



mssa VOICE

March 2008

...shaping Minnesota communities since 1893.

Volume 115 Number 3

Special points of interest:

- ◆ Statewide Award Winner Profiles
- ◆ Legislative Update in Executive Directors Column
- ◆ Farewell from John Moline

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We Are Proud of the MSSA Award Winners

MSSA is very proud to announce the 2008 Award Winners. Each award received outstanding nominations and below are the best of the best.

Individual Distinguished Service

Linda Wing has been an active member of MSSA for 25 years. She has held numerous positions within MSSA Region 8, serving as the Legislative Chair for six years, Legislative Vice-Chair for one year, Regional Vice-Chair, Regional Chair, and has been a MSSA Delegate continuously since 1993. Linda has advocated for staff involvement in MSSA on both a regional and State level. She has a very strong belief in the MSSA resolution and legislative process and has been a strong legislative proponent. Linda has worked tirelessly for issues to improve the lives of those less fortunate. Linda has been employed at Lincoln, Lyon and Murray Human Services since 1983. Her

leadership skills as well as her efforts to enhance the lives of vulnerable populations and her unwavering belief in the human spirit are an inspiration to her co-workers.

Adult Foster Care

Wayne and Sylvia Rudolph have provided exemplary services for persons with developmental disabilities for over ten years. Their home provides a warm and caring family atmosphere that goes far above and beyond expectations. They have maintained positive relationships with their consumer families and are always willing to go the extra mile to facilitate those visits. When the consumers express their desires for activities, the Rudolph family makes the effort to see those through. They have taken clients on vacations, to the Twin's games, to Valleyfair, on fishing trips and camping trips, as well as involvement in many local activities. Wayne and Sylvia work well with providers and community resources

(Continued on page 6)

Carpoolers Unite

This year MSSA and the Sheraton are teaming up to provide a Carpool parking area on Wednesday and Thursday morning during the conference. If you have three or more people in your vehicle you can use the preferred parking area in the south parking lot of the Sheraton.

Sheraton staff will be onsite to assist with parking and provide each carpooling

vehicle with a "ticket." The ticket can then be placed in a drawing, located at the information booth, for coffee and pastries on Wednesday and Thursday, and lunch on Friday.

We hope you will take advantage of this opportunity—good luck on the drawing.



*By Rod Halvorson,
Executive Director*

Executive Director's Report

Many times in this column, I have reported on federal and state actions that have, or will have, a negative impact on the programs that we administer for our clients. **Therefore, it is with great pleasure that I can report some positive news.** However, I must warn you that this good news is still a work in progress.

MSSA's number one legislative priority this year is to fight the proposed cuts in federal funding for Targeted Case Management and/or support state funding to backfill the federal cuts. The problem started in 2005 with the adoption of the "Deficit Reduction Act of 2005." This legislation gave the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) the power to right rules to curtail the costs to the federal budget for Targeted Case Management. Case Management and TCM services are services that assist low-income individuals and families in gaining access to needed medical, social and educational services.

On December 4, 2007, CMS finally issued proposed new rules that would dramatically decrease TCM services reimbursed by the federal government. According to a Minnesota Department of Human Services estimate, these rules could result in cuts of at least \$60.9 million for Minnesota annually, based solely on the changes to child welfare services. It is likely the total loss to the state could far exceed this number when other services are also factored in. MSSA, and nearly all of our strategic partner, objected to the new

rules and submitted our opposition by the February 4th deadline. The rules are scheduled to take effect on March 3, 2008.

Several members of the Minnesota Congressional delegation have joined our fight. Senators Norm Coleman and Amy Klobuchar introduced legislation to delay the implementation of these rules until March 2009. Our supporters in the Senate took action on February 14, 2008 to expedite the delay in these harmful rules by offering an amendment (similar to the Coleman/Klobuchar bill) to the Indian Healthcare Improvement Act. The amendment, by Barbara A. Mikulski, D-Md., Norm Coleman, R-Minn., and Amy Klobuchar, D-Minn., would prevent the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) from implementing the rule before April 1, 2009, when there will be a new president. The amendment passed on a voice vote.

