



CSJ Activist

Newsletter of Counselors for Social Justice

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**Welcome to the Conference Edition
of the CSJ Activist
Celebrating Children: Counselors Promoting
Advocacy, Social Justice, and Equal Access**

Greetings, CSJ Members!

We would like to welcome everyone to the conference edition of the *CSJ Activist* newsletter. The theme for this edition is “Celebrating Children: Counselors Promoting Advocacy, Social Justice, and Equal Access.” It is a theme that highlights counselor vigilance and commitment to the effective redress of challenges facing children and adolescents. In addition to relevant articles, this edition also includes information that will assist you to plan your conference schedule with social justice and related issues in mind. CSJ’s President, Dr. Eric Green, has devoted his presidency to promoting advocacy and social justice for children. Therefore, the newsletter co-editors find it fitting to offer this theme, particularly as we prepare to attend the annual conference of the American Counseling Association, which will be held in Charlotte, NC. We look forward to seeing you!

Rhonda Bryant and Beth Durodoye

**When Unicorns Roam Free:
Advocating for Children’s Liberty
Eric Green
Judy Ripsch
Cynthia Langtiw**



According to the Child Abuse and Neglect Data System, sixty percent of children in the United States have been neglected, twenty percent have been physically abused, and ten percent have been sexually abused. Save The Children USA found that over fourteen million children world-wide have lost one or both parents due to the HIV virus. In 2002, UNICEF found 22% of children in the United States live in abject poverty. Our current economic conditions have a trickle-down-effect, from parents, and deeply affect the child’s psyche as middle and low-income families continue to cope with deficiencies.

Deeper consideration reveals a profound sense of social inequality and unequal access to programs and institutions such as health care providers, schools, libraries, social service systems, and community based recreational activities. Awareness and knowledge of the social systems that influence children’s social, academic, and cultural wellbeing can encourage a more profound, radical shift in the way counselor’s conceptualize methods to help diverse children in need. Counselors need a culturally and socially-responsive method that transcends the traditional models. Advocacy counseling, which is supported by a social justice framework, is one avenue for counselors to explore in helping eradicate the pain and suffering our children cope with. Advocacy counseling recognizes that traditional counseling models are not entirely effective when assisting a child afflicted by various forms of social injustices. Advocacy counseling involves counselors modeling advocacy behaviors (ethical steps to help others who are marginalized), empowering children to become self-advocates, encouraging children and parents to locate and utilize resources within their community, and helping children and their parents identify and maintain prosocial ac-

behaviors (positive actions that do not infringe upon the rights of others or cause anxiety).

The first building block of empowerment is awareness, which is identifying a cause or oppressed group who has no voice. Choose an issue that is not based solely on political correctness at the time, or one that sounds or looks good to fellow professionals. As advocates, we not only want to help marginalized children, but also join with them in their dynamic struggles towards social equality. Just as in school counseling we meet the children where they are emotionally through empathy, in advocacy counseling we meet children where they are in their sociopolitical struggle by empowering them through understanding oppressive powers and working through systems to make positive change.

Awareness begins with accepting the fundamental goal of advocacy—increasing the client's sense of belongingness. When a counselor becomes aware that often children's feelings of devaluation stem from stigmatization at the hands of the majority culture, the counselor can then begin to take proactive steps to foster children's sense of inclusion. The practical steps counselors can take to advocate for children with a heightened sense of awareness of social inclusion are encouraging children to join support or activity groups with children affected by similar issues, promoting class advocacy through petitioning local school boards and politicians on behalf of client's rights for inclusion, and consulting with organizations and communities, such as mosques, churches, synagogues, neighborhood youth clubs and afterschool programs, that directly affect the client's sense of societal integration and wellbeing.

The second step counselors can make in empowering themselves to become advocates is gaining knowledge. The politically- saturated, radical behavioral shifts advocates make to assist those who are marginalized are rooted in knowledge. Through knowledge, counselors lay the foundation for self-empowerment by helping clients understand their lives through a sociopolitical context.

To acquire knowledge, a counselor may first want to learn everything about the sociopolitical climate of both the school community and the larger community in which the client is functioning. By identifying social barriers in community organizations to vulnerable groups, counselors can strategically develop a plan of action to confront these barriers. Execution of the plan of action to assist the vulnerable population is bolstered by the counselor forming alliances with the gatekeepers in the community. For example, in certain communities, the counselor may find that a family elder or spiritual leader is well respected by a family. With the knowledge of the family, the counselor can consult with the perceived leader in order to more fully understand the family in their context. Knowledge involves cognizance of the cultural factors affecting clients, forging allies within the community, and taking proactive steps to implement sociopolitical change. **(Continued on p. 11)**

Call for Articles:

We need articles for this coming year. Please submit articles related to social justice issues. Below are the due dates for submissions.

