



Dear Colleagues,

My co-leaders and I are happy to send you our combined Journals of Professional Activities entries from our wonderful trip to Beijing. In retrospect, the trip was probably a little different than we had originally envisioned it, but exciting and educational just the same.

I wasn't quite prepared for the importance of the Forum for the China Association of Social Workers (CASW). Since I had met several of the CASW leaders at other international meetings, I thought social work, as a profession in China, was more fully developed than it was. I came to realize that what they were seeking from us was information and assistance in helping them further their development.

I very much appreciated your flexibility, and I felt quite comfortable that I could count on all of you to help us over the rough spots. It quickly became apparent that we weren't fully in control of the Forum agenda. For example, I had prepared two presentations, but must have given another six or eight impromptu speeches.

I was also glad you could see some humor in some of the happenings such as Mr. Xu Liugen insisting he and I jointly emcee the program at the Great Hall of the People dinner when I had no idea whatsoever what was going on. You might also be interested to know that the diplomatic gift (the ship), which was presented to NASW at the closing forum, did arrive in Washington, DC. Getting it shipped to the US was one of my biggest challenges. In fact, I stopped thinking of it as a ship and began thinking of it as an albatross. We finally found a group to ship it (for \$800), and it now proudly graces the NASW Board room.

I was very impressed with the Star Professional staff and with our People to People representatives. They seemed to have things well in hand. They were organized, extremely courteous, accommodating and informative. I felt the opening cultural presentation that Riley Zhang did was outstanding.

You will note from the journal that our Chinese hosts would like to continue the dialogue and exchange, and we are trying to find a way to do that.

NASW has also agreed to take a delegation to Cambodia next November. The dates will be November 9-17. I believe we will find social work even less developed there, but the experience should be just as rewarding.

I hope many of you will join us for that trip. We'll keep you posted. Again, thank you for choosing to go to China as part of the social work delegation. I hope our paths will cross often.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Elizabeth J. Clark". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial "E".

Elizabeth J. Clark, PhD, ACSW, MPH
Executive Director, NASW
Delegation Leader, People to People Ambassador Program



*Delegation Leaders' Combined Journals of
Professional Activities*

*US – China Social Work Forum
Beijing, China
October 30 – November 5, 2006*

**People to People Ambassador Program
US - China Social Work Forum
Beijing China October 30 – November 5, 2006
Commonweal and Charity Journal
Elizabeth J. Clark, PhD, ACSW, MPH
Executive Director, National Association of Social
Workers - USA
Leader**

Monday, October 30, 2006

This was the opening day of our cultural tour of China. I had arrived the previous day and had some rest. Most of the delegates arrived on Monday and were a bit weary from their long trip.

All of the delegates gathered from 4-6 PM to make introductions and to go over the agenda and plans for the week. All four group leaders introduced themselves and NASW President, Dr Elvira Craig de Silva, gave a short presentation.

Since the first three days of the week were to be held as a joint conference with the China Association of Social Workers (CASW), the agenda was not entirely within our control. At a rather late date the CASW suggested a reconfiguration of the group topics, and added the components of “Community Organizing” and “Commonweal and Charity.” We were a bit unclear about the meaning of the commonweal component, but as social workers, we felt certain we could figure it out and make the most of the experience. I agreed to lead this new component.

If I had to identify one distinguishing requirement for the week, I would highlight the need for flexibility. It was important to remember that we were guests in another country. We were not there as human rights advocates or to “sell” our brand of American social work. Our goal was that of the People to People Ambassador Program – to promote international understanding and cooperation.

After our introductory period, we attended a group buffet dinner at the hotel. Everyone was glad for an early night.

Tuesday, October 31, 2006

This was our first day, and it was full and exciting. The meeting was held at the Asia Hotel (about 5 blocks from the Swissotel). The day began with a wonderful in-country briefing by Zhang Liang (Riley). It was comprehensive and beautifully organized and delivered. Many delegates indicated that they felt it was one of the best educational sessions we experienced.

