JOIN US FOR THE 38TH NASW ARKANSAS ANNUAL CONFERENCE!

This year’s conference is in a new location: Little Rock Marriott in downtown Little Rock! The conference theme challenges social workers to recognize they are leaders working with a variety of people to provide knowledge, skills, and common values to help others identify strengths, overcome adversity, and fulfill potential. In this truly unprecedented time we cannot forget what we are here to do - Lift EVERY Voice!

We are offering over 26 hours of continuing education with exciting plenary sessions, workshops across the continuum and delivered by content experts, student posters, roundtable skills sessions, town hall meetings, and our 2nd Annual Social Work Advocates’ Dinner.

NASW Arkansas has enjoyed providing engaging, educational conferences for the past 38 years, allowing attendees to increase their skill sets and network with colleagues. We hope you will join us as we work to Celebrate Diversity: Lift Every Voice!

Sunny Rogers, LCSW
2017 Annual Conference Chair

Annual Conference Committee

Rejoice Addae, PhD, LMSW
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Catherine Woodrow, BSW

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Kane Smego is an international touring spoken word poet and hip hop artist, cultural diplomat, National Poetry Slam finalist, and the co-founder and former Artistic Director of the award-winning youth arts nonprofit, Sacrificial Poets, based in the Triangle area of North Carolina. He has performed programs across the U.S. and abroad in Europe, Africa, Asia, the Middle East, and Central America, as well as instructed a college course on Spoken Word and Oral History at the
University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill. Kane is the primary author of the YouTh ink Curriculum that uses poetry and Hip Hop to help youth and adults tell their own stories, and challenges them to transform themselves and their communities through the use of the spoken and written word.

Kane will open the conference on Wednesday morning for our Plenary I with Imaginary Borders. This dynamic performance and lecture takes an in-depth look at the history of immigration in the United States and examines the human impact of past and current policies. As a non-Latino Spanish speaker, Kane explores his role as ally in the fight for immigrant rights, and challenges students to think critically about the issues of citizenship and migration, as well as what it means to be a member of a global community. From the Chinese Exclusion Act to the Bracero Program to current immigration policies like Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, this program offers a multifaceted perspective that seeks to broaden the discussion on this important issue.

Terrence James Roberts was one of the Little Rock Nine, a group of African-American students who, in 1957, were the first black students ever to attend classes at Little Rock Central High School in Little Rock, Arkansas. On September 4, 1957, Roberts and eight other African American students (known as the Little Rock Nine) made an unsuccessful attempt to enter Little Rock Central High School. Despite the presence of the National Guard, an angry mob of about 400 surrounded the school. National Guard was removed, with the protection of the students left to the local police. On September 23, 1957, a mob of about 1000 people surrounded the school as the students attempted to enter, prompting President Eisenhower to send U.S. Army troops to accompany the students to school for protection. The troops were stationed at the school for the entirety of the school year, although they were unable to prevent incidents of violence inside.

Dr. Roberts and his fellow students received the Spingarn Medal from the NAACP in 1958, and the Congressional Gold Medal, the United States’ highest civilian honor, in 1999. Dr. Roberts is a frequent speaker on civil rights and diversity and is a regular speaker at the Museum of Tolerance in Los Angeles. Dr. Roberts is CEO of Terrence J. Roberts & Associates, a management consultant firm devoted to fair and equitable practices. A graduate of California State University at Los Angeles (BA) and UCLA (MSW), Dr. Roberts obtained his Ph.D. in psychology from Southern Illinois University in Carbondale, Illinois. He has appeared on The Newshour, Tavis Smiley and the BBC, among others. A compelling study of institutional racism, his memoir Lessons from Little Rock (2009) details his childhood in the segregated South and is a testament to the personal resolve that he and each member of the Little Rock Nine used to survive their first days at Central High. He also the author of Simple, Not Easy: Reflections on Community, Social Responsibility, and Tolerance (2010).

