



Mississippi Conference
on Social Welfare

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MCSW Scholarship Awarded

The Mississippi Conference on Social Welfare has long been a proponent of academic excellence as evidenced by its generous scholarships given to students who are pursuing a Master's Degree in Social Work. Historically, MCSW has awarded those recipients who have distinguished themselves by demonstrating excellence in achievement, leadership and service. The conference is proud to have continued this tradition by awarding this year's scholarship to Manfred Eidt is a second year graduate student at

Jackson State University. MCSW is pleased that he is preparing himself for a career in social work and is confident that he will make a tremendous contribution to the profession.

We look forward to the continued provision of scholarships in the years to come. If you are interested in applying for an MCSW scholarship in the future, then please visit our website www.mcsw.org for additional information.



2008 MCSW President Brent Hurley awards Eidt scholarship



Mississippi Conference on Social Welfare

Swain Honored at 81st Annual Forum

MCSW has been fortunate to have had a wealth of board members who have been dedicated to the field of social work. This year our board of directors voted to create the Presidential Service Award in an effort to honor a board member whose tremendous contributions to MCSW and the social work profession have been unsurpassed. President Brent Hurley and the board were thrilled to announce Margaret (Margo) Swain as the recipient of this special award.



Margo Swain



Beth Frizsell, Swain and Brent Hurley

Ms. Swain is currently serving as the historian for MCSW, but she has also served the board in many other

capacities including president. As a professor at Mississippi State University, Ms. Swain has inspired students to pursue careers in social work and has mentored those students throughout their careers. Perhaps Elizabeth Frizsell, Permanency Division Director of Mississippi Children's Home Services best described Ms. Swain's distinguished career by saying "She is social work." The profession has undoubtedly been profoundly strengthened by her unwavering commitment to her students, helping those in need throughout the state of Mississippi.

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Individual Merit Award Winner



Wanda C. McCullough has over 35 years in Social Work in areas of child abuse/neglect, child welfare, administrative, budget management, fund development and program building, hospital social work, discharge planning, neo-natal intervention/case management, trauma and crisis intervention, research for grant funding availability according to need. McCullough currently serves as the CEO of Grace Productions.

She received her Bachelor of Arts Degree in Social Work in 1973 from the University of Mississippi in Oxford, MS. She graduated with her Masters in Social Work in 1978 from the University of Southern Mississippi in Hattiesburg, MS.

From 1979-1998, McCullough worked for the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians. During that time she assisted the tribal council in writing the adoption codes, she was responsible for passage of a resolution by the Choctaw Tribal Council which called for adoptions of Indian children to be handled in Tribal Court, and she was also the caseworker who led successful efforts to the U.S. Supreme Court to reaffirm the rights of Indian tribes nationwide to have a major role in the adoption placement of Indian Children.

Perhaps the most significant achievement that she has had in her career is the heart and commitment to change and improve the lives of people.

Agency Merit Award Winner



For over 30 years Region 8 Mental Health Services has provided mental health, developmental disability and alcohol and drug services. Since the mid 1990's, Region 8's vision has been to meet the unique behavioral health care needs of each individual in the community with a focus on quality service and compassionate care.

Region 8 Mental Health Center located in Brandon, MS, received the MCSW Agency Merit Award. Since 1997, Region 8 has gone from serving less than 1,000 consumers to nearly 20,000 today. By focusing on efficient operations and employing highly trained professionals and caregivers, they have continued to excel in meeting the mental health needs of Copiah, Madison, Rankin and Simpson counties.

Region 8's Services consist of: Alcohol/Drug Treatment, Developmental Disabilities Services, Adult Services, Children & Youth Services, and Employee Assistance Program

Region 8 has helped to change the lives of many families through their large array of Mental Health Services and they are truly a deserving agency to be recognized for their tremendous efforts in the area of social welfare.

District Conferences Set for Spring 2009

Each Spring MCSW offers educational opportunities throughout Mississippi for Licensed Social Workers and Marriage & Family Therapists to earn valuable credits toward their licensure (SWU/LMFT hours).

See insert for registration details.