Several more steps must occur before this legislation is successful. As I write this article, the Senate must complete action on the Indian Healthcare Improvement Act. The House of Representative must also take positive action before it goes to the President for his signature. We will continue to lobby our House Congressional delegation for passage and push for a veto override if the President rejects the legislation. Let us all work for and hope for a positive ending in this important effort.

Overflow Hotel Rooms

The Sheraton room block is full.

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Hotel Sofitel at 952/835-1900 or
LeBourget Aero Suites at 952/893-9999

President's Report

Now is the time for me to look back on my year as President and ask questions about whether things have improved at MSSA during my year, have they been maintained or have they declined.

In looking at the MSSA Mission to provide MSSA members and agency members with the highest quality education at a reasonable price, it is too early to tell. With the great team assembled for the conference and judging by the amount of fun this committee was having during their meetings, I would say they have a hit in the making. This can only really be answered at the end of the Annual Training Conference & Expo next month. So far all indications are that this is going to be a GREAT CONFERENCE. I wonder how many things on a stick I will get to eat—corn dogs, pork chops, bananas, and some kind of Jell-O things are what I have heard about so far.

The second part of the mission for which I take no credit, but admire the work of everyone who has is the efforts this past year to impact public policy. Without a doubt I think MSSA hit a home run in many areas while protecting the current system of care for Minnesota's most vulnerable. We are entering this legislative session fully staffed and with a clear agenda on our public policy. MSSA members know it will be an upward fight again to maintain what we currently have, but with this strong legislative voice and an active membership we can get their phones ringing when we need to. So we all need to do our part to help the legislative team.

The third area of our mission is to maintain and develop quality member services and increase membership. Again, the modern day MSSA membership numbers were surpassed this past year. The Job's eBulletin has been a huge hit and catches my eye each week.

A fourth mission component is a seven year path to financial security to which with increased revenue and continued fiscal restraint we did a great job in hitting another home run and soon will accomplish this goal. The whole board, staff and certainly the conference committee are to be commended for their efforts on this.

Finally MSSA will continue to build strong strategic partnerships with organizations of a like mission of service. Rod Halvorson, MSSA Executive Director, deserves a lot of credit for helping to accomplish this.

Therefore I submit my score card for your review and see if you agree with my scoring. It has been a great ride for me as your President. In choosing Val Mersch and LaRae Gravely as Conference Co-chairs guaranteed we did not stop laughing—they come with great humor. Rod, Deb Most, Stephanie Kibler and Stan Groff are great staff and contractors who make the job of President very enjoyable. I am merely a shadow of Brian Buhmann and cannot hold a candle to his and Ken Ebel's ability to tell stories. Raeone Loscalzo will have a great mentor in Brian. I look forward to seeing all of you at the conference especially my old friends. Thanks so much for this wonderful opportunity. Now it is your turn to bat!



*By John Moline,
Lutheran Social
Service, MSSA
President*

Final Conference Program

The final conference program will be available online March 10. Please review it closely as we have added new workshops and institutes.

Visit www.mssaconference.org/program.pdf.



MSSA Brings in Nationally Recognized Presenters

In addition to the outstanding local presenters the MSSA Program Committee has arranged, we will be bringing in several outstanding nationally recognized speakers for the 2008 Annual Training Conference & Expo. Below is a brief highlight of the presenters and their workshops/institutes.

Karen Duncan, Master of Arts in Clinical Psychology, Licensed in Marriage and Family, Licensed in Social Work—Karen will be presenting on the Impact of Domestic Violence on Parenting; Child Sexual Abuse, Eating Disorders & Substance Abuse: Focus on Trauma Assessment & Group Treatment for Adolescent Girls; and The Sexual Abuse of Boys by Females: Increasing Awareness, Improving Prevention

Nancy Kilgore, MS, Consultant —Nancy's presentations include Sibling Abuse: A National Epidemic, and Abused Women with PTSD.

