



New Jersey Society for Clinical Social Work

AFFILIATE OF THE CLINICAL SOCIAL WORK GUILD
PO BOX 371, OAKLAND, NJ 07436
908.686.8011
WWW.NJSCSW.ORG



President

Janice Victor, LCSW

Recording Secretary

Grace Baumgarten,
LCSW

Newsletter Clinical Editor

Jack Schwartz, LCSW

Treasurer

Caroline Goldberg,
LCSW

Guild / Legislation

Luba Shagawat, LCSW

Membership

Lynne Clements, LCSW

NYU Student Representative

Speakers Registry

Flora DeGeorge, LCSW

Administrative Assistant

Jan Alderisio

The NJ Society for Clinical Social Work (NJSCSW) supports the action that the NJPA is taking against the State Health Benefits Plan Commission, Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield and Magellan Health Services, Inc. We endorse this action and effort.

Members of NJSCSW are subjected to similar experiences as are the plaintiffs in this suit. Furthermore, the defendants' request for information, we believe, is in violation of N.J.S.A. 45:15BB-13 which provides the general rule for privacy in the social worker-patient relationship. N.J.S.A. 45:15BB-13(a) states that: "A social worker licensed or certified pursuant to the provisions of this act shall not be required to disclose any confidential information that the social worker may have acquired from a client or patient while performing social work services for that client or patient . . ." The statute allows certain exceptions. The only exception relevant to the present situation provides that certain information may be revealed when "disclosure is required by other State law." See N.J.S.A. 45:15BB-13(a).

Confidentiality is the cornerstone of good mental health treatment. By releasing privileged information, we may be fostering an adverse effect to successful treatment outcomes. Clients may potentially shut down for fear that their confidentiality will be violated.

We are supportive of this effort and hope for success with the pending legal action.

The NJSCSW Board