



### Editor's Introduction

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# Editor's Introduction

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*Seymour J. Rosenthal, MSSW*

## **Growing a Journal**

They said in tones laced with ominous warnings that publishing a journal is not an easy job—that it is time-consuming and frustrating, anxiety-producing and costly. Well, “they” are right, all of the above is true. On the other hand, there are satisfactions which will in time, we firmly believe, equal and eventually nullify the unrelenting challenges which at times appear to be insurmountable. This is not to suggest that the struggle for a sustainable, cost effective, and relevant product is over. That does not end. There are, however, signs of growth.

In the relatively short time between the first and second issues, we saw a significant increase in the number of subscriptions, both individual and institutional, from schools of social work to a wide range of professional institutions, and increasing numbers from the international community. Another area of growth was the doubling of the number of manuscripts submitted for peer review and a concomitant increase in the number of quality articles. And, from an administrative perspective, we are most happy with the widening of our Editorial Board, which now includes: James R. Dudley, PhD, University of North Carolina, Charlotte; Michael L. Lauderdale, PhD, University of Texas at Austin; and Tracy M. Soska, MSW, University of Pittsburgh. We remain committed to increasing the diversity of the Board and will invite membership from a variety of sources.

## **Growing a Relevant Journal**

It's growing time. But it's not just the joy and struggle of journal-making which is so challenging. It is the constant drive to make a relevant journal, which is at the heart of this creative endeavor. This is particularly challenging as the profession of social work itself faces the ultimate challenge of relevance. Given the extraordinary intensity and complexity of social issues driving the makers of public policy and the uncertainties of practice, there are those—policy makers, practitioners, politicians and perhaps most problematic of all, our constituents in need—who seem to be questioning or even deciding negatively on the question of relevancy.

Consider the following recent changes in the status of policy and programs which have impacted on the relevancy of the profession. The decimation of the welfare

system and the insertion of a hurried and massive employment training program have changed the nature and context of the social delivery infrastructure in most communities. Both of these invasive strategies were minimally influenced by the profession, and the employment and training programs are essentially operated by non-social workers. The inability of our youth to learn is vociferously explained as an educational issue void of any recognition of social implications. There is little or no presence in the struggle to end the absence of policy and programs for providing health services to children and youth. And the extraordinary amount and type of violence rupturing our communities are currently viewed as the province of health departments.

## **Tough Times for Relevancy**

We said at the outset that our plan was to highlight a current issue posing serious dilemmas to the practitioners and professional development folks. Our first was welfare reform. In this issue, we highlight family violence as an issue which cries out for attention from the profession. Our search for relevance on this issue disclosed a plethora of scholars/practitioners ready to share their research and perspectives. With pleasure, we present the perspective of Valli Kanuha, PhD, an Assistant Professor at the University of Hawaii. She brings to sharp focus the issues of violence in domestic situations in a personalized and scholarly document.

It will always be necessary to recognize the responsiveness of the Editorial Board for “just one more” manuscript review. With the increase of responses from authors around the country, their workload has increased enormously. We thank them. Rebecca, John, and Albert continue their commitment to the production of the Journal. Rebecca, in particular, assumed a vital role in its overall production. We hope that you will help to make this journal a relevant instrument. We encourage your reactions and suggestions for the issues presented here.

Relevancy has always been a challenge to the social work profession. It is our hope to become instrumental in meeting that challenge. Talk to us.

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