



SOCIAL WORK POLICY INSTITUTE

CONNECTING SOCIAL WORK RESEARCH AND PRACTICE TO INFORM POLICY DELIBERATIONS

The mission of the Social Work Policy Institute (SWPI), a think tank established within the National Association of Social Workers (NASW) Foundation, is:

- To strengthen social work's voice in public policy deliberations.
- To inform policy-makers through the collection and dissemination of information on social work effectiveness.
- To create a forum to examine current and future issues in health care and social service delivery.

The Social Work Policy Institute examines issues that relate to the work of social workers, including how to serve people who have multiple or complex needs and how public agencies and other structures deliver health and human services. Current issues such as health care reform, health care disparities and the relevance of the global economy to the social work profession, as well as issues relating to evidence-informed practices will be investigated. SWPI calls upon researchers, practitioners, consumers, providers and payers to help fill a gap in the profession by examining important issues and asserting social work's contributions.

The Institute collaborates with NASW's Government Relations Office and the NASW Center for Workforce Studies. Ideas generated through the NASW Foundation, through NASW units and through external partnerships will be explored. Serving as an information broker, the Institute creates processes to move research into practice and encourages research on critical practice and policy issues that affect the profession and the consumers of social work services.

The Institute encourages dialogues between researchers and key stakeholders involved in influencing and implementing social work services, and hosts symposia, develops papers and uses print and electronic media and policy briefings to disseminate findings and recommendations.

ABOUT THE DIRECTOR

Joan Levy Zlotnik, PhD, ACSW, assumed the position of SWPI director on October 1, 2009. From 2000 until September 30, 2009 she served as executive director of the Institute for the Advancement of Social Work Research. Previously, she served as staff director of NASW's Family Commission and as a Government Relations Associate at the NASW. She was also Director of Special Projects and Special Assistant to the Executive Director at the Council on Social Work Education. Among her numerous publications, she is the author of *Preparing the Workforce for Family-Centered Practice: Social Work Education and Public Human Services Partnerships*; co-editor of several books including *Charting the Impacts of University-Child Welfare Collaboration* and *Preparing Helping Professionals to Meet Community Needs: Generalizing from the Rural Experience*, and co-editor of the fall 2009 special issue of *Child Welfare*. She holds a PhD in Social Work from the University of Maryland, an MSSW from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and a BA from the University of Rochester. Dr. Zlotnik is a fellow of the Gerontological Society of America and an NASW Social Work Pioneer®. She has received numerous awards including the Association of Gerontology Education in Social Work (AGE-SW) Leadership Award and the Association of Baccalaureate Social Work Program Director's (BPD) Presidential Medal of Honor. She was recognized by the National Institute of Health's (NIH) Social Work Research Working Group for her efforts on behalf of social work research at NIH.

ABOUT THE NASW FOUNDATION

The NASW Foundation is a 501(c)3 non profit charitable organization created to enhance the well-being of individuals, families, and communities through the advancement of social work practice.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION visit
www.socialworkpolicy.org or
email swpi@naswdc.org.**