Dr. Roberts will be our Plenary II speaker on Thursday afternoon, presenting Lessons From Little Rock. Today is very different from 1957, but the echoes of Little Rock still inform our decisions today. Public schools are being re-segregated and private, uniracial schools are cluttering the horizon. This lecture serves to open and continue the conversation about race, one of the most salient and confusing topics of our culture. As we move deeper into this new century, with a landscape shifting in other unexpected ways, we must learn ways to accept and embrace difference, rid ourselves of the disabling prejudices that keep us at arm’s length from each other, and work toward establishing a just and truly democratic society.
SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

TUESDAY, MARCH 28
4:00 pm – 6:00 pm  Early Check In/Registration/Exhibitor Set Up

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 29
7:00 am – 8:00 pm  Registration/Information Desk/Exhibits Open
8:30 am – 10:00 am  Plenary I – Kane Smego
10:00 am – 10:30 am  Morning Break with Exhibitors
10:30 am – 12:00 pm  Concurrent Workshops - Session 1
12:00 pm – 1:30 pm  Roundtable Skills Session (pre-registration required)
                    Lunch on Your Own
1:30 pm – 5:00 pm  Concurrent Workshops – Session 2
3:00 pm – 3:30 pm  Afternoon Break with Exhibitors
5:30 pm – 9:00 pm  Concurrent Workshops – Session 3

THURSDAY, MARCH 30
7:00 am – 5:00 pm  Registration/Information Desk/Exhibits Open
7:30 am – 8:30 am  Breakfast with the Board (NASW Members Only Event, pre-registration required)
8:30 am – 12:00 pm  Concurrent Workshops – Session 4
10:00 am – 10:30 am  Morning Break with Exhibitors
12:00 pm – 1:00 pm  Student Poster Presentations
                    Town Hall Meeting – Racism: The Challenge for Social Workers
                    Lunch on Your Own
1:30 pm – 3:00 pm  Plenary II – Dr. Terrance Roberts
3:00 pm – 3:30 pm  Afternoon Break
3:30 pm – 5:00 pm  Concurrent Workshops – Session 5
5:15 pm – 6:15 pm  Student Poster Presentation – Wine & Cheese Soiree
6:30 pm – 9:00 pm  2nd Annual Social Work Advocates Dinner (pre-registration required/ticketed event)

FRIDAY, MARCH 31
7:30 am – 4:00 pm  Registration/Information Desk/Exhibits Open
8:30 am – 12:00 pm  Concurrent Workshops – Session 6
10:00 am – 10:30 am  Morning Break
12:00 pm – 2:00 pm  Annual Awards Luncheon & Leadership Academy Graduation (pre-registration required)
2:00 pm – 4:00 pm  Concurrent Workshops – Session 7
PLENARY I – 1.5 CEUs
Kane Smego – Imaginary Borders

CONCURRENT WORKSHOPS SESSION 1 – 1.5 CEUs

Abuse Disclosure: Indicators and Variables and What to Do About It by Kathy Helpenstill, LCSW
This workshop will look at researched factors leading to disclosures of child abuse as well as predictors for recantation. We will identify variables that support disclosure and avoid recantation as well as how to respond and support without jeopardizing the investigation.

Helping Families in Crisis: Engaging DCFS and Court Into Treatment by Jennifer McCain, LMSW and Shiann Metheny, MS, LPC
Families who are involved with court and DCFS experience a unique crisis and can benefit from an open connection between those providing treatment, the courts, and DCFS. (Offering significant Q&A time).

Addiction: It’s a Brain Disease by Shane Sparks, MD
In this presentation, participants will become familiar with the DSM-V diagnosis for Substance Use Disorders, will have a basic understanding of the neurological impact of substances of abuse, will be able to identify some of the effects of acute and chronic substance use on the brain, and will more clearly understand the importance of treating the entire person.

Medical Social Work: More Than Just Case Management by Tresa Hooks OSW-C, ACHP-SW and Vikki Dahmen- Jones LCSW
Being ill and hospitalized or having a loved one who is ill and hospitalized is one of the most stressful life events many of us will experience. This presentation will describe several case scenarios where a patient was in Medical Intensive Care and then transferred to Hospice. Each scenario will include a discussion about ethical issues.

