



Alliance Wide Call

Saturday, July 14, 2018 11am CST

Call-in number: 712-451-0011

Passcode: 615476#

Special guest: Valon Alford, MSW,
LICSW, Clinical Coordinator, NFL
Player Care Foundation

New Members

Kristie Baumchen

Angelia Ham

Angelica Sievers

Dawn Shadron

Megan Ottati

Rossana Mendez

Dr. Janice Hilliard

Fiona Conway

Erin Starkey

Jordan Platt

Angelo Fouras

naswis.org

P.O. Box 592664

San Antonio, TX 78259

Tel: (800)567-1178

Fax: (765)285-1029

socialworkinsports@gmail.com



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ASWIS Group

A Letter from the President

Dear ASWIS Membership:

With the Special Olympics, NBA Summer League, Wimbledon, World Cup, and MLB in full swing there is never a dull moment in sports or among Sport Social Workers. The University of Pittsburgh Department of Athletics is the most recent college athletic department to hire a social worker (as its lead counselor), the NBA Mental Health Initiative included social workers in its recently released best practices document, and our Alliance wide call will include a social worker with the NFL Player Care Initiative.

The summer and ASWIS are heating up!

It is such a great time for ASWIS members to take advantage of their membership with The Alliance. In the coming weeks we will launch a new website, in the coming months we will usher in a NASW approved CEU Institute, and our 4th annual conference will unfold in Orlando in November. Moreover, our membership continues to grow and our new members include movers, shakers and pioneers in the world of Sport Social Work. Join our Alliance wide call this Saturday and connect with your fellow members.

While ASWIS continues to trend up we must remain vigilant when it comes to recognizing the intersections between sport and social work. We work at this intersection, but recent events teach us that the intersection is so, so much bigger than us - whether it's related to the approved use of CBD in the Big 3 Basketball League or the search and rescue of the Thai youth soccer team. ESPN's new campaign lauds that "Life Needs Sports" and it's so true.

ASWIS needs you to help us to help society enhance life through sports. Our work has only begun and is infinitely better when every member contributes to our team. We need our members just as much, if not more, than our members need us!

Praying for the continued well being of all of you...

Have an incredible July.

Best

Emmett L. Gill, Jr.

Please check out our new web address at www.aswis.org. Our old web address (www.naswis.org) will automatically redirect you to the new site. We will also launch our brand new website design in the coming days! Stay tuned for announcements!



The NFL's America

"This is America." A country you are free to be yourself until being yourself is wrong. "This is America." We are raised under the impression that you are free to voice your opinions until it's the wrong opinion to have. "This is America." Banged and bruised, black and blue. Blacks versus the Blues. Circling back through the news cycles is a familiar theme especially for former NFL Quarterback Colin Kaepernick and his National Anthem Protests which were initially sparked by police brutality and racial injustice.

What first ignited outrage, then support, and mostly more outrage, has now been the precursor to a new NFL policy. Players must show appropriate respect for the anthem which loosely translates to "stand" or stay in the locker room. This new policy gives freedom to individual teams to determine their own consequences for not standing if a player chooses to be on the field during the anthem. When the new policy was released it did not take long for players of the league to chime in on the conversation.

Words such as "disgusting" and "disappointed" were thrown around. Malcom Jenkins, who is known for his activism, stated that the new policy "thwart[s] the players' constitutional rights" and that "everyone loses when voices get stifled." Other comments from players around the league included, "these owners don't love America more than the players demonstrating" and this policy is just "another topic to get everyone against each other".

One of many seemingly disappointing facts about this new policy is that it was passed without input from the players. However, there has been support expressed by Chairmen and CEOs of teams. New York Jets Chairman Christopher Johnson stated the team "would not enact any specific rules prohibiting kneeling. No fines or suspensions." Denver Broncos CEO Joe Ellis stated, "We need to listen to our players and support the issues and causes that matter to them."

Exactly Mr. Ellis, exactly. These NFL players have been gifted with their platforms. Professional athletes are supposed to be good role models and leaders. They are to set the example for the next generation of young minds and talent. But again, "This is America." You can only be a role model if your actions are not too far left.

