

## Social Work Corporate Practice Workforce Issue

- Effective September 1, 2004, the practice of licensed master social work and licensed clinical social work became restricted to licensed persons (or those exempt under the law), however,
- “Corporate practice” law specifically prohibits the practice of licensed professions by a business or corporation. Many community based providers who have a long history of providing social work and mental health services are now in violation of corporate practice statute, and therefore,
- The State Education Department cannot accept experience or issue permits to practice in such settings; thus creating huge workforce and service delivery consequences.

The “fix” requires amending Title VIII of the Education Law to allow the State Education Department to register entities that do not possess operating certificates or authorization to employ licensed individuals. Bill language is pending introduction, please weigh in with the Higher Education Committee Chair in your house and delineate the need for this legislation.

It is vitally important to accomplish this before the Legislature adjourns for the summer, as we are not able to meet the mental health needs of your constituents until this issue is remedied.

Should you have further questions, please contact Karin Moran, Director of Policy at NASW-NYS at 518-463-4741 ext 16 or Jeremy Darman, Policy Research Associate at NASW-NYS at 518-463-4741 ext 24