



### Editor's Introduction

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*Seymour J. Rosenthal, MSSW*

The world continues to deepen the groove into the new year, and this current journal issue brings into this new year some exciting scholarship on issues relevant to social work. However, before we move into this fresh issue, we must recognize the overwhelming positive reception that the last double-issue on child welfare has stirred up in the social work community. The issue continues to create a buzz among numerous child welfare agencies that point to the issue's benefits to the social work field that promises to persist.

As a follow up to the special double issue, this current issue continues to focus on the theme of training and supervision in the social work field. The articles assist in moving the social work community towards developing the infrastructure of training and the methodology used in its development. The articles do not stop at focusing on this theme but also attempt to clear new paths towards emerging and relevant areas of interest in social work.

Attention is given to meeting the supervisors and caseworkers at their level, and promoting more understanding of the everyday issues involved in the professional practice. Kleinpeter's, Telles-Roger's, and Pasztor's article titled *The Impact of Training on Worker Performance and Retention: Perceptions of Child Welfare Supervisors* puts into perspective what most affects worker performance and retention. The two main issues they point out are the need for supportive supervision and large workload sizes. This discussion highlights the greater importance of these two issues compared to restricted views that pre-service and in-service training can solely produce positive worker outcomes.

Never to abandon the clear benefit of training though, the article describes how the structural issues involved with training can be better understood and developed. Both Mason's, LaPorte's, and

Frankel's *The Importance of Including Supervisors When Evaluating Child Welfare Workers' Training* and Davidson's and Levine's *Protective Services Caseworkers' Understanding of the DSM: Improving Risk Assessment through Professional Development Training* address the need for improved training through more strategic instruction and more communication among the actors involved in professional social service agencies. The articles continue to push social work professional development and education towards improving necessary knowledge, moving toward outcome assessments, and addressing changing perceptions over time that discuss child welfare training issues between supervisors and trainees.

In her article, Smith identifies an important link to the issue of multiculturalism. Multicultural knowledge has been popularized and stressed in our current diverse society, but there remains minute discussion about the issues related to the everyday application of multiculturalism in a professional social service setting. Smith points out that knowledge of different cultural groups is not enough, and that social workers might improve their service delivery if they are exposed to the role and application of cross-cultural communication happening in daily work within social service agencies.

Danis tackles a very relevant area in our society today in her article *The Emerging Field of Crime Victim Assistance: Are Social Workers Ready?* Crimes run the gamut of petty theft to world terrorism. Danis looks at whether or not social workers feel equipped or are formally trained to handle victims of violent crimes. She is able to point out that social workers have been dealing with these issues for a long period, and these issues continue to need more attention from the field of social work. The article treads the new waters of social workers and their relationship to victims of violent crimes.

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