

2010 Advocacy Agenda

NASW-FL—advancing the profession and practice of social work in Florida.

The Florida Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers (NASW-FL) is part of the world's largest organization of professional social workers, and represents 5800 professional social workers in Florida.

The NASW-FL Board of Directors has outlined the following areas as legislative and advocacy issues for 2010.

I. Professional Social Work

- ★ Support legislation to improve safety for social workers and other mental health professionals, including increasing penalties.
- ★ Support recognition by the legislature of the importance of the social work profession and the workforce challenges and trends in the employment of social workers.
- ★ Maintaining the quality and integrity of professional social work and minimize administrative burdens by monitoring and responding to any legislation impacting social workers' professional regulation and oversight.

II. Mental Health

- ★ Support legislation that promotes equity in mental health treatment and coverage.
- ★ Support involuntary commitment procedures that best serve to protect the clients and the public.
- ★ Support fair and marketable reimbursement rates for social workers.
- ★ Support treatment, rather than prison or homelessness, for those with mental illness.

III. Child Welfare

- ★ Support the education and training of child welfare workers in schools of social work by drawing down additional federal funds for Title IV-E.
- ★ Support reinstating the loan forgiveness program for social workers in child welfare.
- ★ Support legislation that would reduce barriers to adoption and expand the pool of permanent homes for foster children.

IV. Health Care

- ★ Oppose the elimination of or cuts from the medically needy program in Florida.
- ★ Support accessible and affordable health care for all Florida families.
- ★ Support implementation of the KidCare program for all eligible children in Florida.

V. Social Welfare

- ★ Support full societal participation and equal opportunity for all Florida families.