Private Practice Success: From Dream to Reality by Glenda Eversole, LCSW
Private practice is a wonderful, overwhelming, scary dream for many therapists. Taking the leap is quite doable with the knowledge of what it takes to be successful and how to thoroughly prepare yourself. This training can help you gain the knowledge that you need to be successful in private practice.

Using SHARE for Behavioral Health Care Coordination by Carolyn Turturro, PhD, Nolan Kordsmeier, B.A., Justin Villines, MBA, and Jan Bartlett, J.D.
This proposal examines how record exchange using Arkansas’ health electronic information system SHARE can be a useful and valuable tool for social workers in the care coordination of clients. An overview of SHARE, ways to SHARE, and its value and benefits will be presented along with a demonstration of SHARE.

“I Don’t Have Time: The Ethics of “Time” as a Limited Resource in Social Work Practice by Alishia Ferguson, PhD, LMSW
This interactive session explores time management as an ethical issue. Participants will explore how their perception of “time” effects decision making, attitudes toward documentation and desire for self-care in practice and discuss how this limited resource shapes ethical social work practice today.
ROUND TABLE SKILLS SESSION – 1.5 CEUs

These workshops teach a specific skill needed by practitioners and educators and include one or more exercises that let attendees practice using this skill. Skills workshops may take many forms, but each should include an overview of a skill or technique and a hands-on demonstration. Attendees should be ready to get involved as these sessions are not passive, but rather active opportunities for learning. Each presentation will be about 20 minutes in length and attendees will rotate to different presentations when indicated.

CONCURRENT WORKSHOPS SESSION 2 – 3 CEUs

New Tools for Talking About Teen Suicide by Greg Adams, LCSW, ACSW, FT

Two new brief videos from AETN provide good opportunities to open up the conversation about teen suicide. One is based on the juvenile novel, After the Death of Anna Gonzales by Terri Fields. The other has first-hand accounts from Arkansas adults about struggles with depression and suicide as teens.

Mental Health First Aid by Melanie Davenport, LMSW, Chelsie Hall, LMSW, Karen Irving, LCSW, Britni Lee, MPH, CHES, Marquita McField, LCSW, Haleigh Trotter, LCSW, and Brianna Woods, LSW, CDP

Nationally, suicide is the 10th leading cause of death among Americans. The purpose of this NASW Leadership Academy project is to increase the number of those receiving Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) training. This presentation will provide an overview of MHFA, information from piloted training(s), individual projects, and next steps.

Reentry Programs: Perspectives of Incarcerated Males on the Influence of Incarceration on Family by LaVerne Bell-Tolliver, PhD, LCSW and Maci Scudder, B.A.

This workshop provides findings of a mixed methods study that explored changes in the perceptions of inmates in three prison units of the Arkansas Department of Correction after attending a reentry program module focusing on the influence of inmate’s incarceration on family. Recommendations for family and professionals are offered.

Get Out of the Office and into Streets: Social Work Activism in a New Era by Catherine Crisp, PhD, MSW

Following the 2016 presidential election, social workers appear to be increasingly interested in finding ways to support causes and issues that are aligned with social work values. The focus of this workshop is to present tools that social workers can use when engaging in activism.

Adoption Safe Family Act (ASFA): Is it Really Safe for African American Incarcerated Mothers? by Patricia Wilkerson, Ph.D., LCSW, Gloria Davis, Ph.D., LCSW, and Tamara Glover, ABD, LCSW

After fifteen months, the Adoption Safe Family Act (ASFA) terminates parental rights (TPR) of incarcerated mothers. Evidenced based practice suggest that children fair better in kinship care versus being placed with strangers. Social Work (SW) is fundamental to positive outcomes for incarcerated parents with children.

Individual Resilience Training by Dr. Erick Messias

Individual Resilience Training (IRT) is a modular-based intervention for individuals recovering from a first episode of non-affective psychosis (FEP). Its primary aims are to promote recovery by identifying client’s strengths and resiliency factors, enhancing illness management, teaching skills to facilitate functional recovery achieve and maintain personal wellness.

