

# **The Society for Transplant Social Workers Annual Membership Meeting, October 10, 2013 Dallas, Texas**

**Meeting called to order:** by **Laurie McDonald, President**

**Secretary's report:** **Dawn Temple**, Acting Secretary, asked for a motion to accept the 2012 annual membership meeting minutes sent by email for review. The motion was seconded, and the minutes were unanimously approved.

**Treasurer's report:** **Pat Voorhes**, Treasurer, gave the annual report. The 2012 fiscal year report was unanimously approved as presented.

**Membership report:** **Jan Hart**, We now have 253 members and continue to grow. We hope to have members from at least half of all organ transplant programs in 2014.

**Scholarship report:** **Jan Hart**, Again 10 scholarships were offered for the STSW Annual Conference from the Society and 10 from HelpHopeLive. The Society is very grateful for the support of HelpHopeLive to our patients and to our members.

**Laurie McDonald led the rest of the meeting beginning with revealing the new Mission Statement**

After much collaboration and deliberation, we have adopted the following mission statement:

The mission of the Society for Transplant Social Workers is to inspire and support our members as we:

- ⤴ Make a difference in the lives of our patients and their families.
- ⤴ Connect with and motivate each other.
- ⤴ Promote professional growth.
- ⤴ Collaborate to advance social work in our field.

Many thanks to the Mission task force members: **Laurie McDonald, Amy Decarlo Frepan, Kay Kendall, Jan Hart, Dorene Scolnic, Jami Hanneman, Lisa Sutkus & Samantha Mok.**

**Vision Review:**

Grow STSW into a strong membership organization that:

- ⤴ Advances well-defined professional standards
- ⤴ Embraces powerful collaborative connections with its members and its external partners
- ⤴ Can count on its sound infrastructure to support its operations.

## Goals:

By 2015:

- Increase membership by 15% (Long-term goal: 50% of US transplant centers have at least one social worker who is a STSW member),
- Build an infrastructure that supports the organization's mission (areas of focus), operations and plans
- Have strong working partnerships with other transplant organizations, CMS and national vendors.

## Strategies:

- ⤴ Build connections
- ⤴ Build infrastructure
- ⤴ Build professional standards

## Year in Review:

### **The Society for Transplant Social Worker's mission in action strategies:**

⤴ Connections:

#### ● Internally

- ✂ Annual conference.
- ✂ We encourage members to have dinner with a board member on Wednesday night with group sign ups and to join organ specific lunch tables.
- ✂ We invite members to collaborate with the board, join committees and task forces, and to become active on our forum.
- ✂ **Dawn Temple** demonstrated use of the forum.

#### ● Externally

✂ We are working with UNOS. **Director of Policy James Alcorn** is speaking at conference and having dinner w/ executive board. Four members are on OPTN/UNOS committees:

- **Kay Kendall:** Ethics & International Affairs (term ended in July),
- **Annette Humberson:** Patient Affairs
- **Dorothy Rocha:** Minority Affairs
- **Noelle Dimitri:** Kidney Transplantation.

We have nominated the following members for the future OPTN/UNOS committees: **Janet Stevenson, Mary Beth Callahan, and Jane Harrison.**

✂ We have CMS **Nurse Consultant Michele Walton** speaking to us this conference via teleconference despite the US government shutdown.

✂ NKF representative, **Troy Zimmerman, VP of Government Relations**, is presenting this year.

✂ We have nominated **Mary Beth Callahan** to the National Quality Forum. This is a new risk adjustment and SES panel in the forming stages.

✧ Infrastructure

We are building infrastructure fiscally, electronically, and by defining what board members do.

- Fiscally, we are within budget for the conference, established a national bank account, made updates to our bylaws, obtained liability insurance, increased vendor income, and decreased spending by using less paper, no mailings, obtained free conference calling, and are in negotiations regarding the subscription rate for Progress in Transplantation.
- Our new website under development expected for release in the Spring 2014.
- The board member job descriptions have been completed thanks to **Julie LaMantia**.

✧ Professional standards.

- Updates to the living donor psychosocial assessment tool are being completed to reflect new regulatory mandates. Our MCS (Mechanical Circulatory Support-) credential is coming soon. **Jan Hart** is leading this team of **Alice Chang, Marty Edwards, and Susan Davis Long**.
- New CCTSWs were introduced, applauded for their professional growth and achievement here, and pinned.

**New At the 2013 Conference**

- ✧ Poster session-This was our first year of offering a poster session. We hope to expand to include more presenters in our 2014 conference in Boston.
- ✧ We are going electronic with our Webinar with CMS.

**Awards:**

**Lee Suszycki Memorial Award** was presented to **Janet Stevenson** –She is a 18 years a transplant social worker and a 16 year member. A host of the 2012 Society conference in San Francisco and Board member since 2010, Janet chaired committees that wrote a standard job description and defined professional competencies for transplant social workers.

**Judy Midelfort Memorial Award** was presented to **Noelle Dimitri** –She has been a dialysis and transplant social worker for many years, provided numerous presentations and inservices, has been published six times in the last five years and serves on a UNOS committee. She is the chair for the 2014 Society conference committee in Boston.

**Appreciations:**

- ✧ Members of the executive board were recognized for their continuous work in leading the STSW.
- ✧ **Sandi Cohen, Annette Humberson, Maureen Emerling, Jane Harrison, Sandy McMath, Julie LaMantia and Janet Stevenson** were recognized for their years of service on the board as they relinquish their current positions.
- ✧ Great thanks to the Dallas planning committee:  
Conference & Exhibitor Chair: **Mary Beth Callahan, ACSW/LCSW**  
Program Chair: **Kenlyn Junge, LCSW**  
Gala Chair: **Lisa Pratka, LMSW**  
Continuing Education: **Bridget Lam, LMSW & Marianne Moncrief, LMSW**  
**Members: Maggie Marek, LMSW; Denise Harrington, LMSW; Delana White, LMSW; Karen Rodriguez, LMSW; Trisha Murphy, LMSW; Rebecca Roesch, LMSW; Charlonda Thrower, LMSW;**  
**Esther Shin, LMSW**

## 2014 & Beyond

### ⤴ **Connections:**

- A new type of listserv is coming along with a new website.
- Working to increase membership

### ⤴ **Infrastructure:**

- We are looking at tiered membership.
- We are looking for grants.

### ⤴ **Professional Standards**

- We are building a pediatric psychosocial evaluation tool and MCS credential that will hopefully be ready in 2014.
- We encourage our members to conduct research and be involved in this community.
- We offer grants for qualified members and projects and incentives for publishing
- We are looking at how to best utilize the resources of retired transplant social workers in our Society with their highly valued experience and knowledge.
- CMS's stance on interns has varied. According to CMS representative with whom STSW has contact, MSW student interns are acceptable with certain guidelines. We will advocate for clarity in the guidelines that allow for including social work interns in transplant programs.

## Next Conference Hosting Cities

- ⤴ Boston 2014-September 3-5<sup>th</sup> At the Seaport Motel **Noelle Dimitri** is the Conference Chair and will be leading us for the best conference ever!
- ⤴ Columbus 2015
- ⤴ 2016? We are taking suggestions.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,  
Dawn Temple, MSW, LSW, CADC, ICADC  
Executive Secretary (Acting)