During the buffet luncheon, the delegation leaders had the great honor of meeting with Mrs. Jiang Li, the Vice Minister of Civil Affairs. It was a formal meeting in a separate room. The Vice Minister spoke in English. She was charming. We (the US delegation leaders – all women) were accompanied to the meeting by the leaders of the CASW (all

men except for one woman). The gender difference between social workers in the USA and China was one area of discussion. We also talked about similar social problems, especially providing services for our elderly populations. The Chinese press also attended this historic meeting.

The 2006 US - China Social Work Forum officially opened at 2 PM. All delegates (about 240 total including our Chinese colleagues) were given headsets for the translation of the three formal papers which gave an overview of social work in China (President Xu Ruixin of CASW) and the USA Executive Director Elizabeth Clark of NASW-USA), and of the status of social work education in China (Dr. Wang Sibin). (Please see co-leader Dr. Walsh's description of these presentations).

Social Work in the USA has over a hundred year history. Social work in China is still in its infancy (began in 1991). Our Chinese colleagues were eager to learn about social work in the USA. They had put great effort in the planning of our Forum including elaborate signage and stage backdrop. It was apparent that CASW viewed this as an important international exchange.

Perhaps, though, the highlight of our cultural exchange came that evening when we were guests for dinner at The Great Hall of the People. An invitation to The Great Hall is an infrequent honor. We each needed a special invitation for admission. We also had a police escort to The Great Hall to assure our timely arrival. We were provided a wonderful multi-course banquet, and incredible cultural entertainment. We also had a group picture taken with our hosts and the Chinese delegates.

Prior to leaving China, each US delegate was given a CD recording of the evening's events plus a copy of the group picture. This is just one example of the thoughtfulness and graciousness of our hosts.

Wednesday, November 1, 2006

This was the first day of our group visits. My three co-leaders have written summaries of their visits to the Sontang Hospice (Ms. Volland), the Deaf Children Rehabilitation and Research Center (Dr. Gibson), and the Jianwai Sub-District (Dr. Walsh). I was the leader for the small commonweal group (about 22 people, half of whom were US delegates) who visited Artron Corporation, the company that won the CASW award for corporate citizenship. It was ultra modern and even had a red carpet from the front door to the parking lot. I was accompanied by CASW Vice President Mr. Li Deyun. Our Star Professional who translated for the meeting was Yang Hui (Tom).

Since I was unclear about the nature of the company, I was not quite prepared for this meeting. We were welcomed by Mrs. He Manling, the Vice Chair of Artron, and then two Artron staff members gave a slide presentation about Artron's civic activities which included helping their employees in need, providing educational scholarships and training, helping their community, protecting the environment, and providing assistance for disasters such as tsunami relief. At the conclusion of their remarks, I was asked to give a presentation. I focused mainly on congratulating them on the dedication to corporate responsibility and on receiving the CASW award.

We were given a tour of the facility and of their art gallery. One of their main functions is to reprint great artworks so they are available for future generations. They also are the corporation who won the bid to provide the artwork and printing for the 2008 Olympics which will be held in Beijing.

They have won numerous prestigious printing awards including five Benny awards from the USA. One delegate was able to explain the significance of the term “Benny” (named for Benjamin Franklin who was a printer). They seemed pleased to have a better understanding of what the term “Benny” meant.

After the site visits, we returned to the Swissotel for small group break-out sessions. Our group continued with Commonweal and Charity. There were five presentations in all, but due to the lateness of adding the topic, only one US delegate was prepared to give a presentation. Dr. Jessica Cabness gave an overview of “The American Way: Construction of the Social Charity System in the USA.” The Chinese delegates expressed great interest in her presentation.

In the Chinese presentations, presenters covered “Philanthropy and the Media,” especially their public welfare project which has the goal of promoting public responsibility. There is a journal called *Corporate Citizenship*, and the project holds six forums a year to cultivate awareness of public charity. The idea is to use excess to complement deficiency.

Another presenter, Liu Jitong, discussed the relationship between the Government and NGOs (non-governmental organizations) and concluded that there is a need for more NGOs indicating that there currently were only about 3000 charitable (non-profit) agencies in China. A harmonious society is the goal, and more social service agencies will be required.

A second presenter, a professional from Beijing University, discussed the need for social workers in health care. In addition to being a college professor, he worked part-time for the Association of Hospitals in China. He noted that the Chinese healthcare system does not include social workers and that there is no reimbursement structure for such services. He concluded that there is a need to let administrators and decision-makers know about the importance of social work.