CONCURRENT WORKSHOPS SESSION 3 – 3 CEUs

Grief Therapy: Navigating the Terrain of Loss by Melissa A. Smigelsky, M.A., M.S. and Jamison Bottomley, M.S.

This presentation provides helping professionals with theoretical and practical knowledge about grief by: (a) examining bereavement across the lifespan; (b) describing complicated grief; (c) elucidating three contemporary models of bereavement; (d) discussing traumatic bereavement and its unique challenges; and (e) introducing grief therapy techniques using didactic and experiential engagement.
The Art of Presence and Attunement: Philosophies and Practices for Improving Competency and Skills by Rev. Carla Cheatham, MA, MDiv, PhD, TRT

Showing up well for those suffering or expressing grief as anger/conflict can feel challenging. The best clinical interventions will be of no use if we are not grounded enough to utilize them. This presentation will review the roots of our discomfort and provide practical exercises to deepen all clinical skills.

Libraries Can Help: Starting a Dialogue Between Public Libraries and Social Services in Arkansas by Jodie W. Dailey, MSW, LCSW, MLIS

Both the NASW and the American Library Association (ALA) have recently begun to recognize the connections between services provided at public libraries and social services. This presentation will provide an overview of the current trends and open a dialogue surrounding these issues in Arkansas.

THURSDAY, MARCH 30, 2017

BREAKFAST WITH THE BOARD (NASW members only) – 1 CEU

CONCURRENT WORKSHOPS SESSION 4 – 3 CEUs

Expressive Arts Therapy: The Basics by Beth G. White, LCSW

The sensory-based qualities of the Expressive Arts help individuals communicate, repair, and recover. Learn how processing things in therapy in a largely nonverbal way can be freeing. This presentation will provide an overview of Expressive Arts (EXA) Therapy, with real case examples, and an experiential exercise for illustration. Resources for providers, including clinical training program information, will also be provided.

Medical-Legal Partnership in Pediatric Primary Care: Addressing Social and Legal Needs by LeeAnn W. Oakley, LCSW, Laura Generou, LCSW, Mary Claire Hyatt, J.D., and Meredith Fay Carpenter, M.H.A

Food insecurity, housing stability, access to benefits and access to special education services in schools are important social determinants of children’s health, frequently unaddressed in the healthcare setting. At Circle of Friends - Little Rock, attorneys, social workers, nurses, physicians, and community partners created a screener to impact these needs.

Recovery and Person Centered Treatment by Stacey Kuchinski, LCSW and Tisha R. Jenkins, LCSW

This presentation will provide professionals in attendance with an explanation of how person centered treatment using the recovery principles will lead to better outcomes in therapy. Person centered therapy uses a holistic approach when treating the individual vs focusing on a specific deficit/symptom. Professional’s attending this session will hear recovery stories from individuals who are now functioning successfully in the community and will learn ways of transitioning their current treatment models into a person centered treatment model.

Developmental, Ethical, and Practical Approaches to Working with Children Facing the Death of a Loved One by Pam Auten, LMSW, CCLS and Esther Pipkin, M.S., CCLS, CBIS

This presentation will explore developmental theories that support children’s understanding of death as well the importance of participating in the rituals of death and dying. Information will include how children grieve, materials to help them through the process, how to identify traumatic grief, and rituals to make the death meaningful.

Engaging Families in Measurable Work by Rebecca Humar, LMSW

The Patient and Family Advisor Program was co-designed in collaboration with parent advisors, staff members and hospital leaders to engage patients and families in new and meaningful ways.

Our Genes Load the Gun, but the Environment Pulls the Trigger by Priscilla Pittman, MSW, MA

According to National Institute on Aging research, the virulent changes in the brain may begin decades before memory loss is detected and Alzheimer’s disease is diagnosed. Epidemiological studies are looking at how we might alter the onset of Alzheimer’s and late-onset cognitive decline. It is the “Western Disease Cluster” that peaks scientific curiosity.
A Groundwater Analysis of Institutional & Structural Racism by Joyce James, LMSW-AP and Sandra Bernabei, LCSW

This workshop will enhance the racial equity awareness of the participants by building a common language and understanding, of the underlying factors that contribute to racial inequity. This increased knowledge can be a catalyst for developing strategies to build more effective programs and for strengthening and transforming all systems to better understand and respond to the needs of all populations. The facilitators are skilled in creating a safe space for participants to discuss institutional and structural racism in the historical and current context, in a way that that holds us accountable for “turning the mirror inward” to examine systemic rather than individual factors contributing to poor outcomes.

