



**N  
E  
ICSW  
S**

**International Council on Social Welfare**

October 2021

## **Working Together for a Better ICSW**



***Professor Antonio López Peláez,  
Executive Director of ICSW and Professor of Social Work  
and Social Services at the National Distance Education  
University (UNED) (Spain)***

Dear fellow ICSW members, friends, and interested readers,

The professions linked to social welfare start from a scientific knowledge and seek to become a transforming practice. A transforming practice that (I) is based on Human Rights. (II) Addresses the demands and needs of users. (III) Generates knowledge and specific intervention methodologies derived, precisely, from the interaction with users. (IV) It adopts a reflexive position that leads it to question its link with power in each historical context. And (V) finally, it is linked in an often conflictive dialectical relationship with the available resources established by the administration and social policies. We are not mere processors, but we process resources, and we are not mere instruments of the Administration -due to our critical commitment-, although we are in many

cases part of the Public Administrations.

The COVID19 pandemic, the successive confinements of the population in all countries of the world, and the need to act remotely, through telematic means, have accelerated a process of digital transformation that was already underway. The IFSW, ISSW and ICSW have adapted by converting their global congresses into digital congresses. Throughout 2021 we have organized, despite the economic crisis and the pandemic, several international events that have helped us to fulfill one of our founding objectives: to place the debate on social welfare on the public agenda, both at the United Nations ("Social inclusion through digital inclusion in the context of sustainable development: trends and challenges" (February 2021)) and at international seminars ("The role of ICTs for social inclusion and social welfare" (May 2021)).

However, the pandemic has not only accelerated digitalization. It has also redefined old problems in global welfare, such as child protection, hunger or access to healthcare resources. And, in short, it has put the welfare state at risk again, globally, affecting all areas of social and economic life. To respond to these debates, in addition to all the activities carried out by each ICSW member, in September 2021 we organized, under the coordination of Sergei Zelenev, the ICSW Online Conference "Addressing food insecurity in Africa: strategies for ensuring child-sensitive social protection", with the collaboration of IASSW, UNICEF, FAO, KNCSW and UNED. In November 2021, we will organize the ICSW International

seminar on "Social Protection in the Post-COVID19 Era".

All these projects are only possible because of the collaboration and teamwork of all of us at ICSW. In this regard, I would like to thank colleagues from the North America and the Caribbean region for their articles in this newsletter. I would also like to thank all those who are participating in the projects we have launched in 2021.

My thanks to all of you for your collaboration and your commitment to the ICSW.

**Take care and stay healthy.**

### Regional News from the North American and Caribbean Region

#### **ICSW Appoints Regional President of the North American and Caribbean Region**

##### **Patricia Martin-O'Meally, LICSW, CPM Chair of the ICSW-US Committee**

Ms. Martin-O'Meally has served as the Chair of the US Committee for the past four years (2017 to present). A clinical social worker in the Federal and District of Columbia governments, she retired in 2004. She worked as an adjunct Associate Professor at the Howard University School of Social Work for 24 years, from 1993 until 2017.

She was awarded the NASW Knee/Whitman Lifetime Achievement Award in Health and Mental Health in 2020. Ms. Martin-O'Meally also

brings with her years of clinical, administrative and management experience and looks forward to the challenges presented by the work needed to expand and organize the countries in the North American and Caribbean Region.

Ms. Martin-O'Meally steps into the shoes of Joyce Higashi, a member of the ICSW-US Committee who served as the past Regional President. We salute Joyce for her years of service and contributions to the Region and look forward to her continued work with the ICSW-US Committee.

#### **ICSW-Jamaica/ICSW-US Meeting:**

Tuesday June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021, the ICSW – US Committee hosted Saffrey Brown, Chair of ICSW Jamaica and included was Mrs. Nancy Pinchas, CEO of the United Way of Jamaica and Executive Director of the Council of Voluntary Social Services (CVSS), a Jamaican organization. Together they held a productive and informative virtual meeting. Members of the ICSW-US Committee in attendance included: Patricia Martin-O'Meally, Chairperson, Robert Arnold, Dr. Bernice Harper, Dr. M.C. "Terry" Hokenstad, Major Margaret Davis (Salvation Army), Dr. Cudore Snell, Treasurer and (International Provost, Howard University) and Ms. Helen Whetzel (Secretary). This joint meeting, was our first opportunity to speak in real time through the use of the zoom technology.

Both groups spoke about the need for better technology to further plans for organizational growth. Another issue facing both groups is the loss of older establishment members who have supported these organizations for years and the impact of younger people interested in establishing their own programs and advocacy groups. Jamaica is interested in local community development and non-governmental organizations

(NGO's) related to sustainability issues. Food insecurity during the Covid Pandemic is also an issue in both Jamaica and the United States. Ms. Pinchas spoke on organizational and economic development, and public sector macro level national development efforts taking place in Jamaica. Both expressed efforts to reach people in need. "Out of many, one." The motto of Jamaica was shared and understood as relevant to the situation. We learned that CVSS collaborates with the University of the West Indies School of Social Work and with other countries of the Caribbean including Barbados, Trinidad.

