



Editor's Introduction

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Editor's Introduction

Seymour J. Rosenthal, MSSW

The events surrounding September 11th are of such enormous proportions that they are impossible to ignore. The ramifications for our country, government, and profession are at this point unfathomable. The terrorist attacks are not merely a regional nor American problem—they invariably threaten our vulnerable global community and have clearly become a matter of international concern.

In keeping with our commitment to address imperative issues that impact and shape the larger practice community, our selection for commissioned paper was strikingly apparent. Dr. Joshua Miller, who previously published the article "The Use of Debriefings in Response to Disaster and Traumatic Events" (*Professional Development*, Vol. 3, No. 2), was more than qualified to respond to this unparalleled domestic tragedy. Miller's prior conceptual and practical experience in responding to crisis situations culminates in a stirring and compelling article on the role of social work practice and education in what may be an ongoing need for leadership and intervention.

Social work practice is continually called upon to become increasingly relevant, to adapt to, and challenge, the emerging needs of our society. Miller's commissioned article, "September 11, 2001: Implications for Social Work Practice and Education," will help to guide social work practice in fulfilling its overriding mission in these troubled times. We must view these bombings as both tragedy and opportunity. We must now search for ways in which to apply our extensive practice knowledge and experience in providing progressive and ethical leadership. It is incumbent upon our profession to participate in a practical and holistic response to terrorism worldwide.

The remaining five articles will prove to be equally penetrating and vital in enhancing the practice knowledge and skills of the profession. As the field continues to move towards and promote greater diversity in interdisciplinary and collaborative approaches to service delivery, Michelle Maidenberg

and Toby Golick's article is particularly timely in that it proposes a flexible model for facilitating collaboration between two different human service orientations. Similarly, the article by Drs. Pat Litzelfelner and John H. Pierpont, "Demystifying Client Outcomes: Identifying, Monitoring, and Using Client Outcomes in Child Protection," is relevant and apropos to the outcome-driven reality facing practitioners in the field today. The distinguished scholarship of Drs. Michael J. Kelly and Michael L. Lauderdale addresses the need to apply total quality management (TQM) techniques to all facets of the profession to increase the efficiency of service delivery. "Social Work Practitioners and Technology Transfer" explores the intangible divide between theory and practice and provides a comprehensive coaching model for bridging this gap. Finally, Drs. Agathi Glezakos and Cheryl D. Lee's article, "Distance and On-Campus MSW Students: How They Perform and What They Tell Us," makes a significant contribution to the long-standing debate on the quality of distance education in transferring social work values, knowledge, and skills.

Journal Website Up and Running

As part of our plan to employ emerging Internet technologies to facilitate progressive dialogues within the wider practice community, I introduce our readers to the Journal's official website www.temple.edu/professionaldevelopment. Users will be able to access the following interactive features: 1) A brief history of the *Journal* and our shared vision; 2) A listing of Editorial and Journal Staff members; 3) The Table of Contents from our latest edition, including article abstracts; 4) Subscription information; 5) A comprehensive article index, organized by subject area; 6) Article submission guidelines; 7) Links to the Center for Social Policy and Community Development and Temple University's School of Social Administration; and 8) Relevant contact information. In the coming months, users will be able to submit manuscripts

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and place subscription orders on-line, increasing the overall efficiency of our operation. While some areas of this site are currently "under construction," the site will undoubtedly serve as an invaluable tool for practitioners and academics alike.

Announcing Special Issue on Fatherhood Initiatives

We are also excited to announce that Drs. James Dudley and Jay Fagan have agreed to serve as lead

editor and co-editor respectively, for our upcoming special topics issue on Fatherhood Initiatives. Dudley and Fagan are in the process of identifying potential content themes with special consideration being given to international fatherhood interventions and issues. Please feel free to contact me at srosenth@unix.temple.edu with any questions you may have regarding manuscript development or article submission.