responses to both topics and speakers. During the past three months Alan Spivack, CSW, gave a case presentation and discussion on "The Family Life Cycle and a Delinquent Adolescent"; Jeffrey Feinman, Ph.D., spoke on "Short Term Treatment of Depression" and Judith Lessinger, CSW, talked on "countertransference." At the April meeting John Haverlick, CSW, will present an aspect of Family Therapy.

On May 2nd the chapter, in cooperation with Dutchess Community College, will sponsor an all-day workshop on "Borderline Patients," led by Jacinta Lu (Cindy) Costello, CSW, recently transferred to Mid-Hudson from the Queens chapter.

The chapter's exhibit at the Professional Symposium, sponsored by NASW and Family Services on March 20th, distributed membership materials and authorization forms for telegrams to legislators regarding the Equal Access Parity Bill.

Evelyn M. Hill, CSW

NASSAU

In January the Board reluctantly accepted the decision of Margaret M. Isbell, Nassau chapter president, not to

accept a second term in that office. Ms. Isbell expressed a willingness to remain as an active Board member, however, and appointed vice president Maria Warrack as chair of the nominating committee to fill the future vacant post.

Marcia Zigelbaum, chair of the program committee, announced forthcoming meetings. On March 29th Phyllis W. Meadow, Ph.D., Director of the Manhattan Center for Advanced Psychoanalytic Studies, presented a program on "Modern Psychoanalytic Approach to Theory and Treatment."

A "Private Practice Symposium" is scheduled for April 25th at Adelphi University; a panel of clinical social workers who have successfully launched their own private practices will offer a variety of views on this enterprise including a discussion of standards, ethics and supervision resources.

Paul Chaisson, chairman of the Nassau County Legislative Committee, accompanied by Peggy Isbell, met recently with Isadore Shapiro, ACSW, Nassau County's Commissioner of Mental Health. The visit was intended to strengthen the relationship between his good offices and the Society; both Peggy and Paul agree that the visit was most productive. Commissioner Shapiro is a Diplomate of the Society, and we appreciate the time and effort he extended to us.

Margaret M. Isbell, CSW

QUEENS

The Queens chapter extends sincere thanks to Shirley Sillekens, chair for the April 4th workshop on "Narcissistic Theory and Treatment."

The chapter will be continuing its clinical discussions as part of the monthly meetings. Discussion at the May 3rd meeting will be led by Celia Levine, chapter referral committee chair. The topic will focus on the importance of the first telephone contact with a prospective patient.

Pat Landy will make a presentation on June 7th and will share her work on a paper she is preparing on countertransference.

Both Cecile Dunn and Joseph Ven-

timiglia are in the Doctoral Program at Adelphi University. Cecile also teaches in the graduate Social Work program.

WESTCHESTER

Haruko Brown, CSW

The chapter has initiated a concerted effort to urge the passage of the equal access bill. The chapter has asked members for prior approval to dispatch Western Union Mailgrams or messages to legislators; under Bill Hartman's leadership, messages would be sent at the appropriate times and charged to the individual member's phone bill.

On May 2nd a showing of Ingmar Bergman's film "Face to Face" will be followed by a psychoanalytic and cinematic interpretation by C. Edward Robins, Ph.D. A 4-member panel will present other views of the film from their particular expertise at the all-day program at Marymount College, Tarrytown.

On June 6th a panel discussion on "Sexism in Clinical Practice," led by Rosemary Sacken, Ruthe Feilbert-Willis and Bill Hartman, will focus on family and cultural roles and research findings on how therapists treat men and women differently.

Rita Benzer, CSW

TRAINING IN PSYCHOANALYSIS

THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR PSYCHOANALYSIS of the Karen Horney Psychoanalytic Institute and Center offers a training program leading to CERTIFICATION IN PSYCHOANALYSIS. The Institute is chartered by the New York State Board of Regents and offers training to Social Workers with a Master's Degree and five years' post-masters clinical experience. Psychoanalytic treatment employment opportunity is available at the Karen Horney Clinic as part of the training program with the possibility of earning at least \$15,000/year half-time employment. For further information regarding requirements for admission, curriculum, and patient treatment opportunities, please contact Mrs. Harriet Rossen, Registrar, American Institute for Psychoanalysis, 329 East 62nd Street, New York, NY 10021, (212) 838-8044.

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