August 14

October 14

December 14

February 13

We are now accepting social justice themed articles for this coming year. The *Activist* is a publication dedicated to the CSJ membership. We will publish the deadline dates on the CSJ website so that you can submit your writings in a timely manner. We hope to hear from you soon regarding your thoughts, successes, and challenges. We look forward to hearing from you. If you have any questions or comments, contact either one of us at the email addresses listed below.

Rhonda M. Bryant
rhonda.bryant@asurams.edu

Beth Durodoye
beth.durodoye@utsa.edu

Giving Back to the Children Project at ACA Charlotte

In keeping with the mission of Counselors for Social Justice to “seek equity and an end to oppression and injustice affecting clients, students, counselors, families, communities, schools, workplaces, governments and other social and institutional systems” (Counselors for Social Justice, 2001) and the platform of Eric Green’s presidency, Advocacy for Children, CSJ will present a monetary gift to Pat’s Place, a children’s advocacy organization that works with children who have been sexually abused.

By partnering with private and public agencies in the Charlotte area, Pat’s Place provides community based support for families recovering from sexual abuse. Using a multidisciplinary team of mental health service providers, law enforcement officials and medical professionals, Pat’s Place offers families ways to reduce the trauma of sexual abuse and facilitate healing. Pat’s Place also works with its community partners to raise public awareness about child sexual abuse and to improve the processes that families face when dealing with childhood sexual abuse.

A gift of \$1000 will be given to Pat Place at the Counselors for Social Justice during a session of the CSJ Day of Action. A representative from Pat’s Place will receive the award on Saturday March 21, 2009 during the ACA Session entitled “Advocacy Counseling for Children in Crisis: Perspectives from the Field. The session will be held in the Convention Center, Room 210 AB from 2:00-3:30 p.m. and will be facilitated by Eric Green, Jennifer Baggerly, Vivian McCollum, Barbary Herlihy, and Hugh Crethar.

For more information about the important work that Pat’s Place has undertaken in the Charlotte community, visit their website at <http://www.patsplacecac.org/index.asp>.

Welcome to Pat’s Place

Pat’s Place Child Advocacy Center focuses the resources of public and private agencies in Mecklenburg County, North Carolina to achieve the best comprehensive outcome for sexually abused children.



CSJ Day of Action ACA Charlotte 2009

CSJ is pleased to offer its annual Day of Action that is held at the ACA convention. You will find a list of events below.

ID #	Session Type	Session Title	Primary Presenter Name
128238	90 Minute Program	Advocacy Counseling for Children in Crisis: Perspectives from the Field	Eric Green
128136	60 Minute Program	Advocacy through Assessment: Dating Violence and Self-Injury among Adolescent Females	Danica Hays
128311	60 Minute Program	Fostering Emerging Adulthood in Urban Youth: The Evolution of a Community, University and School Partnership	Rebecca Toporek
128290	30 Minute Project/ Research Poster Session	Promoting Change through Advocacy: Remembering Children who are Adopted or in Foster Care	Amie Kolos
124788	30 Minute Project/ Research Poster Session	No Family Left Behind: Creating Welcoming School Environments for LGBT Parented Families	Helen Kruskamp
129008	30 Minute Project/ Research Poster Session	Social Advocacy Genograms: A Tool for Child and Family Advocacy	Hugh Crethar
128707	30 Minute Project/ Research Poster Session	Children and Trauma: Advocacy for Children after Hurricanes Katrina and Rita	Barbara Hebert

CSJ Announcements and Updates

More Upcoming Events at ACA

Friday, March 20

- ◆ CSJ is co-sponsoring a *Giving Back to the Community* project at ACA with the Association for Multicultural Counseling and Development. The event will take place on Friday March 20th from 9:00-4:00 p.m. in the Hilton, Dunn Room.
- ◆ The CSJ Board and Strategic Planning leadership meeting will meet from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. in the Caldwell room of the Convention Center. The membership is invited to participate in this event.