Another presentation, (Yang Jianping) focused on community service and “the significance of corporate citizenship in China.” There are 16 commissions in CASW and one is the Public Welfare Commission. There is also a Committee on Corporate Citizenship within CASW. They currently have 200 members and they have established standards for corporate citizenship in areas of employees, customers, suppliers, government, environment, and public interest. The group concluded that both the Chinese government, and the media are noticing their efforts. (Please see other Group Leader reports for topic content of other break-out sessions.)

The evening concluded with a buffet dinner at the hotel for both the US and China delegates.

Thursday, November 2, 2006

The morning of our fourth day was devoted to site visits. Delegates could choose between the Tianjin SOS Children's Village and the Elderly Home of Sijiqing (also referred to as Evergreen).

I was with the delegation that went to the Elderly Home. It was about 45 minutes from the city. It was a beautiful morning (the weather was superb the whole week). When we arrived, many of the residents were outdoors doing Tai Chi. We began our visit with a presentation from Mrs. Liu Zhongli, the Director of the home.

It is a facility that houses 400 private paying citizens. Perhaps it can best be described as similar to an assisted living facility in the USA. We listened to a presentation by the facility's director, we were given a certificate welcoming the delegation, and the US delegates exchanged gifts with the staff.

We then toured the facility which was well designed, clean, and impressive. One highlight was a visit to a calligraphy studio housed at the facility. It appeared to hold thousands of works of arts of one elderly gentleman who was present. He agreed to sell some of his works, and the excitement this caused among delegates almost overwhelmed the artist, and one of our Star Professionals had to step in to assist.

The afternoon was the closing ceremony of the Forum which was held at the Days Hotel and Suites. The backdrop and signage had been transported to this hotel, and the auditorium was filled with participants. This was a formal ceremony with all of our site hosts in attendance. Each group had a leader give a summary. Only one summary – on aging – was given by a US leader (Patricia Volland). The rest were given by members of the CASW. There were two additional presentations on licensing and certification. Wang Si.Bin gave the Chinese overview, and I gave the presentation about licensing in the USA. These presentations garnered much discussion and many questions.

At the conclusion of the formal presentations, NASW President Craig de Silva gave some summary remarks. We presented each of the site hosts with plaques of appreciation, and CASW and NASW exchanged gifts. NASW gave CASW a complete set of the US *Encyclopedia of Social Work* and a *Social Work Dictionary*. CASW gave NASW a diplomatic gift of a large gold and silver ship with Chinese characters on the sails. Loosely translated, it said "Smooth sailing, avoiding the waves, fully loaded back home."

CASW President Xu Ruixin and NASW Executive Director Clark then declared the first US - China Social Work Forum closed. Perhaps the words of some of our Chinese colleagues can best describe the importance of the Forum. One man said, "The forum was held at the right time and the right place." Another said "Social work is searching for its path in China, and China needs help from social workers in the USA."

That evening the group leaders of the US delegation and Dr. Craig de Silva had a private dinner with the officers of the CASW to discuss possible next steps. The NASW would be happy to hold a forum in the USA to continue discussions, but the leaders of the CASW did not think this would be feasible because of difficulty in obtaining USA visas.

We discussed the possibility of bringing a small group of social work experts to China some time in the future to help train Chinese social workers. This would require some foundation or special funding. We also will continue to collaborate through the International Federation of Social Workers since both CASW and NASW are members.

Friday and Saturday November 3 and 4

Friday and Saturday were the cultural visitation days for the delegation. Friday we visited Tian'anmen Square and the Forbidden City. We were amazed at the size of both. I believe this morning was one of only two times when differences in governmental ideology were apparent and uncomfortable. Our guide requested that we ask "no political questions" during our tour or he might be arrested. Guards did seem to be overly attentive anytime our small group stopped for conversation. (The second time was on Sunday when many of our delegates were bumped from their flights for the additional excursion because the government needed the seats for some of their visitors who were attending the African-Beijing Summit which was also held that week.)

Delegates loved the Kung Fu show on Friday night. Many compared it to Cirque du Soleil.