Michele Packard, Executive Director of Sage Training & Consulting, Licensed Psychologist, Certified Addictions Counselor—Advanced Relapse Prevention, The Development of the Clinical Supervisor, Identification and Treatment of Borderline Personality Disorder: Why Do These Clients Act the Way They Do?, and Motivational Interviewing: Preparing People for Behavior Change

Ron Glasser, M.D., BA John Hopkins University, MD John Hopkins Medical School—Iraq—A War of Disabilities

Detective Sgt. Mark A. Middleton, Martin County Sheriff's Office, Stuart, FL—Det. Sgt Middleton will be presenting Drugs, Music & the Internet: Understanding the Challenging Issues that Youth Face at a Tuesday pre-conference institute

Christiana Bratiotis, Boston School of Social Work, Doctoral Student—Christiana

will present Understanding, Assessing and Intervening with Compulsive Hoarding during a Tuesday pre-conference institute

Patricia Nellius, CEO, Community Based Care of Brevard Inc.—Wraparound 101 Care Coordination

Charlie Applestein, MSW, Applestein Training Resources—"Use the Force, Luke!" Managing Number One First . . .and Staying Motivated to Do the Job, Binky Power! What Every Child & Youth Care Professional Should Know About Developmental Psychology, and "The Glass Ain't Half Full, Heck It's Overflowing!" The Power of a Strength-Based Approach in Reshaping the Lives of Troubled Children and Youth

Paula M. Mixson, LMSW-AP—Understanding & Intervening in Self-Neglect, Paula is presenting at the conference courtesy of MN DHS Adult Protection

Shirley Pacey, MA, Director, Blue Tower Training Center, Macon Resources, Inc.—Breaking the Silence: Reducing Risk of Sexual Abuse of Persons with Developmental Disabilities, and Illinois Voices...We're Proud of Who We Are!

Chris Davies, BA, President, InnerVoice Works—The Power of the Inner Voice: Four Cornerstones to Managing an Anxiety Disorder

Ted Bowman, MDiv, Educator/Trainer—Grasping for Hope After Crushing Losses: Chronic Sorrow and Shattered Dreams

In addition, we also have two excellent keynote speakers arranged for the conference. On Wednesday, March 26th, we will be address by Dick Obershaw and on Friday, March 28th, we will close out the conference with Darin Green. Both are sure to entertain and educate.

Conference Agenda

Tuesday, March 25

Pre-Conference Institutes

- ♦ Care Coordination 9:00 AM—4:15 PM, East Ballroom
- ♦ Hoarding and Teen Trends, 1:00—4:15 PM, Bloomington & Edina Rooms

Exhibitor Check-in & Set-up, 5:00—6:30 PM, Hotel Lobby

Conference Check-in/Registration, 6:00—7:30 PM, Hotel Lobby

Delegate Assembly, 7:00 PM, Veranda Ballroom

Meet & Greet Networking Reception, (immediately following Delegate Assembly), 8:30 PM—11:30 PM, Plaza 5 & 6

Wednesday, March 26

Conference & Exhibits Check-in/Registration, 7:00 AM—4:30 PM

Exhibits Open, 8:00 AM—4:00 PM

Internet Café, courtesy of MinnesotaHelp.Info, 8:00 AM—5:00 PM

Institutes, 9:00 AM—12:00 Noon

Workshops, 9:00 —10:30 AM, 10:45 AM—12:15 PM, 3:30 — 5:00 PM

Silent Auction, Bloomington Foyer, 10:00 AM—5:15 PM

Lunch (on your own), 12:00 Noon — 1:15 PM

BSW Title IV-E Lunch, invite only, 12:00 Noon—1:15 PM

General Session & Keynote, Dick Obershaw, 1:15—3:15 PM

President's Membership Reception, Grand Ballroom, 5:00—7:00 PM

St. Cloud State University, Department of Social Work, Alumni Gathering, 5:00—6:30 PM

