

Clinical Social Workers Contribute to New *Psychodynamic Diagnostic Manual*

Joel Kanter

The National Membership Committee on Psychoanalysis in Clinical Social Work (NMCOP) is one of the five psychoanalytic organizations collaborating over the past several years to publish the ***Psychodynamic Diagnostic Manual*** (PDM), an alternative approach to the *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual IV* used routinely by clinicians as a guide to assigning diagnoses.

Focusing on personality styles instead of symptoms, this manual offers a new perspective for assessing client functioning. Besides such familiar constructs as Dependent and Narcissistic Personality Disorders, it also includes Self-Defeating and Counter-phobic Personality Disorders. It has an M-Axis for "mental functioning" characteristics, such as a capacity for regulation, attention, and learning, and an S-Axis which addresses symptoms more commonly associated with the DSM-IV.

Local psychoanalyst Stanley Greenspan, MD, chaired the Task Force that developed the PDM. Dr. Greenspan, a professor of psychiatry and pediatrics at the George Washington University Medical School and supervising child psychoanalyst at the Washington Psychoanalytic Institute, is co-author of *The Child with Special Needs* and many other books and articles.

Social worker Barbara Berger was a member of the PDM coordinating committee. Other social workers contributing to the project include Judy Kaplan, Tom Kenemore, Joseph Palumbo, Amy Eldridge and David Phillips.

In addition to NMCOP, the American Psychoanalytic Association, the International Psychoanalytic Association, the Division of Psychoanalysis of the American Psychological Association, and the American Academy of Psychoanalysis and Dynamic Psychiatry participated in producing the PDM.

The official publication date of the PDM is May 2006, but it can be ordered from www.pdm1.org or Amazon.com. (Note: All orders purchased through the Amazon link on our website, www.gwscsw.org, will benefit our Society.)

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The *Psychodynamic Diagnostic Manual* is a diagnostic framework that describes the whole person—both the deeper and surface levels of an individual's personality as well as his/her emotional and social functioning. This framework opens the door to improvements in diagnosis and treatment of mental health

disorders and to a fuller understanding of the functioning of the mind and brain and their development. The goal of the *Psychodynamic Diagnostic Manual* is to complement the efforts of the *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders* and the *International Classification of Disorders*' over the past 30 years in cataloguing symptoms and behaviors.

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