Saturday, March 21

- ◆ From 8:00 a.m. to 6:15 p.m., CSJ will hold its annual Day of Action. This year the workshops will focus on counselors, children, and advocacy and will be held in the Convention Center Room 210 AB. Please see page 5 of this newsletter for a complete schedule, or page 38 of the ACA Program Guide.
- ◆ The CSJ Membership and Awards meeting will be held from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. in the Sharon room of the Westin. Come participate in building CSJ and the awarding of the Reese House Social Advocate, O'Hana, and Mary Arnold Anti-Oppression awards.



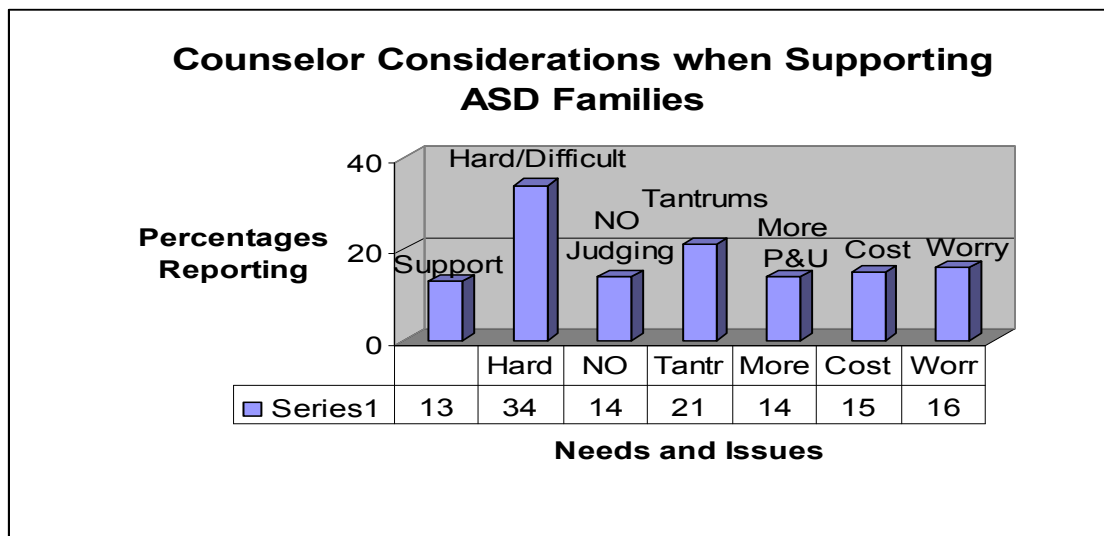
Special thanks to the following CSJ members: Thank you to Dr. Denise Pickering for serving on the CSJ Awards Committee. Your work is appreciated. Also, thank you to Drs. Rebecca Toporek and Tod Sloan for being co-editors of the *Journal of Social Action in Counseling and Psychology*. Their service and diligence have made the journal a success.

Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) refers to several pervasive developmental disabilities: Asperger’s Syndrome, Rett’s Syndrome, Pervasive Developmental Disorder - Not Otherwise Specified, Childhood Disintegrative Disorder, and Autistic Disorder. Individuals with ASD have impairments in communication, social interaction, and behavior. When an individual is diagnosed with ASD, his or her entire family shoulders a heavy financial, emotional, social, and psychological burden. If physical impairments, mental retardation, or other conditions are co-morbid with autism, that burden increases significantly.

Families can feel alone, isolated, and overly taxed as they deal with medical challenges, therapy expenses, and research on the effectiveness of a variety of biomedical, medical, and behavioral treatments. There are many interventions; the well-researched is Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA). Many families combine ABA with other interventions (i.e., Occupational Therapy for Sensory Integration Dysfunction and other problems, Speech Therapy, Dietary Considerations when gastrointestinal problems exist, activities to build Social Skills, and others) to create individualized treatment programs that address a number of skill deficits. Often parents and caregivers find themselves in the unique position of deciding among often competing perspectives (different doctors and therapists) trying to plot the best course of treatment for their loved one. The cost, selection, and implementation of interventions coupled with the child’s physical and medical needs, education, discipline, emotional well-being, spiritual development, and social skill development, are overwhelming.

In an effort to uncover the issues involved, data from parents and caregivers of children with ASD was solicited through an online survey completed during 2008. More than 280 parents and caregivers of children with ASD participated. Parents and caregivers were asked to provide an answer to the following open-ended question: “What do you wish others knew about your life with your child with ASD?” Responses gathered from 191 parents and caregivers from the combined states of Texas, Virginia, Massachusetts, and Connecticut provide clear insight into their needs and issues. I offer these results as you advocate with these families.

