



## 2025 NJSCSW Benefits/Legislative Efforts

### **NJSCSW Workshops**

**NJSCSW offers free CE programs to members. This gives members the opportunity to receive 8 free CEUs per academic year.** All CE workshops are offered via Synchronous Videoconference. This allows clinical social workers from across our state to participate in these exceptional educational programs. For further details visit the Continuing Education Page on the NJSCSW website: [njscsw.org](http://njscsw.org)

### **Continuing Education**

We are happy to announce that in April 2024, the NJ Board of Social Work Examiners implemented the changes voted on, regarding the expansion of CE opportunities for NJ Social Workers. In February of 2020 NJSCSW advocated for changes regarding limitations that existed in the continuing education rules and regulations. This action was taken as a direct result of complaints received by NJSCSW's members.

### **Current Legislative Agenda**

Luba Shagawat, Director of Legislative Affairs.

### **Social Work Licensure Compact:**

The Social Work Licensure Compact Bill (A2813) (S2688)  
Primary sponsors: Louis D. Greenwald, Verlina Reynolds-Jackson, Shanique Speight.  
As of October 2024, this Bill has cleared the State Commerce Committee and is moving forward to the Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee. Click below to see the Bill.

[https://pub.njleg.state.nj.us/Bills/2022/A9999/5349\\_I1.PDF](https://pub.njleg.state.nj.us/Bills/2022/A9999/5349_I1.PDF)

After serious consideration, the NJSCSW board has decided to support this endeavor and has instructed our lobbyist to follow through with his earlier advocacy. The Social Work Compact, which would be joining eight other health care Compacts, will benefit consumers, licensure boards, and the social work profession by: Enhancing mobility for clinical social workers who meet the Compact uniform licensure requirements; Allowing military personnel and spouses to more easily maintain their social work licenses when relocating; and preserving and strengthening the current system of state licensure.

The Social Work Compact will allow LCSWs to work in other states without having to become licensed in these states under the following conditions:

- If the LCSW's home state joins the Compact (In this case NJ)
- If the LCSW then joins the Compact as an individual
- If the LCSW has no actionable complaints

## **Telemedicine:**

Since the Telemedicine Bill (S2559) was signed into law, clinical social workers can continue to work remotely. Pay parity for telemedicine reimbursements has been extended through the end of 2025. Clinical social workers will be able to continue billing for telehealth services at the same rate they would for in-person sessions. NJSCSW's lobbyist will continue to monitor any issues that may arise. Here is the link for Bill (S2559).

[https://pub.njleg.state.nj.us/Bills/2024/S3000/2988\\_I1.PDF](https://pub.njleg.state.nj.us/Bills/2024/S3000/2988_I1.PDF)

## **Concerned about Confidentiality?**

The members of NJSCSW are all well aware of our conflicts with regard to maintaining our client's confidentiality when insurers request more than our social work regulations allow. Often, we are asked to provide information about our clients that is prohibited by our Board of Social Work Examiners' rules and regulations. We cannot allow insurance companies to violate our regulations on confidentiality. These regulations are clearly defined by the NJ Board of Social Work Examiners.

When our early attempts to remedy this conflict failed, the NJSCSW decided that the only solution was a legislative one. Therefore, we took action.

In June 2022 the Confidentiality Bill passed the full Senate and is presently in the Financial Institution Committee of the Assembly (A3514). NJSCSW's lobbyist is working to get a final hearing on the bill.

To view the bill, click on this link:

[https://pub.njleg.state.nj.us/Bills/2022/A4000/3514\\_I1.PDF](https://pub.njleg.state.nj.us/Bills/2022/A4000/3514_I1.PDF)

## **Lobbying Efforts**

**We are asking our members to please donate to help us with this cause.**

NJSCSW will continue to fight for confidentiality legislation and other issues that affect how we practice clinical social work. It is because of our lobbying efforts that we can make inroads in legislation that impact our industry. For information on where to send a donation, email Jan Markham, NJSCSW's Administrative Assistant, at [jan@1destin.com](mailto:jan@1destin.com).

## **Email Listserv**

The NJSCSW listserv keeps members connected to each other and the NJSCSW Board. The listserv provides members with access to breaking news, CE opportunities, referrals and other valuable resources. To subscribe please email Jan Markham: [jan@1destin.com](mailto:jan@1destin.com)

For questions regarding membership, email Jonathan Lebolt at [therapist@jonathanlebolt.com](mailto:therapist@jonathanlebolt.com)