There will be a total of four conferences, with *two Southern Conferences* offered this year:

Southern Conferences

April 17, 2009 - Long Beach
USM, Gulf Coast Long Beach Campus in the Holloway Complex A
 Co-sponsored by USM School of Social Work

TITLE: Multidisciplinary Practice
Topics & Presenters:

Post-Katrina Storm Disorder: The Gulf Coast More Than Two Years Post-Katrina
 Raymond M. Scurfield, DSW, LCSW, ACSW
 Professor of Social Work & Director, Katrina Research Center
 University of Southern Mississippi Gulf Coast

Caregiver Issues
 Melora Jackson, MS, CMHT
 Division of Alzheimer's Disease and Other Dementias
 MS Dept of Mental Health

Behavior Crisis Management Training
 Ramona Lockett, LMSW
 Mississippi Children's Home Services

Case Management and Community Based Services with At-Risk Youth
 Laurie Risher, LMSW, ACC, Program Director
 Gretchen Leake, MSW, Assistant Director and Case Management Coordinator
 USM School of Social Work, Family Network Partnership

April 23, 2009 - Hattiesburg
Jackie Dole Community Center

TITLE: Aging and End of Life Issues
Topics & Presenters

Difficult Decisions and the Grief Process
 Missy Rowley, Ph.D., LCSW, ACSW
 Instructor, School of Social Work, USM
 Developmental and Systems Approach to Working with Families through Difficult Decisions and the Grief Process

Moral, Ethical and Spiritual Decisions at the End of Life
 Susan Hrostowski, Ph.D., LMSW
 Assistant Professor, School of Social Work, USM

Enhancing Quality of Life for Individuals with Dementia
 Kathy Van Cleave, LMSW, LCMHT
 Director for the Division of Alzheimer's Disease and Other Dementias
 MS Dept. of Mental Health

The Northern Conference

May 12, 2009 - Tupelo
Tupelo Department of Human Services Building

Morning Session:
Topic: Internet Safety for Parents/Teachers/Adults
 Presented by: Jay Houston / Cyber Crime / Internet Crimes Against Children / MS (ICAC) division Attorney General's Office.

Afternoon session:
Topic: Social Work within the Military Family
 Dr. Melinda Pilkinton
 Assistant Professor & Field Coordinator in Social Work
 Mississippi State University in Starkville where she has taught since 1999.

Panel Discussion on Service Provision and It's Impact on Clients

The Central Conference

May 15, 2009 - Jackson
Robert E. Lee Building, 239 North Lamar Street, 12th floor conference room

(Limited parking is available for visitors on the top floor of the parking garage off Amite Street directly behind the Robert E. Lee Building).

Topic: "Navigating Mississippi's System of Care"
 Panel presentation and interactive round table discussions facilitated by Sandra Parks, Children and Youth Services, MS Department of Mental Health.

Professionals will learn to navigate through Mississippi's system of care to access needed mental health services for Mississippi families, children, and youth with serious emotional disturbances.

Presenters: The MS Department of Mental Health, Children and Youth Services (Sandra Parks), MS Department of Education (Denita Munday, Bureau Director of Policy), Healthy Schools (Shane McNeil), MS Department of Human Services, the Division of Youth Services (Clarence Powell, Director of Youth Services) and Division of Child and Family Services (representative pending), MS, Department of Health (Gwen Winters), MS Division of Medicaid (Bonnie Windham, MYPAC Program Director), the Attorney General's Office (Patti Marshall), and the MS Department of Vocational Rehabilitation (Patty Horton).

Legislative information

The Department of Human Services is revising their child welfare plan and has invited the public to give provide input. The dates have been set for regional public hearings, but not meeting places. Contact your local Division of Family and Children's Services regional director to get more information.

March 2, 2009	Maggie Mixon	Jackson	(601) 364-7447
March 5, 2009	Kay Altese	Gulfport	(228) 897-5790
March 10, 2009	Judy McClain	Grenada	(662) 226-1990
March 11, 2009	Cynthia Renot	Hattiesburg	(601) 554-4354
March 13, 2009	Tracy Malone	Tupelo	(662) 860-6085
March 24, 2009	Vicky Reed	Starkville	(662) 323-1573
March 26, 2009	Tonya Rogillio	Tylertown	(601) 876-3238