Saturday was exciting. We spent the morning traveling to, and walking on, the Great Wall of China. Our guides had given us historical overviews, but we were quite awed by the structure. I was also surprised by the number of people walking on the wall, and by the number of Chinese who asked to have their pictures taken with member of the US delegation.

We also enjoyed the shopping at the Friendship Store. When we returned to Beijing, many delegates had foot massages and raved about them. Similarly, our final group dinner at the Roast Duck Restaurant was a culinary experience, especially the appetizer of roasted scorpion.

Sunday was the departure day. Many delegates continued on the optional excursions.

We are grateful to the People to People Administration and to Star Professionals for making our trip so rewarding and enjoyable. They were well organized, accommodating, and professional. Many of the delegates noted that it was one of the best travel experiences that they have had.

**People to People Ambassador Program
US - China Social Work Forum
Beijing China October 30 – November 5, 2006
Community Development Journal
Katherine Walsh, PhD, MSW
Professor, Springfield College School of Social Work
Leader**

Monday, October 30, 2006

Setting out from various cities, towns and even small Caribbean islands on the weekend of October 27, 2006, US Social Work delegates had little idea of the rich education we would experience in this first US-China Social Work forum. We would spend just one week on the other side of the world, but in this week would learn so much about the influence of both Chinese culture and government structure on social work practice, education and research and have an opportunity to gain new insights into these same influences in our own country.

While I had been invited to participate as a leader due to my expertise in End of Life Care, and had initially expected to focus exclusively on this area of practice during our forum, the China Association of Social Workers, our hosts, had a very strong interest in Community Development and Volunteerism, as this is the major focus of the relatively new workforce of social workers in China. I enthusiastically agreed to lead this section as it gave me an opportunity to combine my End of Life interest with my interest and background in community and program development. Because of the timing and locations of our site visits in China, I knew that each of us who is interested in End of Life Care would still have an opportunity to learn about practices in China through two site visits and professional exchanges included in the Aging section, led by Patricia Volland. Not surprisingly, several US Social Work Delegates responded to the call for abstracts for this new topic area in the week preceding our trip, demonstrating characteristics that are valued in social workers in the US; we are flexible, strive for cultural competence, and highly innovative when adapting and utilizing our knowledge and skills in new environments.

In our Welcome Reception on Monday, at the Swissotel in Beijing, it was gratifying to hear many of the 191 delegates who learned about the new section on Community Development express interest in participating in the exchange and site visits scheduled for this topic area. In general, the introductions on Monday were spirited and reflected the diversity of interests, areas of expertise, and practice settings that proved to be a major strength of the delegation.

Tuesday, October 31, 2006

In the opening ceremony at the Beijing Asia Hotel the next morning, it was clear that this first US-China exchange was viewed by our hosts as a significant event in the young history of their organization and their investment of time and resources to this forum was most impressive. Each of the more than 240 delegates from China and the US were issued electronic translation devices, similar to those used in the United Nations, so that

each of the Leader speeches were simultaneously translated in the two languages. After opening remarks by the Executive Directors of the Organizing Committee (Dr. Elizabeth Clark, Executive Director of NASW, and Mr. Yang Jian Chang, Vice President of CASW) the Leaders of both Delegations and other members of the organizing committee were introduced. The theme speeches included an “Overview of Social Work in China,” presented by President Xu Ruixin (CASW), an “Overview of Social Work in the US” by Elizabeth Clark (NASW) and an introduction to the current status and challenges of social work education by Dr. Wang Sibin of CASW.

From these presentations it became clear that a major difference between the two organizations is that the Communist Party of China (CPC), essentially the federal government of China, has played a central role in the development both of social work as a discipline and the China Association of Social Workers, while this is not the case in the United States. A key influence in the rapidly developing interest in social work in China is the passage in July of 2005 of a major act by the CPC to establish a “Harmonious Community” within all of China with the Ministry of Civil Affairs and the Ministry of Human Resources jointly overseeing the implementation of policies and procedures related to this act. A primary focus of social workers in China since this act was implemented is to develop structures within communities to achieve this goal of community harmony. Functions include organizing committees within communities to establish standards and deliver and monitor services to meet the needs of community residents related to community harmony. Interestingly, some of these services include matchmaking and wedding services in addition to reemployment training and provision of basic needs to vulnerable members of the community such as elders, those with developmental disabilities and children whose families are unable to care for them.