Mind Unfolding by Lauren E. Hannah, LCSW

This presentation will focus on the social work core values of competence and integrity. It will include themes from trauma-informed care, neuroscience as well as responsible practice.

Clinical Social Work and Scope of Practice in Medical and Mental Health Care by Libby Kay, MSSW, LCSW, ACSW, Susan E. Tonymon, MSW, LMSW, and Kenneth Tonymon, MD, FAAS, AANS

This presentation will focus on clinical social work at the intersection of mental health care/symptoms and physical/medical disease. Ethics will address the dilemma related to scope of practice and competence in medical health care issues. Participants will observe a live interview with a client.

STUDENT POSTERS SESSION 1 – 1 CEU

Visit student poster presentations to hear about Innovative programs or interventions from field placement (internship) experiences, public policy that is current or relevant to social work practice, and graduate research projects or practice evaluations.

TOWN HALL MEETING – 1 CEU

Racism: The Challenge for Social Workers by Joyce James, LMSW-AP and Sandra Bernabei, LCSW

Institutional and Structural Racism are embedded in the policies and practices of all human service delivery systems. Social Workers have the unique experience of working in all of these systems and are a witness to the inequities regarding race. Social Workers will have the opportunity to examine the realities of racism in our work, the ways in which racism manifests, our own attitudes and assumptions about racism, and the role of the Social Work profession in undoing racism. The session will be interactive and include time for questions and reflections on the role of the profession in undoing racism.

PLENARY II – 1.5 CEUs

Dr. Terrence Roberts – Lessons from Little Rock

CONCURRENT WORKSHOPS SESSION 5 - 1.5 CEUs

Light on the Dark Side of the Street: Living Well in a Stress and Trauma World by Greg Adams, LCSW, ACSW, FT

We often have more wisdom about coping than we apply. It is possible to find light and live well on the dark side of the street where stress, trauma and loss are common, but it’s not automatic. The rewards, however, are worth the effort for those we support...including ourselves.

Best Practices for Developing Community Cohesion for LGBTQ Individuals by D’Andre L. Jones, BSE, MA

The literature will offer acumen to social workers, educators, and health care professionals regarding the significance of developing community cohesion, and best practices that will augment cultural competence concerning LGBTQ individuals in small southern communities. These best practices were developed post the passing of the Fayetteville Anti-Discrimination Ordinance.
Phoenix Ink: Psychodynamic Motivations for Tattoo Attainment by Survivors of Trauma by December Maxwell and co-authored by April Rand, MSW, PhD

Motivations of tattoo attainment have limited research, especially among survivors of sexual trauma. Sexual trauma survivors often have PTSD and tattoo may align with existing PTSD therapies. Exploring these motivations may offer insight into the use of personal narrative with tattoo and alternative therapeutic processes that survivors seek.

Ethical Boundaries and Resilience to Prevent and Treat Compassion Fatigue by Rev. Carla Cheatham, MA, MDiv, PhD, TRT

Ethical boundaries protect against violations, but also help clinicians avoid compassion fatigue. Beyond inappropriate personal and financial relationships, practitioners must also manage emotional boundary crossings that may put everyone at risk. Citing research and discussing resilience practices, this presentation will promote emotional health and protection to improve efficacy.

Community Based Approach to Reintroducing Fresh Produce into Food Deserts by Coleman Yoakum

My organization has been in the Detroit metro-area working to bring food back into desert communities through gardens, small pop-up markets, a store front and community events. On limited funds and no staff, we are putting produce back into the diets of folks who have historically had a difficult time getting to fresh food.

