

NACSW'S APRIL 26TH AUDIO CONFERENCE WORKSHOP

NACSW is pleased to announce that it will be offering its next audio conference workshop entitled "Leading a Nonprofit Organization in Tough Economic Times: Thriving, Not Just Surviving" on Monday, April 26th from 1:00 pm – 2:15 pm Eastern Daylight Saving Time. This audio conference workshop will be presented by Laura Zumdahl, associate executive director of Cabrini Green Legal Aid in Chicago, Illinois.



Laura Zumdahl

As the economy places increased pressure on nonprofit organizations, leaders are faced with how to weather the finan-

cial storm while simultaneously maintaining services and planning for the future. The focus of this audio-conference is on practical strategies nonprofit leaders can employ to face the challenges during economic downturn and stay poised for future growth.

Laura Zumdahl is associate executive director of Cabrini Green Legal Aid (CGLA), a nonprofit organization that provides free legal services to low income residents of Chicago. She has a BA in sociology from Trinity Christian College, a MA in social work from the University of Chicago, and will receive her PhD in leadership in May. She is currently researching innovation and design thinking in nonprofit organizations through a leadership fellowship from the Chicago Community Trust.

Audio conferences have been designed so that any person or group can participate simply by calling a telephone number pro-

vided by NACSW from any telephone in the US or Canada. For additional information (including workshop description and learning objectives), and/or to register online, you can go to NACSW's website at <http://www.nacsw.org>, or you can contact the NACSW office tollfree at 888-426-4712 to register by phone.

Current NACSW members and all staff working for NACSW organizational members may participate in this audio conference **at no cost**. Participants are also eligible to earn 1.25 continuing education contact hours approved by the Association of Social Work Boards (also at no cost for NACSW members) by receiving a score of 80% or better on a short ten-question quiz based on the material covered in the conference.

We hope you are able to join us on April 26th for this important audio conference workshop – we encourage you to register today!

DEAR DEXTER

Dear Dexter: I have never wanted to work in a "traditional" social work job (direct practice, case work, etc). If I do not want to do "traditional" social work, what other options are open to me?



Dexter Freeman

Dear Non-Traditional Social Work Student: For you and other thrill-seeking social work graduates out there who want to reach out to the world in a way that other typical social workers have not; all I have to say to you is, "You are definitely in the correct profession!" There is truly nothing typical or traditional about the profession of social work, other than the values and principles to which we all are committed. The field of social work involves several typical areas of practice: *Child, Family, and School Social Work; Medical and Public Health Social Work; Mental Health and Substance Abuse Social Work; Research*

and Public Policy Social Work; Community Development and Organization Social Work; Organizational Social Work; and Social Work Advocacy at Micro, Mezzo, and Macro levels.

These categories, although they include a variety of areas of practices, are not inclusive of all the areas in which social workers practice. The point is that it is not where a social worker practices that makes one a social worker, but it is how one practices. Therefore, I encourage anyone seeking to practice social work in a non-traditional area to first, identify their calling. Jesus said, "When I was hungry you feed me and when I was thirsty you gave me water to drink." Who do you see that is in need of food and water? The second thing I would recommend, is to start feeding them now. Volunteer, seek to do field placements in those areas of practice, research those populations, and make every effort to get to know the population that the Lord has placed on your heart.

Third, seek out other non-traditional social workers who are practicing social work in areas that one may not typically find social workers. As a military social worker for 20 years, I am reminded of the numerous questions I received about how

I could practice social work in the military. Of course, the individuals who were asking these questions perceived the military and social work practice as incongruent. I, on the other hand, viewed my commitment to practicing social work with its values and principles as not unlike to my commitment to Christ. I believe, and still do, that regardless of whether I am on a battlefield, hospital ward, counseling office, classroom, or any other place; I will seek out opportunities to serve others, promote social justice for those who are vulnerable or oppressed, treat people in a caring and respectful manner, make every effort to enhance the well-being of others, maintain a high level of integrity, and provide the highest quality of support I can to others. In case you don't recognize this list; these are the core principles of the social work profession. Bloom where you are planted my thrill-seeking social work friend and you will most likely be the non-traditional social worker that you desire.

To send a question to Dear Dexter, students should contact Dexter at: dexter.freeman@amedd.army.mil