

H E L P O U T

Social workers help people, especially lesbian and gay people.

by Bruce Mason

Among the many professional organizations in the human service and mental health fields — the 'helping professions,' the National Association of Social Workers stands out by virtue of its advocacy for the homosexual community. While some of the professional organizations, such as the American Psychiatric Association, no longer openly discriminate against the homosexual members of society by deprecatory policy statements, NASW written policy is unequivocally pro-homosexual. Homophobia, like racism, sexism and ageism, serve to separate and oppress all people. NASW policy states: "NASW views discrimination and prejudice directed against any minority as inimical to the mental health of not only the affected minority, but of the society as a whole. The Association deplures and will work to combat archaic laws, discriminatory employment practices, and other forms of discrimination which serve to impose something less than equal status upon the homosexually-oriented members of the human family . . . NASW affirms the right of all persons to define and express their own sexuality . . . NASW must concern itself with the eradication of preju-

dice against lesbians and gay men . . ."

Social workers are active in many areas of human endeavor and across a broad spectrum of tasks and functions. There are several characteristics that set social workers apart from other helping professionals: social workers are trained to help people within the environment that is troubling them — the interpersonal relationship (family, couple, parent-child, etc.), the workplace, or other social setting; social workers are familiar with other community resources and will refer to them as needed; social workers typically base their fees on a scale related to the client's ability to pay. Social workers are professionals trained to help people cope with the stresses of daily life, as well as with such problems as depression, anxiety, physical abuse and emotional and physical disabilities. Social workers can help with such problems as adjusting to aging, alcohol and drug abuse, and the stress which accompanies unemployment. Although many social workers work in public and private social service and mental health agencies, many social workers are in private practice providing direct clinical services. Social workers are also employed in diverse settings such as the Internal Revenue Service, bank trust departments and the Bureau of Labor. Another group of social workers who do not provide direct, or clinical, services, have functions in social policy planning and various research and evaluation organizations.

Clinical social workers are those who provide direct client service — social workers in traditional mental health and counseling

functions. Clinical social workers are trained in mental health and counseling. They should have a master's degree in social work (MSW) from an accredited graduate school in social work. Members of the NASW adhere to a Code of Ethics and are obliged to uphold NASW policy. Social workers are trained to help with most human problems — these can be problems which occur abruptly or problems which have a more gradual onset. Problems which involve stress, impair individual functioning and interfere with one's relationship to others are particularly in the domain of the clinical social worker. Social workers are expected to be skilled at listening without making judgments; helping to maximize the individual's potential; counseling individuals, couples, families and groups; mediating disputes — with both couples and

groups; alleviating the intense stress associated with child custody and relationship termination. Social workers who are members of NASW can be expected to take action against prejudice — such as homophobia, racism and sexism. The Oregon Chapter, NASW, Committee on Lesbian and Gay Issues is particularly interested in learning of any human rights violations related to sexual orientation. The Oregon Chapter, NASW will also make referrals to social workers who are expert in dealing with lesbian and gay issues and who are also familiar with the homosexual community. For additional information or referral, contact the Chapter office in Portland at 232-6003. For issues related to discrimination, please contact Bruce Mason, MSW, Chair, Chapter Committee on Lesbian and Gay Issues, at the above number.

Important People and Places

Health Concerns

AIDS National Hotline	1-800-342-AIDS
CAPS (Cascade AIDS Project)	223-8299
Outside-In	223-4121
Child Abuse & Neglect Hotline	238-7555
Women's Crisis Line	235-5333
CODA	257-0534
Metro Crisis Line	223-6161
Mult. Co. V.D. Clinic & Public Helath	248-3700
NGTF (National Gay Task Force)	1-800-221-7044
Portland Naturopathic Clinic	255-7355
Sexually Transmitted Disease Clinic	254-7964
Portland Feminist Women's Health Center	777-7044
Geoffrey Hyde M.D., Psychiatry	292-9201
Barbara Jean Byron, Counseling	231-0519
Bruce K. Mason, MSW Clinical Social Worker	220-0210

Organizations and Groups

Gay Al-Anon	Kay, 256-4894
Gay Fathers	656-6526
N.O.W. (National Organization for Women)	295-2550
Overeaters Anonymous	Kay, 256-4891
Parents & Friends of Gays	252-7886
Lesbian Mother Support Group	Donna, 775-1875
Lesbian Forum	Willow, 232-2251
Live and Let Live, Gay AA	231-3760
Lesbian SM Support/Social Group	Michelle, 232-5344
Physicians for Social Responsibility	239-8556
Puget Sound Women's Peace Camp	206-872-3482
Democratic Socialists of America	282-1300

Political Groups

Oregon Women's Political Caucus	224-2588
Right to Privacy, PAC	Keeston, 224-4369
Gay Mayor of Portland	Sandy, 223-1679

Religious Groups

Dignity	636-0356
MCC of Portland	281-8868
West Hills Unitarian Center	246-3351
William Temple House	226-3021

Resource Centers

A Woman's Place Bookstore	236-3609
Counseling Center for Sexual Minorities	228-6785
Job Bank	281-8868
Men's Resource Center	235-3433
Phoenix Rising	223-8299
Workshops for Lesbians	777-6653
YWCA Women's Resource Center	ext 232, 223-6281
NW Draft Counseling	238-0605
Burnside Community Council	231-7158

Sports & Activities

Ballroom Dancing	230-4869
Bicycling	224-6222
Pool League (Nov-April)	Bob, 659-7344
Portland Gay Men's Chorus	232-1858
Square Dancing	288-4903
Lesbian and Gay Marching Band	287-3260
Fighting Arts	231-1232
Portland Skating Center	231-6368

Lesbian Gay Folkdancing	226-0490
Portland Front Runners	Rip, 232-6004

Youth

Harry's Mother	283-3317
National Runaway Hotline	1-800-621-4000
Windfire Rap Group	244-3225

Specialty Shops

Essential Lotions	248-9748
A Woman's Place Bookstore	236-3609
Twenty-third Ave. Books	224-5097
Yestershades	238-5755
The Paper Moon	236-5195
Tamack	234-5375

Hairstylists

Anita Lacy	232-4747
Hollywood Hair	281-8314

Secretarial Service

Carrsyn Associates	224-0068
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Motels

Jacqueline's See Vue	1-547-3227
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Architects

Steven Fosler	241-9339
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Tax and Investment Services

Personal Tax Service	777-3840
Joanne Kraft	249-3894

Attorneys

Alan Coogan	231-2933
Cynthia Cumfer	295-2456
Alice Ellis	221-1792

Insurance

Downey Insurance Agency, Inc.	228-8329
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Real Estate

Bridgetown Realty	775-1875
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Travel

In-Touch Travel	225-0064
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Theaters

NW Film Study Center	221-1156
Echo Theatre	231-1232
Cinema 21	224-3431

Photography

Sherri Riggs	282-2474
Helen Lottridge	230-9225

Bars/Taverns

Judy's	284-1485
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IN CONCERT

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 24th, 1984 · 8 PM

Reed College Commons

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"The Sullivan/Wilson concert should not be missed by anyone who enjoys gay music...a rare opportunity." - **Steve Fulmer, Portland Gay Men's Chorus**

& TOM WILSON

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