

newsletter

Sent: Thursday, December 18, 2008 7:47 PM
Subject: URGENT!



Help Obama, Help Yourself

Please help! We at the Center for Clinical Social Work are sending this one last message to you on a matter of **the greatest urgency in the history of our profession**. The Obama transition team has asked us to alert Clinical Social Workers to get involved, specifically and immediately in a new chance for national healthcare reform. We cannot afford four more years without reform and without the voice of Clinical Social Work being heard as national policies are made.

President-elect Obama Wants You to tell him how to improve healthcare delivery in the United States. He literally **wants to hear from you**, and he wants to hear from you **urgently, within the next two weeks**. Act on this invitation, and you can be part of the solution in creating a new healthcare system. Don't act, and you will be part of the problem—and Clinical Social Work will be ignored in the process.

As a professional and a citizen, you can make a huge difference **right now** in setting policy to shape healthcare delivery. Tom Daschle, Obama's nominee as Secretary of Health Human Services, will guide all policy and reforms of the healthcare system starting in January. He wants to know NOW what the practice community wants him to do—what he should set as goals and priorities. He is doing this by asking for practitioners everywhere to get together, discuss the issues, and advise him directly.


How can you do this? Simply organize a discussion group, made up of friends and colleagues, to focus on three issues. The group should suggest improvements to the healthcare system in those three areas. The suggestions are to be written down and sent into Daschle's office. Daschle's office will record your concerns, and begin to focus on a healthcare reform agenda based on those concerns.

We know that, already, 4000+ such discussions are being held across America, on the subject of mental healthcare and addictions treatment. Clinical Social Workers must get involved! Otherwise, Daschle will be hearing only the concerns of others—psychologists, psychiatrists, psychiatric nurses, counselors, MFTs and others—but not from us. The only way for Clinical Social Work to be heard, and for the Obama administration to take the actions that you want, is for you and your colleagues to speak out.

Obama and Daschle have done their part. Now it is up to us—each of us and all of us. Don't sit this one out—let's make it happen!

To hold a meeting, please see below.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Howard D. Snooks". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Howard Snooks, Ph.D., BCD
President, Board of Directors
Center for Clinical Social Work

To set up a *Health Care Community Discussion* program, requested by Tom Daschle, Obama's nominee for Secretary of Health & Human Services:

Arrange with 10 colleagues to have an informal discussion between now and December 30, with reports to be sent in for his review. Sign up to get the forms and hold a *Discussion* at the Obama site, <http://change.gov/page/s/hcdiscussion>.

There are three main topics for discussion:

1. Coverage of mental illness and addiction treatment in public/private healthcare plans.
2. Support for policies that promote recovery and holistic health
3. Invest in prevention, early intervention, and research