Approximately 68% of the parents and caregivers replied. There were many responses, but the most frequently reported comments were their lives are “hard or difficult;” their children’s tantrums are not “bad behavior;” they are fearful about their child’s future, and it causes them to “worry;” the “cost” of interventions is staggering; they wish others would “not judge them;” people need to be more “patient and understanding;” and parents need “more support.” Many parents said their lives are “hard or difficult.” They find themselves looking for ways to help their child with ASD. Many have reported that after diagnosis, they are left to “figure it out for their children.”



With this in mind, counselors can sensitize teachers and other families to the needs of families with autism and provide resources for coping with depression and shock. Further, counselors can help reduce the concerns of families with ASD by developing community based programs and providing services which make the lives of families easier. Providing education leads to understanding tantrums and finding new ways to work through them. For example, by identifying and removing tantrum triggers and providing caregivers’ information and exercises to lessen worry and stress about teaching, raising, and caring for children diagnosed along the Autism spectrum can lead to more support for the families. Counselors who advocate by researching best practices and interventions and receive funding at the state, local, and national level to develop evidence based intervention provide support to families with Autistic Children.

The *Journal of Social Action in Counseling and Psychology* is a jointly sponsored project between Counselors for Social Justice and Psychologists for Social Responsibility. Let your voice be heard by submitting manuscripts to this journal, whose mission is to promote reflection community change and system transformation in which counselors and psychologists play a role. For more information about the submission process to the Journal, visit their website at <http://psysr.org/jsacp/social-action-authors.htm>

CSJ Update on ACA 20/20 Initiative by Rhonda Bryant

The American Counseling Association and the American Association of State Counseling Boards (AASCB) have joined forces to consider and proactively address the needs of the counseling profession over the next two decades. With numerous counseling organizations represented in this planning process, including ACA divisions, regions, and other organizations devoted to counseling including CACREP, Chi Sigma Iota, NBCC, CORE, and CRCC have joined the collaboration, a statement of counseling principles, known as the 20/20 Principles for Unifying and Strengthening the Profession was generated. The task force has worked to generate this document and as of this date, twenty-nine of thirty organizations have endorsed the principles. Dr. Rhonda M. Bryant has been the CSJ liaison during this planning process. The members of the planning team will meet at ACA Charlotte to “operationalize” the principles (Logan, 2008) and Rhonda plans to continue to promote CSJ’s missions and principles at the meeting. Below are the seven guiding unifying principles to strengthen the profession:

Principles

- ◆ Sharing a common professional identity is critical for counselors.
- ◆ Presenting ourselves as a unified profession has multiple benefits.
- ◆ Working together to improve public perception of counseling and to advocate for professional issues will strengthen the profession.
- ◆ Creating a portability system for licensure will benefit counselors and strengthen the counseling profession.
- ◆ Expanding and promoting our research base is essential to the efficacy of professional counselors and to the public perception of the profession.
- ◆ Focusing on students and prospective students is necessary to ensure the ongoing health of the counseling profession.
- ◆ Promoting client welfare and advocating for the populations we serve is a primary focus of the counseling profession.

For more information, please see the message from President Colleen Logan at <http://www.counseling.org/Publications/PresidentsMessage.aspx?AGuid=34a7b178-6c8e-4620-84ab-f0b1f19efa81>

Your Editors



Greetings! My name is *Rhonda M. Bryant* and I am a counselor educator at Albany State University. I have been a counselor since 1987 and hold specializations in school and mental health counseling. My professional interests include supervision in school counseling, understanding and improving the academic experiences of adolescents, and training effective school counselors. My personal interests include reading, spending time with my family, and mentoring college students. I am pleased to work on the *Activist* and to be a member of Counselors for Social Justice.



Hello, Fellow CSJ Members! I am *Beth A. Durodoye* and I am a counselor educator at The University of Texas at San Antonio. My specialization is multicultural counseling with particular interests in intercultural couples, African American families, and race and education. On a personal note, I love to read and I am an avid fan of James Patterson, Walter Mosley, and J. A. Jance. I am excited to be a part of the *Activist* and look forward to continued work with Counselors for Social Justice.

