

Letter from the Editors

We are pleased to bring you another issue of the *Journal of Forensic Social Work*. This welcomes in the third year for the journal and more articles on progressive forensic practice and policy. We are delighted to offer articles covering diverse practice settings and client populations common to forensic social workers and allied professionals.

The issue begins with an article on the use of MAYSI-2 to screen youth for mental health needs. This research reminds us of the importance of assessing forensic populations as they enter our systems of care. The next article continues with the assessment theme and identifies risk factors that contribute to homelessness for offenders. The following two articles review the literature on mental health and drug courts to help guide forensic practice in these settings. The final article exposes the very real danger of violent death among recently released offenders. Collectively, these pieces emphasize the importance of providing integrated reentry programs and services to offenders returning to the community, the necessity of good risk assessment, and matching offenders with appropriate court and judicial processes.

Forensic social work continues to evolve and now perhaps more than ever, our roles within the criminal and juvenile justice system become increasingly important. The articles in this issue demonstrate a number of important roles we play in doing assessments, working with courts, as well as developing transitional plans for offenders including housing, safety, and access to treatment. It is imperative that we continue our collaboration with other professionals to promote therapeutic jurisprudence, evidence-based practices, and more community-based services. Through this collaborative effort, we continue to refine our roles as change agents for individuals and systems, advocates for the oppressed, and stewards of justice.

We look forward to seeing many of you in New York City in July 2014 for the National Organization of Forensic Social Work conference. The Call for Papers and Presenters is currently open and we welcome your abstracts for the conference. We have been pleased to see several past conference presentations evolve into manuscripts for the *Journal of Forensic Social Work*.

Thank you for your important work and for your ongoing support of the Journal.



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