Stevie Ray's Comedy Troupe 8:00 — 9:00 PM

Dance & Karaoke, DJ Dave Cole, 8:30 —12:30 PM

Thursday, March 27

Conference Check-in/Registration, 7:30 AM—4:30 PM

Exhibits Open, 8:00 AM—3:00 PM

Internet Café, courtesy of MinnesotaHelp.Info, 8:00 AM—4:00 PM

Institutes, 8:30 AM—11:45, 1:15—4:30 PM

Workshops, 8:30 —10:00 AM, 10:15 AM—11:45 PM, 1:15—2:45 PM, 3:00—4:30 PM

Brown Bag Series, 12:00 Noon—1:15 PM

MSSA Student Luncheon, Grand Ballroom East, 12:00 Noon—1:15 PM

Lunch (on your own), 12:00 Noon — 1:15 PM

Hospitality Cabanas, MSSA on a Stick!, 4:30 —7:30 PM

Disco Dance Lessons, 7:30—8:30 PM
Dance, Boogie Wonderland, Grand Ballroom, 8:30 —12:30 PM

Friday, March 28

Registration, 8:00 AM — 12:30 PM

Workshops, 8:30—10:00 AM

General Session & Keynote, Darin Green, Grand Ballroom, 10:15 AM —12:00 PM

A new addition this year is the MSSA Membership Booth, located at the top of the escalators. You can get a new member ribbon, ask member questions, learn about member benefits, volunteer opportunities, committee openings. Stop by and introduce yourself!

Haven't registered for
the conference yet?
There is still time.
Mail or fax your
registration today!

(Continued from page 1)

for the benefit of their consumers. They are wonderful advocates for their clients.

Child Foster Care

Cathy and Steve Melin have been child foster parents in Carlton County since 1998, providing care for 40 children. The Melin's demonstrate unconditional positive regard in its truest form for the children they take into their home. The youth that live at the Melin's home become part of the family. The Melin's are able to create a sense of belonging for the youth in their care that is second to none. The youth truly feel that the Melin home is their home, and that Steve and Cathy are parents to them. What is so amazing is how the Melin's are able to create this sense of "home" without alienating or making the family of origin feel left out. They do an absolutely beautiful job of sharing the parenting duties with the youth's parents, including them in whatever manner is appropriate to the situation. The level of caring and dedication, the total inclusion of the youth into their family, and the love and sense of belonging provided to the youth by the Melin's is commendable.

Special Needs Foster Care

Todd and Jean Ann Block are extraordinary foster parents. They can provide structure in their home while still allowing personal expression. They support the children's interest in outside activities and work closely with counselors, teachers, and social workers. Todd and Ann know how to "pick their battles" in dealing with challenging behavior. The Blocks present the most positive foster parenting. They are warm and welcoming, offering ample encouragement to children and families while providing structure, support and exposure to an extended family of caring people. The focus is always on what one can do and on doing the best you can. The Blocks have had 24 regular placements in addition to numerous respite placements. They are respectful of families, encouraging strong relationships and support families in reunification. They work well with community agencies and are willing to go the extra mile for the benefit of the children.

Kinship Care Provider

Roger and Vicky Lavoie are an example of positive kinship providers. Roger and Vicky immediately sought out the available therapeutic resources in the community for their two grandchildren. They established relationships with providers in the community within a few months of the children's arrival, and have been active in participating in therapy and other services. They are the best advocates and guardians of the children's development in every way imaginable. They follow recommendations from providers, even when it means changing their lifestyles and altering their established routines, or making the difficult choice between their child and their grandchildren. Roger and Vicky are responsive, available, compassionate and insightful. They ask questions and seek out options on their own. What is so amazing, is that they don't realize how exceptional they are.