"United we stand, divided we fall." Kaepernick took that seriously. He felt this country was divided, so he fell. Dropped to a knee, peacefully. To bring awareness that change was needed. That violence and anger is not always the best way to get a point across. We as a country are still hearing the echo of Kaepernick's knee hitting the ground from nearly two years ago. By kneeling, he was actually standing the tallest, standing up for those oppressed.

This new NFL Policy is a ploy. To oppress even further. What is sad and disappointing is this oppression will continue to trickle down to those next generations. Those next generations of athletes and leaders are going to see their idols' efforts being impeded and start to believe that their efforts to speak up, or stand up, won't matter.

I hope that is not true. I hope these NFL players will not let this new policy silence them. I hope they continue in their fight.

Written by: Stephanie Falotico, LMSW

Check out our other new blog post

<https://www.naswis.org/blog>

"Mind Over Matter: Athletes
Advocating for Mental Health" (Zachary Draves)

"How Do We Fix This? Black Male Student-Athletes
By The Numbers" (Danny Bonaventura)

Committee Updates

- *Research Committee* - the committee added another 30 new citations to the research center and is overseeing the peer-review process for the 4th Annual Social Work in Sports Symposium.
- *Committee on College Sports* - the committee shared the Sport Social Work Fact Sheet and a sample Sport Social Worker job description with college programs across the country. In honor of pride month, a number of committee members signed pledges to support LGBTQ rights in intercollegiate athletics through Athlete Aly.
- *Committee on Youth Sports* - the committee created a new mission statement to guide their future efforts. The committee will host a t-shirt exchange during the upcoming ASWIS Symposium to support member engagement and raise funds for the Alliance. The committee will have a conference call in the coming weeks to discuss the creation of best practice documents.
- *Committee on Professional Sports* - the committee added Dr. Janice Hilliard to their roster. The committee is currently meeting with individuals from the NFL, NBA, and former professional athletes on ideas for expanding the committee's outreach and shaping future initiatives. The committee is also working to develop a fact sheet for professional sports (similar to the one developed by the Committee on College Sports).
- *Education Committee* - the committee oversaw the first semester of the Sport Social Work Certificate Program. Our inaugural cohort received instruction from four of the brightest minds in Sport Social Work. The committee will have a conference call in the coming weeks to discuss next steps for the program. Feel free to join and learn more.

NCAA Commission Update: Sexual Violence

Update from Cindy Miller Aron, ASWIS
Committee Representative

Last month I had the privilege of attending the final meeting of this Commission. The Commission was assembled in Fall of 2016 to “pro-actively examine issues and propose solutions related to the role campuses, conferences and the NCAA should play to address sexual violence and achieve positive cultural change.”

The Commission met every quarter, culminating in a policy recommendation to the Board, which they formally adopted in August 2017. The policy stated that athletic departments cooperate, according to their institutional policy, with investigations into matters related to sexual violence that involve student-athletes and athletics staff. In addition the policy requires each college/university Chancellor or President, Director of Athletics and Title IX Coordinator attest annually that:

1. The athletics department is fully knowledgeable, integrated in, and compliant with institutional policies and processes regarding sexual violence and proper adjudication and resolution of acts of sexual violence.
2. The institutional policies and processes regarding sexual violence prevention and adjudication, and the name and contact information for the campus Title IX Coordinator, are readily available within the department of athletics.
3. All student-athletes, coaches, and staff have been educated on sexual violence prevention, intervention and response, to the extent allowable by state law and collective bargaining agreements.

As a Commission we were very pleased that the Board of Governors took to heart and passed our recommendations. This policy became effective during this past academic year.

The Board then asked if the Commission would assemble a Think Tank with higher education groups in January 2018. We pro-actively engaged in conversations about preventing sexual violence on campuses and the role athletics can play as part of the broader higher education community. This took place in Washington DC and was an interesting and exciting process to be a part of, developing governing principles, as well as identifying research priorities. In our concluding Commission meeting last month, we wrapped up the charge, with a final report that included recommendations for next steps, including research priorities. We recommended that this work be a continued focus for the NCAA Board of Governors in an effort to make our campuses safe for all students. ASWIS can certainly do their part to further support these policies and recommendations. ASWIS will work with committees on planning next steps.