A Note from the Editors: Staying Connected

The CSJ Newsletter is one way for membership to stay abreast of current issues in CSJ and ACA. We are excited to inform you about a new CSJ Facebook website, created by Treasurer Manivong Ratts. To access the Facebook page, you must be a member of Facebook. After logging into Facebook, type Counselors for Social Justice into the search box and request membership by contacting Vong at vong@seattleu.edu to join.



Along these same lines, we would like to welcome our new CSJ webmaster, Mr. Chris Santacroce. Our website has a new look! Take a look at www.counselorsforsocialjustice.com.

Finally, thanks to Edil Torres Rivera, who maintains the CSJ listserv. If you want to subscribe to the listserv, send an email to him at edil001@ufl.edu. The listserv is a great way to learn and to meet fellow *Activists*.



Message from the President-elect

First, I want to thank our current President, Eric Green, for the time and energy he has invested in CSJ this year. His presidential theme, Advocating for Children’s Rights, is an important aspect of social justice and Eric has amplified the responsibilities counselors have to advocate for this vulnerable group .

Second, I have been busy as the Chair of the CSJ Membership Committee, working with the other committee members to increase the membership in our association and encourage the current members to offer suggestions about the future of CSJ. This outreach effort has resulted in excellent recommendations for ways that CSJ can more effectively realize its potential as the driving force that advocates for a broad range of social justice issues in the counseling profession in general and ACA in particular.

Third, we are having a “brainstorming” meeting on Friday March 20th from 7:30 – 9:30 pm during the ACA Conference in Charlotte, North Carolina. This brainstorming meeting will follow the CSJ co-sponsored Giving Back to the Community Project where several members in our organization will provide free professional development services with allies in North Carolina. The purpose of the March 20th “brainstorming” meeting is to [1] report on suggestions that members in our association have made for future actions and [2] begin a process of strategic planning for the next phase of CSJ.

Lastly, I want to encourage any CSJ member, who wants to have their voice heard in the strategic planning process, to contact me directly at Michael.dandrea@gmail.com. I am committed to increasing participatory democracy in CSJ by encouraging all our members to express their views as to how we can work together help our association realize its potential by planning strategies that are consistent with our mission statement and the principles CSJ is committed to addressing. With this in mind, I am including a copy of the CSJ Mission Statement and the principles that we are committed to addressing in our association. In peace and with appreciation for your continuing support of CSJ,

Michael D’Andrea
CSJ President-elect

Counselors for Social Justice is a community of counselors, counselor educators, graduate students, and school and community leaders who seek equity and an end to oppression and injustice affecting clients, students, counselors, families, communities, schools, workplaces, governments, and other social and institutional systems.



CSJ Elected Leadership 2008-2009

President:	Eric Green
President-Elect:	Michael D'Andrea
Past President:	Hugh Crethar
Communication Officer:	Nicole Hill
Treasurer:	Manivong Ratts
ACA Gov. Council Rep.:	Sandy Lopez Baez
Retiree Rep.:	Judy Lewis
Community Rep.:	Rhonda Bryant
Counselor Rep.:	Laurie Vargas

CSJ 2010-2011 Election Results

President-Elect: Judy Daniels
Gov Council Rep: Hugh Crethar
Treasurer: Carlos Hipolito Delgado
Community Rep: Tiffany Gunnells
Counselor Rep: Kim Snow

Congratulations to our newly elected leadership team!



New Chapter Alert

CSJ has a new Counselors for Social Justice chapter in the state of Louisiana! A huge thanks to Dr. Myra Lewis for her service and dedication to CSJ and the fine folks of Louisiana.

Children's Liberty (Cont. from p. 2)

The third and final step in child advocacy counseling is practitioner skill development. Advocacy skills are the specific steps counselors make to institute change from the inside out. Skills and advocacy modeling behaviors place the counselor and/or client at the center of the issue, where self-empowerment can bring about dynamic change. According to the Advocacy Competencies listed on the American Counseling Association's Counselors for Social Justice website (www.counselorsforsocialjustice.org), some specific and practical skills include knowledge and ability to contact media outlets; written and oral communication skills; knowledge of human services agencies and their processes; research skills; ability to examine issues from a multi-systems perspective; and ability to utilize individual, group and organizational change strategies. Counselors must develop an understanding and have an appreciation of children's suffering, which ultimately enables advocacy work to flourish through ethical skills centered on compassion.