Volunteer Service Award

Roland Seibert has never said no to any of the requests that staff from Chippewa County Family Services have asked of him. For any of you who have to make arrangements in a state of panic for similar situations, you know the value of hearing, "Sure, it will take me 15 or 20 minutes to get my things together and I'll be right there." Roland is literally ready at the drop of a hat, to hop in his van and go to wherever he is needed or to take a child in need and give him a clean bed and a warm, safe home. Roland is a volunteer driver and a respite and child foster care provider. He has been involved with our agency for approximately five years. Needless to say, Roland goes above and beyond his duties as a volunteer in our community. For example, when he first gets a child into his home, he makes a trip to the Mall of America so the child can experience something outside of a rural setting. He has also taken children to the Minnesota State Capitol and Minnesota Zoo, not to mention a trip to Florida with five kids this past winter break. Each trip is not only fun, but also educational, making every one an experience to remember. Roland is "making memories" for children who are coming from homes where life is not always as it should be.

(Continued from page 6)

Outstanding Staff Achievement

If there's one thing a social worker appreciates, it's working with a provider who can't say "no" to your requests. Someone so full of life, laughter, and compassion that she is an endless source of inspiration for those around her, both professional and personally. Cheryl Bulau is this person—she is a SILS worker with Lutheran Social Services. Her primary responsibility is to help people live independently in the community. Let's just say she goes way beyond the basics of household maintenance, budgeting, and appointment making. A few examples to highlight the outstanding commitment she has to her clients include: putting on the gloves and cleaning lice infested apartments, bringing clients friends and children with on client outings, supervising court ordered parent-child visitations, helping a homeless man get services after hours, going "shootin' ", "mudding" and "fishin'" with her clients to make sure they are safe in their choice of leisure activities. Many hours non-scheduled non-paid. Cheryl is such a valuable asset to our agency and community. Her energy is contagious and her heart is ever reaching. Every day she makes the world a better place just by being "Cheryl."

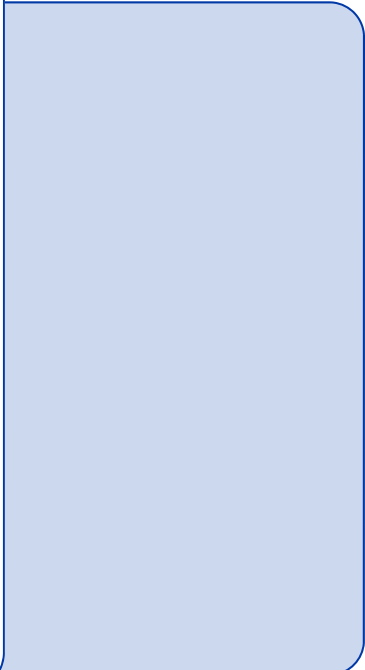
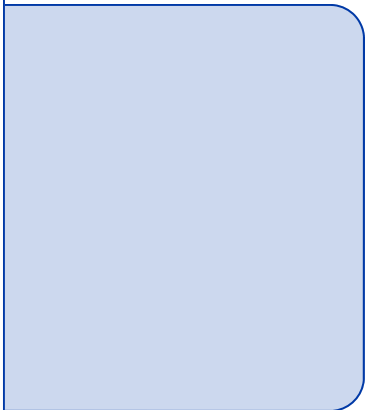
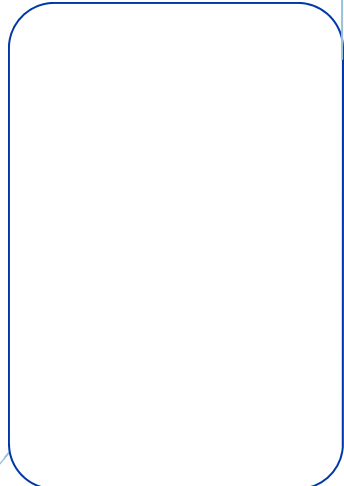
**Community Collaboration (2 Awarded)
35W Behavioral Health Response Collaborative**