Green Dot Bystander Intervention by Dr. Shannon Collier-Tenison and Corrigan Revels

The Green Dot program is designed to train members of the community in power-based violence prevention through effective bystander behaviors. Power-based violence includes sexual assault, domestic violence, stalking, elder-abuse, child-abuse, and bullying. This training will introduce the Green Dot philosophy, tools for bystander intervention, and ways to address personal obstacles to intervention. The role of social workers in recognizing risks of interpersonal violence and understanding the importance of intervention will also be addressed.

STUDENT POSTERS SESSION 2 – 1 CEU

Visit student poster presentations to hear about Innovative programs or interventions from field placement (internship) experiences, public policy that is current or relevant to social work practice, and graduate research projects or practice evaluations.

2ND ANNUAL SOCIAL WORK ADVOCATES’ DINNER – 2 CEUs

Simple, Not Easy: Reflections on Community, Social Responsibility, and Tolerance featuring Dr. Terrance Roberts, followed by moderated panel including Officer Tommy Norman, Dr. Erick Messias, and Dr. John W. Miller, Jr.

FRIDAY, MARCH 31, 2017

CONCURRENT WORKSHOPS SESSION 6 – 3 CEUs

The Emerging Importance of Behavioral Health Services in our Health System by Kimberly Shuler, BSW, MSW, LCSW

Our healthcare system faces enormous challenges today in providing needed services while managing costs. We continue to look for ways to improve this system while helping individuals get better. We as social workers are uniquely trained to do this by providing behavioral health services in healthcare settings.

Generational Strengths and Differences by Dr. Rosalie V. Otters PhD, MSW, D.Min, LCSW

Generational cohorts must learn to work together. Aging baby boomers, 53 - 71, are 25% of Americans. Millennials (Generation Y), 20 – 36, are an even larger group. Definitions of aging are broad: chronological, social, psychological, biological and spiritual. Social workers must assess strengths and differences in an aging of society.
**Ethical Implications of Technology Use in Social Work Practice** by Rejoice A. Addae, PhD, LMSW, Patricia Wilkerson, PhD, LCSW, and Jocelyn Martin, PhD, MSW

Advances in technology are providing new possibilities for social work practice. Social media are helping social workers to deliver services to clients in remote areas. These possibilities also raise concerns about ethical issues. Social workers must develop knowledge of ethical theories that guide practice.

**Legacy** by Matthew Knight, LPC

At the end of your life, will you have truly lived? This workshop takes you on a journey, working backwards from your end-highly interactive, personally challenging. It offers direction and insight to discover and make the choices that makes your’s an extraordinary life with an extraordinary legacy. You will not be the same.

**Ethics and Solutions to the Latest Challenge** by Mindy Moore, LMSW

Mental Health Professionals in every practice setting have come to recognize the prevalence of complex ethical issues. Ethics are important in guiding us in the choices we make every day. Come and join our discussion on how to make ethical decisions, top ethical violations in the counseling field, social media tips, and considerations when terminating client relationships.

**Exploration of the Emotional Complexities, Diagnostics, and Treatment Interventions for Eating Disorders** by Chantal Carter, LCSW, LADAC, CEDS

Because of the high risk of medical complications and mortality rates within individuals struggling with an eating disorder, accurate diagnosis and appropriate skilled care becomes very important. This presentation will give attendees a better understanding of the complex emotional and cognitive experiences of those with eating disorders, as well as exploring the diagnostic criteria and appropriate treatment interventions. The presentation will include video clips to help provide depth to the presentation material, and time for open discussion related to the topic.

**CONCURRENT WORKSHOPS SESSION 7 – 2 CEUs**

**Ethical Existential and/or Spiritual Care for Persons of All Faiths and Ideologies: What All Disciplines Can Do** by Rev. Carla Cheatham, MA, MDiv, PhD, TRT

Moving beyond cultural competence to cultural humility means examining biases and improving skills to better provide support to persons of all faiths, cultures, and even non-theistic ideologies. Means of honoring boundaries, performing competent screening for existential needs and preferences, and engaging appropriate interventions and referrals will be described and practiced.