ICSW-US Committee member, Robert Arnold provided a report on the ICSW-US Committee, giving a historical overview beginning with the establishment of ICSW-U.S. as a non-profit organization in 1977. Dr. Cudore Snell, ICSW-US Committee member and currently a member of the ICSW Management Committee reported on the activities of the Global ICSW Management Committee. We are looking forward to meeting again in January 2022.

### **The Caribbean: ICSW-Jamaica Committee**

**ICSW Jamaica-Committee Chairperson**, member of the Council of Voluntary Social Services (CVSS), Saffrey Brown and CVSS **Executive Director** Nancy Pinchas announced an invitation for attendance at their November 30th, 2021, Conference titled "**Effective Collaboration As A Tool For National Development**". The free Conference will be "streamed" from the Kingston, Jamaica, Digicel Conference Room and will be available virtually. The Conference information indicates that "The goal of the 2021 CVSS Conference is to convene

with voluntary organizations to gain consensus on strategies and approaches for inclusive and effective multi-sectoral collaboration. Activities include presentations, panel discussions and participatory sessions covering topics such as sector inclusion, use of data, building partnerships, policy frameworks, leadership approaches and strategies to achieve national development goals." The CVSS website, [www.cvssja.org](http://www.cvssja.org) provides more information about the program and the celebrated speakers scheduled to participate. Links for the free registration are also available on the website. The Conference sponsors are the United States Embassy Jamaica and the Council of Voluntary Social Services, Jamaica.

### **North America: ICSW – The United States Committee:**

**The ICSW-US** has newly established Program Planning and Membership/Fund Raising Committees. The Chair of the Program Planning Committee is **Ms. Sara Lee, MSW**. Ms. Lee has a long history of professional experience as a clinician, manager, administrator and advocate throughout her career. She has worked in the Peace Core, US State Department, Federal Government Service at St. Elizabeths Hospital and within the government of the District of Columbia. She brings a wealth of organizational involvement locally as a member of the Metropolitan Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers. She and her committee are developing an educational program for fall 2022 looking at a variety of aspects related to the criminal justice system and the incarceration of innocent youth who spend years of their lives behind prison walls.

**Ms. Tanya Brown, MSW** is the new Chair of the Membership/Fund Raising Committee for the ICSW-US. Ms. Brown is a newly graduated MSW

of Tulane University School of Social Work and is excited and interested in the international perspective on global issues. She has many years of experience in the Federal Government within the Library of Congress Systems. She has begun developing a data base for the ICSW-US to give us a means for connecting with university communities, students and academics who show interest in the work of ICSW. Joining the efforts of ICSW-US to expand the work to more areas of this country, as well as the greater North American and Caribbean Region, allows for extending our reach to individuals of diverse backgrounds who share our mission and purpose. Similarly, Ms. Brown and her committee are working to find new avenues for funding ICSW-US educational projects and ways for supporting day to day operations and expenses.

**Loveland offering housing for medical recovery to those experiencing homelessness**

**Salvation Army – US National (Major Davis, National Social Services Secretary)**

***Article by Austin Fleskes, Aug 21, 2021***

When Loveland resident Michael Schaible knew he needed a colonoscopy done, he wasn't sure how he was going to be able to safely prepare and recover afterward without a place to call home because, at the time, he was homeless.

But, with the help of the local Salvation Army, Schaible was able to stay in a motel to prepare, for free.

The Salvation Army of Loveland began its Respite Hotel Voucher Program in 2019, to help the homeless population in Northern Colorado by ensuring they have a safe place to prepare for and recover following medical procedures.

"We have been seeing ... and we were hearing a lot from people that they were in the hospital or had to have a surgery, they could not proceed with recovery because normally people would go and recover at home, but people experiencing homelessness do not have such an ability," said Olga Duvall, Loveland Salvation Army service center coordinator. "They would be discharged back into the street."

Linda Franklin, a member of the advisory board for the Salvation Army of Loveland, said when she moved here she searched for an existing program like the one in place now and found nothing. Like Duvall, she said they were hearing from people who came out of the hospital following injury without anywhere to go.

"We would get people coming in just having been discharged from the hospital or recovering from an injury ... and they were immediately back on the street," she said.

Through the program, hospitals in the area can reach out to the Salvation Army with potential program candidates; those individuals are then offered free hotel vouchers for up to two weeks.

To further help those in need, the Salvation Army also works with the Community Kitchen and Meals on Wheels to offer hot meals to clients while they're recovering, as well as transportation to and from needed follow-up medical appointments.

In 2020 alone the program provided more than 700 nights of respite care to those needing to safely recover.

For Schaible, who now volunteers at 137 Connection in Loveland, the program provided him a way to safely prepare for his colonoscopy. "That helped a lot," he said. "It was either that or sleep on the floor. I got a nice comfortable bed where I could relax."

He added that the program is important to provide so that everyone in the community can have access to needed medical attention and prepare and heal safely.

"If you have to go in for surgery you need somewhere nice to stay," Schaible said.

Franklin said she believes that the program is nothing short of life-altering.

