CSWE’s Public Policy Initiative
Update on Federal Advocacy Activities and Trends

Presentation to the National Association of Deans and Directors
Wendy Naus, Lewis-Burke Associates LLC
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The Changing Political Landscape

- Last year – All about health care/insurance reform
- This year – All about jobs and the economy
- Mid-term elections looming
  - Is there enough time left to do anything else?
  - Majorities and priorities could shift
- American public divided on health reform; approval ratings dropping
- Major issues still waiting in the wings – Financial reform, No Child Left Behind, climate and energy legislation, appropriations
Social Work Education in Health Care Reform

- Education and Training Grants
- Loan Repayment
- Fellowship Programs
- Career Awards

*These are all contingent on funding
Mental and Behavioral Health Education and Training Grants

- Grants to institutions of higher education:
  - Recruitment of students into baccalaureate, master’s, and doctoral degree programs of social work
  - Development of faculty in social work
  - Establishment or expansion of internships/field placement programs in child and adolescent mental health in social work, school social work, and substance abuse prevention and treatment

- Priority given to programs that “are accredited by the Council on Social Work Education” (H.R. 3590, page 509)

- $8 million for grants to social work programs and $10 million for programs dealing with child and adolescent mental health (FY10-13)
Pediatric Specialty Loan Repayment Program

- Social workers with specialized training or clinical experience provide child and adolescent mental and behavioral health care in areas with shortages of health professionals.
- In exchange, the federal government pays up to $35,000 per year (up to 3 years) on principal and interest of undergraduate and graduate loans.
- $20 million each year (FY10-13)
Geriatric Fellowships and Career Awards

- **Geriatric Education Centers (GECs)** – Expanded to allow funds to be used for short term intensive courses (“fellowships”) focused on geriatrics
  - Provide supplemental training for current social work faculty and appropriately credentialed volunteer faculty and practitioners who do not have formal training in geriatrics
  - $10.8 million (FY 11-14)

- **Geriatric Career Incentive Awards** – Grants to clinical social workers to foster greater interest in entering geriatrics, long term care, and chronic care management
  - Recipient agrees to teach or practice in geriatrics, long term care, or chronic care management for 5 years
  - $10 million (FY 11-13)

- **Geriatric Academic Career Awards** – Expanded to broaden eligibility
  - Eligible applicants include individuals who have completed required training and are employed in an accredited health professions school, have completed an approved fellowship program in geriatrics or specialty training, and hold non-tenured faculty appointments at an accredited school of social work
Student Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act (SAFRA)

What’s in the bill:

- $27.6 billion for the Pell Grant
- $2 billion for community colleges with eligible two year programs for workforce training
- Funding to expand the Income Based Repayment (IBR) program

What’s not in the bill:

- $10 billion for the American Graduation Initiative (AGI)
- Administration priorities – Funding for early childhood education, student financial aid form simplification, and a new Perkins Loan Program
American Graduation Initiative

- Announced by President Obama in 2009
- House-passed SAFRA would have provided $10 billion to community colleges and partners (e.g. 4-year institutions) to develop new and improved community college programs and services
- Other legislative vehicles: Elementary and Secondary Education Act
Other Legislative Activities

- CSWE Legislative Fellowship Program
- VA Scholarships
- Environmental Justice/Climate Change
- Appropriations – Minority Fellowship Programs, loan forgiveness, new health care programs
FY 2011 Appropriations

- President’s FY 2011 Budget Request released February 1
- Proposed “freeze” on non-defense domestic discretionary funding, but:

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FY 2011 Appropriations

- House and Senate Appropriations Committees work throughout the spring/summer to craft and pass FY 2011 funding bills; next fiscal year starts Oct. 1
- CSWE cares about the:
  - Labor-HHS-Education bill – Funds Dept. of Ed and HHS programs, including NIH, SAMHSA, HRSA, etc.
  - Interior and Environment bill – Funds IHS
  - Military Construction and VA bill – Funds Veterans Health Administration
- Written testimony and community advocacy in support of proposed increases and funding for new programs
Non-Legislative Things to Think About

- Sustainability/Environmental Justice/Public Health
- **JOBS** – Linking with community colleges
- Indian Health/Rural Health, particularly mental health and substance abuse
- Comparative Effectiveness Research/Patient-Centered Health Research
- Integration of behavioral health initiatives into primary health care systems
- Federally-Funded Research
  - Interdisciplinary/community-based participatory teams
  - Behavioral economics
  - Data driven
Questions?

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