**Case Management and Client Success: Understanding the Role of Risk and Protective Factors through Data Analysis** by Johanna Thomas, PhD, LMSW, Shaun Thomas, PhD, and Grant Drawve, PhD

Practitioners and researchers agree that untangling risk and protective factors to help the client achieve maximum success has proven to be a daunting task. A new methodological technique, Conjunctive Analysis of Case Configurations (CACC) is being used to understand how unique combinations of client characteristics and other factors influence client success. This workshop focuses on the benefits offered by employing CACC procedures using examples from a truancy intervention.

**Beyond Maternal Depression** by E. Christopher Lloyd, PhD, LCSW

Strong evidence documents how depression in mothers has significant effects her children by negatively impacting the quality of her care-giving. But other mental disorders may have effects on children as serious as depression. Emerging evidence provides support for a more expansive view of risks related to maternal mental health and suggests what interventions social workers may deploy to support parents and children. This session reviews this emerging evidence and identifies evidence-based resources and interventions social workers and clients are likely to find beneficial when maternal mental health is a concern.

**OVER 26 HOURS OF CONTINUING EDUCATION!**
2ND ANNUAL SOCIAL WORK ADVOCATES’ DINNER

Join us for an evening of dinner and education at our 2nd Annual Social Work Advocates’ Dinner. This event will be held on Thursday, March 30, 2017 at our conference location, the Little Rock Marriott. Hundreds of social workers, exhibitors, sponsors, mental health professionals, mental health organizations and agencies, social work students, and leaders of the legislative community will enjoy cocktails, dinner, and a truly engaging program.

This year’s program features Dr. Terrence Roberts, who will continue his discussion from his keynote address and focus on Simple, Not Easy: Reflections on Community, Social Responsibility, and Tolerance. After his presentation, Dr. Roberts will join Dr. Erick Messias, Dr. John W. Miller, Jr., and Officer Tommy Norman for a moderated panel discussion. Social workers and mental health professionals will receive 2 hours of continuing education for their participation.

Over 5,000 invitations will be sent for the evening. This is a ticketed event and will be open to the public to purchase tickets. Be sure to sign up early to ensure your reservation. Tickets are $50.

DR. ERICK MESSIAS

Erick Messias, MD, MPH, PhD was born and raised in Brazil, where he completed medical school and practiced family medicine in rural areas, before moving to the US in 1997 and becoming an American citizen in 2014. Dr. Messias completed his residency training in psychiatry at the University of Maryland in 2001, and in preventive medicine at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health in 2003. While at Hopkins, he also received a master’s in public health and a PhD in psychiatric epidemiology. Since then, Dr. Messias has been practicing psychiatry in private practice and academic institutions in both Georgia and Arkansas. From 2010 to 2015, he was the medical director of the Walker Family Clinic and the House Staff Mental Health Service at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences in Little Rock. He has also published several papers in scientific journals on risk factors for depression and suicide, as well as schizophrenia and psychiatric epidemiology. Dr. Messias joined Beacon Health Options as Medical Director for Arkansas in August of 2015

DR. JOHN W. MILLER, JR.

Originally from Moncks Corner, SC, Dr. John W. Miller Jr. is an Associate Professor of Social Work at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. He has been a member of the UALR School of Social Work faculty since 2007, and teaches graduate students in the Master of Social Work program where he leads courses that range from Diversity and Oppression to Advanced Direct Practice III (Group Psychotherapy). Dr. Miller received his Bachelor of Arts Degree in Experimental Psychology and his Master of Social Work degrees from the University of South Carolina. He earned his PhD in Social Work from The University of Tennessee. During his time at UT he explored the role that historical US Census racial categories had on the racial identity development of whites and non-whites in America. He also critically examined the role that community socio-economic environments have on the self-importance of African American adolescents. Dr. Miller’s work has yielded several publications which can be found in the Journal of Human Behavior in the Social Environment, Adult Development and Well-Being: The Impact of Institutional Environments, the
School Community Journal, The School Community Journal, and Race, Gender, and Class. Dr. Miller’s current research examines suicidal ideation among African American youth. Dr. Miller is co-chair of the UALR Diversity Council and serves as a board member of several non-profit organizations in the Central Arkansas area. In addition, he is President of the Greater Little Rock chapter of The 100 Black Men of America, Inc. The primary purpose of the 100 Black Men of Greater Little Rock is to provide quality mentoring to young people. Their chapter motto is “real men giving real time!”