Job Center Update

Be sure to check out our updated job center for current postings related to Sport Social Work. We strongly encourage our members to apply for these positions and further expand our visibility. You can access the job center at <https://www.naswis.org/job-center>



Sport Social Work Certificate Program

The deadline for fall enrollment in the certificate program is July 27th. The fall semester will begin on August 6th. This will be the second cohort of students to start the program. To learn more about the program please visit <https://www.naswis.org/sport-social-work-certificate>.

If you are interested in serving as a faculty member please contact Dr. Emmett Gill (socialworkersinsports@gmail.com).

Upcoming Events

4th Annual Social Work in Sports Symposium

The call for proposals for the 4th Annual Social Work in Sports Symposium remains open. You can access the call for proposals at <https://www.naswis.org/2018-conference>. The full schedule will be made available in September.

For registration and accommodations please visit <https://www.naswis.org/2017-conference-registration-and-ho>.

Membership Announcements

- Traci Nigg started a Social Work in Sports class at Wichita State University today! Warren Clark from Michigan University was the first guest lecturer via video chat. Traci has many more amazing speakers from ASWIS lined up! Here's to integrating sports into graduate social work curriculum!
- Lorin Mordecai will be presenting on "Conformity to Masculine Norms and Sexual Relationships Among US College Athletes" at the 9th International Conference on Sport & Society at Florida International University in Miami, FL. She will also be accepting the 2018 Emerging Scholar Award, which are given to outstanding graduate students and emerging scholars who have an active research interest in the conference themes.
- Heidi Heming earned her MSSW from the University of Louisville and passed her CSW exam.
- Tayor Hayes, ASWIS practicum student, was accepted into the MSW Program at Indiana University.
- Madison Hale, ASWIS practicum student, will graduate with her MSW from Troy University this month.

Member Spotlight



Jordan Platt, LMSW

Mental Health and Sport Performance Clinician - University of Arkansas

My name is Jordan Platt. I currently work at the University of Arkansas-Department of Athletics, specifically in the Sport Psychology Department, as a Mental Health and Sport Performance Clinician.

I work with the Director and Assistant Director of Sport Psychology, Dr. Mike Johnson and Dr. Blakely Low-Scott, to help provide clinical and performance services to around 480 student-athletes from 19 different teams.

Services provided include individual sessions, group sessions, consultations with student-athletes and coaches, team interventions, mental skills sessions, biofeedback, and staff/coach mental health trainings. I also have the unique opportunity of collaborating with our office of Student-Athlete Development to provide Step UP! Bystander Intervention training to student-athletes. Working in this capacity has not only been fun and an opportunity to grow professionally, but it has also been incredibly rewarding. The staff and student-athletes here at the University of Arkansas are truly incredible and it is a privilege to call this place home. I am excited to be a part of ASWIS and to get to know each of you and hear about your roles within Sport Social Work! Woo Pig!

Committee Spotlight

Pro Sports Committee Co-chair, Anita Daniels, coordinated a meeting with Ms. Valon Alford, MSW, LICSW, Clinical Coordinator for the National Football League Player Care Foundation (PCF). This meeting took place on July 6, 2018. The two discussed opportunities for ASWIS to collaboratively develop strategies that promote the mental health and overall well-being of current and former professional football players. After their meeting, Anita quickly recruited Valon to serve as speaker for the ASWIS July membership conference call.

As clinical coordinator for PCF, Valon assists former players who have separated from the game in addressing critical transition areas including physical health, money management, and employment. As a clinical social worker, Valon adds mental health expertise to the psychosocial factors associated with athlete case management.

For more information please contact us at

P.O. Box 592664
San Antonio, TX 78259
Tel: (800)567-1178
Fax: (765)285-1029 socialworkinsports@gmail.com