

INSSWAA Board Meeting Minutes
February 10, 2007

Board Members in Attendance: Linda Temme, Michelle Alvarez, Dee Kempson, Jane Zobel, Debbie Scott, Beth Hoban, Terry Miller, Lucy DiMichele, Mil Penner, Rebecca Bringle, Jyoti Weaver, and Jeanne Milligan. Also present were Krista Fricke, MSW student, and Shannon Johnson and Beth Barnes, representatives from the southeast district.

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 am.

Minutes from the previous board meeting were approved and sent out to membership prior to this meeting.

Indiana Department of Education: Dee Kempson made this report:

- (1) Indiana Student Assistance Initiative: The initiative, which was developed into a grant for MSD Pike Township, has been funded by the IDOE Division of Exceptional Learners. It will provide:
 - (a) Student Assistance Core Team Training for all schools in the district,
 - (b) Fund a MSW to provide coordination of the grant and direct services to Pike students
 - (c) Link Pike Township to Cummins Mental Health school-based services to serve students with a diagnosed mental health concern
 - (d) Provide PBIS, cultural competency, and a variety of mental health trainings to staff.

IDOE is collaborating closely with Dawn McGrath and Leah Nellis of the Blumberg Institute, which provides the Problem Solving training to provide a combined set of trainings. Dawn is working on expanding the existing on-line capacity of schools to facilitate the referral and intervention process for students in need of Student Assistance. This is an 18 month grant.

Pike Township currently has no counselors or school social workers at the elementary levels.

- (2) Eight Ethics Trainings are being provided in February and March around the state to meet the new Ethics requirement for licensure. These trainings are being provided by INSSWA and the DOE. Dee is concerned that there are school social workers who are not affiliated with INSSWA, NASW, or on Dee's e-mail list that may be unaware of the new ruling.

There was a discussion about the newness of this requirement, especially the lack of notification time, and there was a request for a training of trainers for the ethics requirement so the new trainers could reach more SSW in the state.

School Social Worker of the Year: It was decided to keep the same process as last year in which the nominator fills out a brief form and the nominee gathers the needed background information about him/herself. The question was brought up as to whether or not community involvement should be a factor in determining the SSW of the year. The point was made that some school social workers put most of their efforts into their work.

The committee will decide how much weight to give this factor. May 1st is the due date for nominations; May 30th is the due date for nominees to have their information submitted. The nomination form will go into the SSW month packets.

Legislative: There was a discussion about the need for a person who has the time and the interest in the legislative field to represent INSSWA's concerns. This person could be an active SSW and volunteer to be a committee member, the person could be a retired SSW with the interest and time, or it could be a hired lobbyist. Hiring a lobbyist was discussed at a previous board meeting, but at that time the thought was to enlist the lobbyist to represent several groups that would have similar legislative agendas (school principals, counselors, pediatricians, etc.) to address the needs of children. However, the legislative committee has not gone forward with assembling such a group. One suggestion was to email membership and ask for interested people to volunteer to be a part of the legislative committee.

Also, there was consensus to adopt INSSWA's completed corporal punishment statement with minor editorial corrections.

Communication: (1) Website- There have been design changes to the website. For instance, one can now scroll down, and there are tabs added. There was a discussion about additional tabs and board members who would be responsible for providing information about them to the webmaster. These included:

- Professional development- add spring seminar to others listed
- Midwest Council/Conference- with links to SSWA and Midwest states
- Resource (this would provide links to current research- Michelle Alvarez)
- SSW of the Year (Michelle Alvarez)
- Licensure (Michelle Alvarez)
- Scholarships/grants (INSSWA president)
- Practice Highlights (Dee Kempson will write a newsletter article asking for input from members)
- "Hot Topics" on home page
- Retail page (Beth Hoban)

(2) Newsletter- Members complimented the format of the recent newsletters. There was consensus for cream colored paper and the larger of the two fonts for forthcoming newsletters.

Treasurer's Report: Jeanne Milligan provided a financial report for the 2006 INSSWA Annual Conference. Total income was \$11,058.00 and total expenses were \$5826.19 for a net profit of \$5231.81. The Treasurer's Report for the period 9/23/06- 2/09/07 is: total income \$14,856.24 and total expenses \$14,491.02. The balance in INSSWA's checkbook as of February 9, 2007 was \$10,079.14. INSSWA also has a \$15,000 CD which is due April 12, 2007 and has earned \$500 interest. There was consensus to roll over the \$500 and renew the CD for 9 months- one year depending on interest rates.