The ACA Advocacy Competencies (2006) identify specific and practical advocacy skills that include knowledge and ability to contact media outlets; written and oral communication skills; knowledge of human services agencies and their processes; research skills; ability to examine issues from a multi-systems perspective; and ability to utilize individual, group and organizational change strategies. Counselors must develop an understanding and have an appreciation of children's suffering, which ultimately enables advocacy work to flourish through ethical skills centered on compassion.

There was a time when we thought we were doing our job by talking with students, learning about their issues, teaching problem solving skills, and pointing the child in the "right" directions. Somehow, implicit in our assumptions, was the idea that the child would be able to access the needed resources and that the world would help them on their way. We are wiser now. It is no longer sufficient to merely talk to children. We must also think in terms of helping them find and access the needed resources to implement their newly learned problem skills. As counselors, we are called to advocacy and the children are depending upon us to be compassionate, caring, and active.



With Thanks to Dr. Hugh Crethar

The Activist joins the membership in thanking him for his dedicated service. Below is a list of CSJ accomplishments under Dr. Crethar's leadership from 2007-2008.

CSJ Position Statements

□ Developed a one-year task force that developed five position statements that were independently approved by the CSJ Board. The approved position statements were released as unitary statements, devoid of author "credit," in keeping with the mission of CSJ. The statements were designed to be used as guides for structural and social action by the membership and leadership of CSJ. They are available on the CSJ Web-

site and are entitled as follows:

- o *CSJ Position Statement on Infusion of the Advocacy Competencies into Counseling and Counselor Education Programs*
 - o *CSJ Position Statement on Sexism and Heterosexism*
 - o *CSJ Position Statement on Promoting Human Dignity and Development by Ameliorating Racism*
 - o *CSJ Position Statement on the Academic Achievement Gap and Equity on Educational Services*
 - o *CSJ Position Statement on the Rights of Indigenous Persons Worldwide*
- (Continued on p. 12)**

CSJ 2007-2008 Accomplishments, cont. from p. 11

Collaborative Work

- Developed and carried out first Social Justice Summit at 2007 ACES Conference
- Worked with ACES leadership to institutionalize the Social Justice Summit within ACES structure.
- Worked with ACES leadership to develop the first CES Special Issue on Social Justice
- Implemented process of watching and lobbying ACA Governing Council Members on issues relevant to social justice in coordination with other division leadership.
- Coordinated response to efforts to move “Reparative Therapy” through ACA Governing Council with AGLBTIC leadership.
- Sponsored a presentation of the founding members of the National Institute of Multicultural Competence (NIMC) at the ACA Convention in Hawaii.
- Co-sponsored a “Giving Back” service with NIMC in Hawaii.
- Worked with the Association for Spiritual, Ethical, and Religious Values in Counseling (ASERVIC) to develop the first special issue on social justice and religion, spirituality, philosophy and ethics.
- Worked with ACA on the 20/20 Vision Statement Task Force, through Rhonda Bryant.
- Maintained the successful relationship with Psychologists for Social Responsibility in coordinated efforts on the ongoing growth of the *Journal for Social Action in Counseling and Psychology*.
- Recruited several members of CSJ to work with ACA on selection of programs for the 2008 ACA Convention; Co-sponsored a reception with ACES and ACCA at the ACA Convention.

CSJ Member Services

- Implemented active reaching out to all new, lapsed and renewed members of CSJ with letters specific to their situations.
- Mailed new members redesigned welcome packets.
- Implemented the development of a needs assessment survey for CSJ membership.
- Moved membership numbers around from under 500 members to the mid-500s.
- Reinstated the CSJ Membership and Awards Meeting as a formal, scheduled part of the ACA Convention.

Outreach Activities

- Led petition drive in response to the Bush Administration’s policies regarding the use of mental health professionals in torture.
- Wrote an official response to ACA President Brian Canfield’s public arguments that social justice is not a counseling concern, entitled “Why Social Justice is a Counseling Concern.” This was authored by Hugh C. Crethar and Manivong J. Ratts, as members of the Executive Council of CSJ, and published in the June edition of *Counseling Today*.
- Developed a professional banner for the CSJ Booth at the ACA Convention.
- Collected and posted social-justice-oriented resolutions passed by ACA Governing Council on the CSJ Website in an effort to create greater transparency. (<http://counselorsforsocialjustice.com/resolutions.html>)

CSJ State Association Development

- Worked with leadership within the Texas Counseling Association to develop Texas Counselors for Social Justice, which now boasts over 150 members.