On Wednesday August 1, 2007 at approximately 6:05, the I-35W Bridge over the Mississippi River in Minneapolis collapsed. Within two hours of the bridge collapse, the Minneapolis Police Department (MPD) and the American Red Cross (ARC) opened a Family Assistance Center (FAC) at a local hotel. The FAC was open to all families of missing persons and survivors of the bridge collapse. The mission of the FAC was to provide psychological first aid and information in locating or reporting missing loved ones. The key component of the FAC was to provide psychological first aid (PFA) to those visiting the site. PFA is used to limit distress and negative health behaviors among people impacted by the bridge collapse. MDHFS was responsible for coordinating

management of the FAC site and for facilitating partner agencies' activities. These agencies included: American Red; Salvation Army Chaplains from the Minneapolis Police Department Chaplain Corps; Hennepin County Human Services Department; The Minneapolis Police Department; St. Paul Police Department; Hennepin County Sheriff's Office and other law enforcement agencies; Physicians and Nurses from the University of Minnesota Medical Reserve Corps. Mutual Aid was enacted with county and local human services and public health departments to provide professional mentally health staff to the FAC; Public Information Officers from the Minnesota Departments of Public Safety and Agriculture as well as Hennepin County, and the University of Minnesota Crisis Intervention Stress Management

Southeast Region Behavioral Health Team

Behavioral Health personnel responded to the request for behavioral health support from Winona, Fillmore, and Houston counties by activating an existing regional all-hazard behavioral health MOU agreement between the 11 counties in Southeast Region and deploying Behavioral Health Strike teams from each of the non-impacted counties in the region. Behavioral Health Strike Teams were composed of county human service staff, local public health staff and some community health center staff. Behavioral Health Strike Teams were deployed from August 24th – September 7th from seven of the 11 counties in the southeast region with approximately 148 behavioral health volunteers responding to the needs of their flood impacted neighbors. Services were provided in community meetings and shelters, churches, private homes, and even bars. The Strike Team utilized PFA as their operation behavioral health response framework. Safety was provided by performing door-to-door health and welfare checks. Comfort and connection was displayed by meeting with survivors, school staff, and helping parents to deal with distressed children. The SE Regional Behavioral Health Strike Teams provided emotional support services to approximately 500 flood impacted residents of Southern MN.





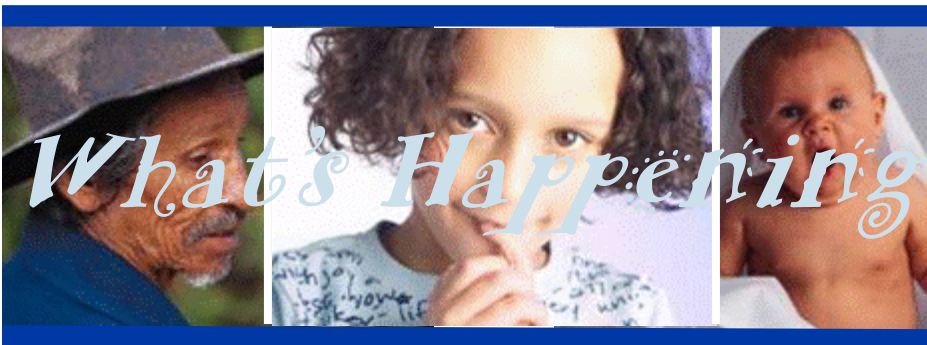
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VOICE

Our mission is to provide leadership to enhance the lives of Minnesotans by supporting diversity, impacting public policy, educating, and communicating among human service professionals.

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President, John Moline
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Treasurer, Fay Bawek
Nominations, Amy Long

MSSA Staff/Contractor

Executive Director,
 Rod Halvorson
Director Member Services,
 Deb Most
Director Program Development & Communications,
 Stephanie Kibler

MARCH

- 14** **MSSA Legislative Council**
10:00 AM, MSSA
- 25** **MSSA Pre-Conference Institutes**
Care Coordination, 9:00 AM, Sheraton
Hoarding, Ethics, & Teen Trends, 1:00 PM, Sheraton
- 25-28** **MSSA Annual Training Conference & Expo**
Sheraton Bloomington Hotel

APRIL

- 17 & 18** **MSSA Board Retreat**
Hilton Minneapolis