When the site visits to the two community centers of Jianwai and Tianqiao were announced for the Community Development Section for Wednesday, more than 40 US delegates signed up. In our dinner meeting with leaders from the China Association of Social Workers, the leaders of the two delegations had an opportunity to learn more about each other’s organizations and the co-leaders of each section (Aging and End of Life, Children and Families, Community Development and Commonweal & Charity) had an opportunity to discuss further the format and content of the exchange program scheduled for each section the following day. As the US leader of the Community Development section, I had the great pleasure of getting to know (with the help of Alice, a native interpreter from the Children’s Hope Network of China) my co-leader, Mr. Ma Xueli, a Vice President of CASW whose expertise in community development and whose enthusiasm for the exchange was inspiring. Mr. Ma is a long time CPC member whose education and training before joining the CASW was in sociology, had visited the USA to learn about democratic elections in small cities and towns and he has played an instrumental role in organizing communities within Beijing to deliver community services with the implementation of the Community Harmony initiative.

The opening banquet, held at the Great Hall of the People which borders the massive Tian’anmen Square, provided an opportunity for US and China delegates to share perspectives over an elegant banquet of traditional Chinese foods that concluded with a performance by intricately costumed and acrobatic members of the world-famous Beijing Opera.

Wednesday, November 1, 2006

As we boarded the busses for our Community Development tour at 7:30 AM, we were told by our co-leader, Mr. Ma, that we would be visiting Jianwai first – a new “modern” community in the heart of the Beijing financial district which encompassed five “neighborhoods” of about 12,000 residents each, many of whom worked in the large companies such as Hewlett Packard and represented many different countries. The residents are much more transient in this community than in most of Beijing. We were greeted with much fanfare and enthusiasm by members of the media and staff when we arrived at one model community center located in Jianwai. In the wide courtyard surrounded by modern high rise apartment buildings, older residents were practicing the serene flowing movements of tai chi, though they smiled and greeted us enthusiastically with the now familiar “ni haou” which our guide informed us is the traditional Chinese greeting that translates roughly as “How are you doing?”

We were invited to take seats in the lobby of the Community Center building and received an orientation to the center and how it is used to serve residents. We then had an opportunity to tour the center and met older residents practicing their calligraphy and kite-making, while others were using the well-organized and gleaming library. Some of our delegates had their blood pressure taken by a uniformed nurse who we were told performed this kind of health check service. An astonishingly well equipped community education facility included multimedia methods to provide driver education, health education, and fire and disaster preparation to community residents of all ages.

After touring this community center and asking questions about the child care and other services that were provided to community members, we boarded the bus and proceeded to Tianqiao, a community located in a much older section of the city that, like Jianwai, was comprised of a total of almost 60,000 residents, many of whom are practitioners of traditional Chinese cultural activities such as calligraphy, dance and acrobatics and the art of paper cutting. The community center in Tianqiao resembled many of the older urban YMCAs in the USA. Fitness equipment was housed on the ground level, while a large and fully utilized ping pong facility with at least 20 tables spanned the second floor. On the third floor we saw workers being trained for reemployment in the computer facility – many learning to type in English on their keyboards, elders practicing calligraphy, and women participating in the traditional art activities. Here we were treated to an interactive demonstration of dancing, singing and acrobatics and had an opportunity to intermingle with the residents who were eager to engage with us. Our site visit concluded with all 50 US delegates and all of the residents we had met signing a verse of Auld Lang Syne, led by the Community Center’s chorus.

The afternoon forum following these two tours provided a rich array of presentations – three from the USA and three from China. We learned from our China hosts about the CPC’s efforts to establish a social work profession to help achieve the goals of a harmonious society. Currently 10,000 bachelor level social workers are being trained in China’s universities, and they will be helping to develop and implement methods of service delivery. They are currently being taught by faculty who have been recruited from other disciplines such as sociology, and they do not have a unified theoretical or practice methods base. A major goal is to develop textbooks for social work, training social workers who will ultimately be responsible for human resource development, program assessment, program utilization, and encouragement. The goal is

to “establish a commonwealth in which the elderly can be served, the strong can be fully utilized and the disadvantaged will be taken care of.” These goals will be achieved through the organization of committees of volunteers who will conduct “different kinds of social work,” supported by the government as well as charity from corporations and citizens. In a country with 1.3 billion people, this is an enormous undertaking. Interspersed with our three Chinese presentations, were three presentations by US delegates who made presentations about:

- The organization of a tribal council within the Fond du Lac Chippewa Reservation of Minnesota whose responsibility is to oversee the organization and implementation of programs to address the needs of members of this indigenous community. Services included in this social service agenda include drug and alcohol education for youth, recovery services for those with substance dependence. (Julia Jaakola, Human Service Administrator, Fond du Lac Reservation)
- The role and functions as well as the limitations of the Red Cross during the Hurricane Katrina disaster and the new agreement between the NAACP and the American Red Cross to train more volunteers from the African American community. (Dr. Ira Neighbors, Professor/Director, BSW Program, Southern University at New Orleans)
- Personal and public responsibility and the new paradigms that are informing our understanding of participation in, and support for, efforts such as the Peace Corps (initiated under President John F. Kennedy) and the No Child Left Behind/Faith Based initiatives (initiated under President George Bush) (Dr. Joseph Gallegos, Professor, University of Portland, OR)

From the China Association of Social Workers presenters we learned about:

- The role and function of social workers in community development as they organize volunteer committees to carry out safety, cultural and recreational activities as well as provide services such as health education. The CPC has created the volunteer registration system in which all community members are encouraged to participate with a minimum of 15 hours of volunteer activity per year. One incentive is the Labor Day Trophy awarded by the Beijing Municipality to 21 model volunteers.
- The macro focus of social work in China, supported by the CPC vs. the micro focus practiced more prevalently in some other countries. The CPC is encouraging the training of social workers through development of theory and texts, but emphasizes that social workers in China must have CPC guidance and are to be involved in services related to “community harmony” including wedding and matchmaking services, since these commercial enterprises have influence on community members.
- It is estimated by the CPC that by the year 2020, China will need 3 million social workers. The CASW, established July 5, 1991 will be involved in promoting social work within China as well as promoting social welfare (through elder services and rehabilitation programs) and community service. Under the purview of social work will also be a commission for public advertisements. CASW has five current aims:

- 1) strengthen the construction of CASW
- 2) Explore social work theories with a Chinese orientation
- 3) Establish image and efficiency in public charity
- 4) Establish communication between service organizations in China
- 5) Strengthen cooperative exchanges with Taiwan, Hong Kong and Macau through conducting meetings of social workers and organizations in these varied locations

The tight time frame for the afternoon allowed for limited questions and discussion between presenters and the audience, however the exchange did afford comparisons of the similarities and differences in social work activities in China and the USA which my co-leader, Mr. Ma, and I highlighted in our summary of the afternoon.

Thursday, November 2, 2006

Two busses of US delegates traveled together on the third day of the symposium to the Evergreen, Four Seasons Elder Home on the outskirts of Beijing. Delegates with interests in health, end of life and aging had an opportunity to listen to a presentation made by the facility's director and then to tour the grounds and meet two of the residents, including the eldest woman who is 105. As at the community center site visit, elder clients were in the central courtyard carrying out Tai Chi when we arrived while several residents were sitting watching from their wheelchairs in a sunny veranda. One striking feature of the glistening new facility was the outdoor exercise equipment also placed in the central courtyard which appeared to encourage outdoor physical activity. A rather spare therapy room that housed parallel bars and exercise mats was located at the programming center along with a traditional tea house and calligraphy studio, raised shuffleboard tables and dentistry and nursing offices. The 400 bed facility is available for private paying clients, and we were told there is a waiting list, although not all the rooms in the newest wing appeared to be occupied. The structure reflected traditional Chinese architecture with common programming buildings anchoring two wings of residential units all built in a rectangle around a large central courtyard.

Several US delegates noted the similarity of this facility to assisted living communities for elders located in their cities and states in the USA. While the daily rate for this facility in China was much lower than most equivalent residences in the USA due to government supplementation, like in the USA, this type of facility is only currently available to those who have the ability to pay the private fees, except for twenty low-income residents who are without family. *Filial piety* is still a very strong value in China, and children are expected to support their elder family members, either through provision of direct care or through payment for care in a facility such as the one we toured. A lively audience of delegates asked many informed questions of the Chinese staff throughout the presentation and tour, the answers to which gave us all a clearer understanding of the care provided as well as the policies guiding the care of the elderly, which generally includes people over age 60 in China.