"I think without that we are not giving them the right tools to get back on their feet," she said. "It is just basic humanity, that we need to take care of each other regardless of our circumstances. We all have the same needs and some of us are more fortunate than others. To reach out and help those in need is what we should all be about."

Duvall said the pandemic highlighted the importance of helping those in need recover following medical concerns, offering program participants a chance to get back on their feet.

She added that many who have gone through the program have had the chance to heal properly, return to work and obtain safe and stable housing. This, she said, is the ultimate success.

"The importance of this program is just to provide a possibility, a chance for a person to recover from some unforeseen medical trauma or illness," Duvall said. "Every person should have the ability ... It is a basic human need to be able to take care of your health and recover and get healthy again."

When you are on the street with no roof over your head facing the heat or extreme cold, it doesn't allow you to recover. It almost puts you in the situation where you can't survive, let alone recover."

### Educational Activities

Dr Cudore Snell participated in an online ICSW International Seminar. ICSW hosted the seminar on September 9th in cooperation with IASSW, UNICEF, IFAD, KNCSW and UNED. The title of the seminar was "Addressing food insecurity in Africa: Strategies for ensuring child-sensitive social protection."

Dr Snell also attended the International Conference Series on Agriculture as a Driver of Africa's Development on September 28, 2021. The theme was: Achieving Food Security, Economic Transformation, Human Development, and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. It was hosted by Howard University and the Africa Growth Initiative at the Brookings Institute, Washington, DC.

Bob Arnold and Cudore Snell participated in a webinar on October 14, 2021 titled: "Stand up for the rights of older persons --- A call to action" that focused on Canada and the United States. The webinar was an effort to promote the human rights of older persons at home and globally. It

was sponsored by the International Longevity Centre in Canada; the NGO Committee on Ageing from the United Nations in New York; The Global Alliance for the Rights of Older People and the International Association of Gerontology and Geriatrics.

Patricia Martin-O’Meally attended several programs related to the clinical and community response to the Covid-19 Pandemic including: helping clinicians manage their own grief and loss; worker Loneliness and isolation during Covid-19; the opioid crises; mental health support for health care professionals and the excellent program on Social Work Leadership provided by NASW in June 2021.

**COVID-19**

(The Washington Post 11-16-2021-pg. A2)

**New coronavirus cases in the U.S. by day**

As of 8 p.m. 11/15/21

A major contributor to the economic recovery for the United States is the impact of Covid on the ability to get back to a place of stability for the American worker and family.

Coronavirus Cases as of 11/15/21

Total 46,852,968

Coronavirus Deaths as of 11/15/21

Total 759,694

Vaccine Doses Administered as of 11-15-21

Total 440,559,613

U.S. Covid 19<sup>th</sup> deaths are leveling off as Delta Variant Surge drops.

**More Activity at ICSW  
- Save the Date!**

**ICSW Online Conference**

**“New issues in social protection in the post-COVID19 era”**

**Wed~Fri, 3~5 November, 2021**

**9:00am ~ 16:00am (KST, Korea time)**

ICSW in cooperation with BITC, UNESCO, Oxfam and KNCSW

The conjunction of the COVID19 pandemic and technological advance—named as the Fourth Industrial Revolution—calls for new measures against abrupt disconnections from the former way of life and accelerates an introduction of an entirely new way of life in every aspect of our society. Social distancing to prevent the virus from spreading has led to the necessity for a remote or non-face-to-face provision of services and thus promoted the use of technologies in the area of social services such as public health and social welfare. This situation, which is interlinked with the paradigm shift from institution-based care to individual and personalized one, demands a change in the service delivery system.

World Bank estimates that COVID19 could push an additional 119 million people into extreme poverty (measured using the international



poverty line of \$1.90/day) in 2020 and that this number could rise to 124 million under the COVID19-downside scenario. ILO data reveals that 305 million jobs are expected to be lost worldwide in the second quarter of 2020 and that 1.6 billion workers in the informal economy—the most vulnerable in the labor market—stand in immediate danger of having their livelihoods destroyed by lockdown measures.

Amid an increased emphasis on the necessity of a new type of service provision and universal social protection system, the pandemic does not call for a magnification of governments' role only. Not only a government but also market and civil society, which are the three pillars holding up society, are responsible for taking actions in response to a great change in the post-COVID19 era.

In this vein, this conference, "New issues in social protection in the post-COVID19 era", organized by ICSW, and KNCSW, will provide an opportunity to discuss roles and tasks of government, market and civil society regarding new issues in the post-COVID19 era.

The recording of the conference will be shared after the conference on YouTube when the English subtitles for Korean presentations are ready.

The content of the ICSW News may be freely reproduced or cited provided acknowledgment of the source. The views do not necessarily represent policies of ICSW.

News Editor: **Antonio López Peláez,**  
**Executive Director, ICSW**  
**alopez@icsw.org**

ICSW - International Council on  
Social Welfare. Office number 34.  
Department of Social Work, Faculty of Law,  
National Distance Education University  
(UNED).

C/ Obispo Trejo 2, 28040  
Madrid (Spain).

**Contributions to the newsletter are  
welcome!**