**OFFICER TOMMY NORMAN**

Police officer Tommy Norman, from North Little Rock, Arkansas, has been described as a blessing by many in the community he serves. Though the 18-year veteran officer’s social media pages attracts much attention over the past few months, the care and acts of kindness displayed by Norman have been going on for years.

Norman is known for positive community policing. Norman’s unorthodox approach to policing includes thousands of video posts, pictures and daily interactive engagement at the Boys & Girls Clubs and the Police Athletic League with those that he protects and serves. He is credited for doing things like presenting 50 NLRSD students with backpacks and gift cards from Shoe Carnival to purchase shoes, starting the “Shop with a Cop” program to help financially struggling students or just dancing with the children.

Norman has gained national and international attention for his unconventional methods of law enforcement. In videos and posts on Instagram and Facebook, Norman can be found with neighborhood kids performing the latest dance craze, taking a selfie or even playing in wigs. Yes, wigs — anything for the kids. The national and international expose of Tommy Norman came from a televised CNN News cable program on May 10, 2015 during an interview on Newsroom with its host Brooke Baldwin and her guest Atlanta activist and rapper Killer Mike. Killer Mike professed that Norman is "doing something right" and that is connecting with inner city youth, in particular minority communities of color.

“I want to inspire people,” Norman said in the CNN interview. “Not just other police officers, but people in the community. It’s a partnership between the police and the community. We have to work together to make our community a safer place and a more peaceful place to live, so I took it to the social networking sites — Facebook, Instagram and Twitter — to inspire other people to go out and make a difference in their corner of the world.”

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**ANNUAL SOCIAL WORK SERVICE PROJECT**

This year’s service project focuses on literacy for children in Arkansas. You can help by donating fiction and non-fiction books for children ages 6-9.

Your outreach benefits AR Kids Read and the Arkansas Literacy Councils (ALC). ALC is the statewide non-profit that provides structure and support to county-level literacy councils serving adults in over 50 Arkansas counties. These councils offer instructional tutoring to adults who want to learn to read, write or speak English better. All services are free.

AR Kids Read was founded in 2012, this volunteer-based literacy intervention is designed to provide struggling readers with trained tutors who donate one hour each week. Tutors provide students with more opportunities to read by using easy-to-implement tutoring methods. Tutors work in small groups or one-on-one, building relationships between student and tutor that create an environment that is ideal for learning.
Our mission is to improve the future of Arkansas children and families by advancing literacy education through community engagement and tutoring so that all children can read proficiently by the end of third grade.

AR Kids Read works to increase public awareness and appreciation among the general public and targeted constituencies for the need for grade level reading proficiency by communicating relevant information and raising the profile of AR Kids Read as an advocate for childhood reading proficiency; increase childhood reading proficiency by placing and supporting volunteer tutors in public schools and by providing literacy resources to children. Demonstrate the success of tutoring programs using scores, surveys, and other reliable measurements; and build community engagement in the education process by involving corporations, churches and other community institutions in the tutoring program.

ANNUAL AWARDS LUNCHEON & GRADUATION

Join us in honoring leaders in the profession and communities who fully embody social work values, and the 2017 graduating class of the NASW Arkansas Leadership Academy. Those being honored include:

- Social Worker of the Year
- MSW Student of the Year
- BSW Student of the Year
- Agency of the Year
- Citizen of the Year
- Public Elected Official of the Year
- Lifetime Achievement Recipient
- 2017 NASW Arkansas Leadership Academy Fellows

There is no fee for the luncheon for conference attendees if you register in advance. Otherwise, tickets will be available for purchase for one day only at the conference, Wednesday, March 29. Tickets purchased that day are $30.

REGISTRATION

Click here to download a paper registration form.

Enjoy Early Registration Rates now through March 10!

Be sure to book your room at the Little Rock Marriott soon to take advantage of our group rate.