The closing session and ceremony, held in the afternoon when all delegates returned from their site visits, included summaries from the four interest groups (Children and Families, Aging/End of Life, Community Development, and

Commonweal and Charity) Two additional presentations reviewed education, credentialing and licensing of social workers both in China and in the USA.

While the program was exhausting, in part because all presentations were given in two languages and so much new information was presented in this first-ever international exchange, it was by no means *exhaustive*. Every Chinese and US delegate I spoke to, during and after the three days, expressed great interest in continuing the dialogue between colleagues in both countries. In learning about the nascent China Association of Social Workers, and the rapid development of services in response to the CPC initiative to promote community harmony, we experienced a fascinating and thought-provoking glimpse at the possibilities of the future.

Friday, November 3rd and Saturday, November 4th Cultural Activities

US Delegate Faith Brock nicely summed up the experience as well as the cultural exchange activities on Friday and Saturday with the following:

“The Ambassador to Ambassador program did a wonderful job of facilitating interactions between social workers from the USA and China and the services offered by Star Professional Programs were outstanding. The reception we received was impressive. The ceremony and history of the Chinese people was enriching. The experiences including The Great Hall of the People, Tian’anmen Square, the Forbidden City and the Great Wall of China we obtained from this trip were fantastic and will last a lifetime.”

**People to People Ambassador Program
US - China Social Work Forum
Beijing, China October 30 – November 5, 2006
Social Assistance and Welfare for the Aging
Patricia J. Volland, MSW, MBA
Senior Vice President of Finance and Administration
The New York Academy of Medicine
Director, Social Work Leadership Institute
Leader**

Monday, October 30, 2006

Overview Highlights from Chinese Delegates' Presentations

- Harmony and Life Satisfaction form 'spiritual' context of Chinese society.
- Increase in the aging population makes priority of providing care at home a challenge. Resources needed include trained staff and more beds when institutionalization is required.
- Building community supports requires a good mix between volunteers and professionals.
- Recruitment and training programs are needed.
- Goal of the Government Committee for Older People: Protect health and civil rights.

Tuesday, October 31, 2006

Visit to Songtang Hospice

- 264 residents; oldest is 104 years.
- Treatment plans result from MD, RN and family.
- Each patient has 24 hour staff assigned.
- Average length of stay is 31 days.
- Mission: hospice is the "social womb" for the end of life. Research confirms that this process is usually 280 days (same as gestation).
- Have had 200,000 volunteers from 50 countries over 20 year period.
- Cost of 30 days of care is \$100/month.
- Goal is to support client happiness so they go to another world without regret.
- Only medications are for palliative and treatment care.
- Believe in palliative mercy killing.
- Laboratory equipment and monetary donations are needed.
- Presentation: History of Vitas Innovative Hospice Care by Ms. Froncell Childred-Kirkling of the USA. Described integrated model for providing palliative care in the USA.

Presentations for the Social Assistance and Welfare Aging Group

1. The Promotion and Development of Beijing Community Rehabilitation for Aging (Zhou Weijin) (China)
 - Average of 6.1 diseases/older adult.
 - One in 10 chinese are seniors.

