



Education ♦ Advocacy ♦ Community

PO Box 3235, Oakton Virginia 22124 ♦ 202-537-0007 ♦ www.gwscsw.org

August 15, 2008

To: Child and Family Service Agency Social Workers

We in the DC area clinical social work society have been following with concern the plight of CFSA and its employees in the wake of recent tragedies. Our members have been saddened and disappointed to see individual, front-line social workers take the brunt of the blame passed around by those reviewing the incidents and making policy. Many of us do or have worked in public agencies, and know how extraordinarily difficult and emotionally draining this work can be. It sounds like you are all carrying impossibly huge case loads, and we know that while your goal is to do everything possible to help families in need, you may well be frustrated in your efforts to do so. There can be no more important work than yours, though often this work goes unrecognized and unappreciated until a crisis occurs.

The social workers in our association would like to express their admiration of your dedication to children, families and public welfare. Through our advocacy chairperson, Margot Aronson, we have begun to inquire about ways in which we might actively support you and your efforts. Whether through spreading the word about positions available in the agency or through volunteering to work in whatever ways we can directly, we would like to help during this period of need and stress. We are in contact with Councilmember Wells, urging him to press for changes within CFSA which will better support social workers and make directors more accountable.

While we're hopeful that these efforts will have some positive effect, we know that change comes slowly and not without struggle in public agencies. But we would like you to know that there are hundreds of social workers in your community who admire you enormously, are rooting for you, send you their thanks and good wishes, and are available to work on your behalf in whatever ways we can.

Should you wish to let us know how things are going or how we can help, you can do this through Mindy Good, CFSA's Public Information Officer. We will continue to monitor events and to stay in touch through those contacts we have.

Our very best to you all,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Susan W. Post".

Susan W. Post
President