Midwest Council: Mil Penner reported that the Midwest Council will meet February 16-18 in Lincolnshire, IL. Mil, the Council President, will attend, Terry Miller, the

INSSWA Board President, will attend, and Dee Kempson, the DOE representative, will attend. (Dee's costs are covered by DOE.) Mil reported that the Midwest Council pays travel costs for attendees, and that these funds are supplied from the Midwest Conference profits. This year the Conference did not generate much profit, and the Council can only reimburse travel costs for 1 ½ attendees per state. There was a discussion about the importance of the Midwest Council and Conference, and one idea put forth to increase the amount of money for Council members' travel costs was to increase the amount garnered from \$1.00 to \$2.00 from each state member's dues for this purpose. There was consensus that INSSWA pay travel costs for Beth Hoban, president-elect, to attend the Feb. 16-18 meeting.

The next Midwest Conference will be in Cleveland, Ohio, and it will be the 40th Anniversary Celebration. There was consensus to give \$250 to Midwest Council to help cover costs of the Celebration.

Mini-grants: The mini-grant sub-committee met and awarded five mini-grants, each 50% of the original amount requested. It was explained that in looking at the applications, the committee saw that the applicants could buy some materials less expensively.

Membership: Jane Zobel and Linda Temme reported that INSSWA presently has 161 members, half of them are from central IN, and the renewal rate is good. They presented 4 documents: (1) an INSSWA survey to gather information from members, (2) INSSWA Guidelines for Regional Membership Meetings to help plan for regional meetings and request needed funds, (3) an INSSWA Speaker Request Form for Regional Membership Meetings, and (4) an INSSWA Regional Meeting Evaluation Form. It was noted that the Indiana Student Achievement Institute (INSai) trainings presently offered in many Indiana schools and attended by many SSWs offer only CRU's, not CEU's. (CEU's are needed for license renewal.) Jane will investigate to see if CEU's can be given through INSSWA.

Scholarships: (1) SSWAA National Conference in Orlando, FL April 18-21- Two full scholarships @ \$500 each have been awarded. The possibility of awarding a partial scholarship for a member whose other funding had not been forthcoming was discussed and approved. It was pointed out that attendance at the national conference increases Indiana's representation and visibility. (2) Remaining scholarship funds will be given to applicants for the USI SSW Institute June 12-15. A scholarship application for this Institute will be included in the School Social Work Week packet (3) Scholarship application criteria: An applicant needs to be a regular member of INSSWA who currently provides direct school social work services to students and who has not received an INSSWA scholarship within the past year. An applicant needs to apply by the due date established by the INSSWA president, and needs to be willing to share information gathered in one of various ways such as writing a newsletter article, doing a poster display at the fall conference, etc.

Fall Conference/Spring Seminar: Beth reported that there were 150 attendees at the INSSWA 2006 Fall Conference, and that all feedback was either "very good" or

“excellent”. The play therapy and autism sessions were especially well attended, and it was suggested that the Fall Conference autism presenter be engaged for a Spring Seminar. There was a discussion of where to have this seminar- at the Garrison or perhaps more cheaply at Greenfield Central High School.

Mentoring: Michelle reported that there are upcoming trainings for mentors for the Beginning School Social Worker program called IMAP-SW. They are: (1) February 9 and March 19 in Kokomo, (2) March 26 and April 23 in Indianapolis and (3) June 12 and July 18 in Evansville. INSSWA will continue to provide lunches for mentors up to \$8 per lunch. Some questions were raised: Does there need to be a “support group” for mentors? Should regional reps be trained as mentors?

School Social Work Week: School Social Work Week is March 4-10. Packets will go out soon.

SSWAA Leadership Summit: This year’s summit is July 8-11 in Washington, D.C. Mil and Dee will go supported by their own funding sources, Beth went last year with INSSWA funds and said she would find her own funds this year if necessary as she plans on going, Jyoti would like to go if funds are available.

Other: Beth reported that CEU’s will be given for the Annual Conference for Prevent Child Abuse in Howard Co. on April 17th.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 pm.

The next board meeting will be Saturday, June 9th, 10 am- 3 pm at Jyoti Weaver’s house.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca Bringle
February 19, 2007