- Characteristics: less money, age faster, more disabled.
 - Chinese government goal is to protect health and civil rights of older people.
 - Unique way to stay healthy: keep harmony.
 - Use both western and traditional medicine theories in rehabilitation.
 - Government has a five year plan to improve rehabilitation services.
2. Spirituality and Gerotranscendence as Influential Factors of Life Satisfaction (Dr. Nancy Barker) (USA)
- Report on research study.
 - Successful aging: avoid disease, maintain physical functioning and engage in social life.
 - Gerotranscendence is focuses on internal harmony.
 - Question: does this increase life satisfaction? Studied 329 diverse older adults living in the community.
 - Spirituality and end of life issues in social work education are needed.
3. Welfare Services for the Elderly (Liu Yunhua) (China)
- 1998 marked the First National Old People’s Day in China.
 - By 2020 17.7% of population will be old.
 - By 2060 30% of population will be old.
 - Problem: Large numbers of people reach old age before financial independence, as well as more “empty nest” seniors and large numbers living in rural areas.
 - Increased expectation for society to take care of the elderly.
 - Eight beds for every 1000 Chinese older persons.
 - 32,000 clients waiting to get into nursing home/hospice.
 - Foreign investment in nursing homes in China is needed.
 - Government providing leadership – goal to stay at home wherever possible.
 - 79% of the elderly have at least one health problem.
 - Depression is increasing with increase in retirement.
 - Health professionals do not have enough knowledge of working with older persons.
4. African-American Elderly Women Aging in the USA (Dr. Jean Daniels) (USA)
- Eight percent of Americans are African American women.
 - Race is more important than gender.
 - Education about how to stay independent is key.
 - Family/social activities are important.
 - Use friends as mentors in the process of aging.

5. Rehabilitation for the Elderly (Tang Faliang) (China)
 - Agencies can help very few people.
 - Modern rehabilitation came to China 20 years ago.
 - 50% of older adults have hypertension.
 - 16% of population in Beijing is over 60 years of age.
 - Physical limitations keep people from attending social activities – therefore they need medical/holistic rehabilitation.
 - Need to train staff in the community to do rehabilitation.
 - 85% of communities have rehabilitation leaders; the goal is one on every block at a health center.
 - Chronic disease management equals cost control.

6. Technology Resources for the Aging, their Caregivers and Human Service Professionals (Professor Paul Freddalino (USA))
 - Use of technology improves both clinical practice and administrative practice.
 - Makes people aware of services.
 - Provides a platform for support groups.
 - Improves patient status reporting.
 - Improves mobility.
 - Can include internet, cell phone, and healthy buddy technology.
 - Key issues are time, money and access.

Wednesday, November 1, 2006

Visit to Elderly Home of Sijiqing Town

- Started in 1958 for single older men.
- Best elder home at the township level in China.
- 20,000 square meters; northwest of Beijing.
- 500 beds with 460 clients. 120 are independent; 388 need assistance; 20 have no relatives; oldest is 105 years. Average age is 78.
- Managed by democratic process; committee monitors work and oversees suggestions for improvement.
- Main funding from government (18 million yuan) and private donors (30 million yuan).
- Received the model home award 2000-2005.
- Have had 3000 visitors from other countries.
- Encourage healthy diet, physical exercise and socialization.
- Train their own nursing team.
- The center of service is the client.

**People to People Ambassador Program
US - China Social Work Forum
Beijing, China October 30 – November 5, 2006
Children and Family Journal
Priscilla Gibson, PhD, MSW, LICSW
Assistant Professor, University of Minnesota,
College of Education and Human Development,
School of Social Work
Leader**

Introduction: Members of the Children and Family Delegation were overwhelmed by the quality of their experiences. We appreciated the openness displayed by the Chinese Association of Social Workers to our social work practice in the United States of America. We enjoyed the graciousness of our host and the agencies we visited.

We learned much that increased our knowledge about social work with children and families in China. For example, the commonalities we that are shared between social work in China and in the USA:

- Both are committed to the successes of our children and their families. In China, it is discussed as “family harmony.” In the USA, it is labeled as “family and children well-being.”
- In terms of educating our children, both maintain stimulating classroom environments to enhance their learning.
- Both realized the benefits of parent involvement in improving the educational and other treatment outcomes for our children.
- We have concerns about our most vulnerable groups such as children with disabilities, the homeless, and the elderly.
- Both have cultural and contextual factors that, though different, have an impact on how we view social problems and how social workers ought to deal with them.

In addition, our exchanges and observations highlighted the many challenges faced by social workers in each county:

- The need for increasing our numbers. More social workers are needed in both China and the USA;
- Reducing the stigma toward people with disabilities and their families;
- Learning how to exchange professional information in a more user friendly manner;
- How to increase social support and social network for our clients; and
- Increasing funding for social work services and programs for children and their families.

In summary, we are honored to have participated in this exchange. We are humbled by your strong interest in how we conduct social work practice in the USA. We look forward to our continued professional exchange.