

**THE PSCSW AWARDS FOR CLINICAL EXCELLENCE  
APPLICATION FORM**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Home/Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Title of Paper: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Name of Clinical Practice Professor:  
\_\_\_\_\_

Email of Clinical Practice Professor:  
\_\_\_\_\_

Field Placement:  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Supervisor's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Supervisor's Email: \_\_\_\_\_

I affirm that I am a graduating MSW/MSS Student: \_\_\_\_\_ (initial)

I understand that the award is contingent upon my attendance at the PSCSW Annual Dinner, held on a Friday evening in late fall:

\_\_\_\_\_ (initial)

Religious conflicts which prevent attendance will be honored.

**PSCSW** *Pennsylvania Society  
for Clinical Social  
Work*

**THE PSCSW AWARDS FOR CLINICAL EXCELLENCE**

**The PSCSW Awards for Clinical Excellence were established by the Pennsylvania Society for Clinical Social Work to acknowledge the outstanding clinical work of students.** The Awards are presented annually to students who submit a paper for review by distinguished judges. **The program is open to all graduating Masters of Social Work students in Pennsylvania.** The Awards program is dedicated to four distinguished PSCSW leaders who have provided inspiration for future clinicians: Patricia Burland, Mary Montague, Judith Kasser, and Anna Wiggins. The Awards are given to students who demonstrate in their case study the following abilities:

1. to integrate theories of human behavior, organizational setting, and practice in clinical social work;
2. to explore clients' problems within a bio-psycho-social context and formulate an assessment;
3. to guide practice interventions systematically, based on theoretical understandings that emerge from the assessment;
4. to understand the meaning of the clinical use of the social work relationship including the use of self;
5. to critique one's work and recognize the need for consultation;
6. to use the literature as an appropriate resource;
7. to reflect on the process of treatment throughout all phases of the relationship

Papers will be judged by a panel including professors, supervisors, and experienced clinicians. Winners will be notified by phone and email over the summer.

A first prize award for Clinical Excellence will be awarded in the amount of \$500.00. A second prize award will be awarded in the amount of \$200.00. A third prize will be awarded in the amount of \$100.00. The winners will also receive free membership in PSCSW for a year following graduation.

**All winners will be honored at the PSCSW Annual Dinner**, which occurs in late fall. The dinner will be held in the greater Philadelphia area. The professors and supervisors of the award winners will be invited as guests to the dinner. **Winners must be present to receive their award as the ceremony will celebrate their achievement.**

The awards convey significant recognition upon the recipients within the professional social work community. **PSCSW encourages all students to submit clinical papers for consideration.**

For additional questions please contact Joan Pollak at [Jfpollak@gmail.com](mailto:Jfpollak@gmail.com).

**Pennsylvania Society for Clinical Social Work**  
112 Carol Lane, Richboro, PA 18954  
(215) 942-0775 email: [pscsw@aol.com](mailto:pscsw@aol.com) website: [www.pscsw.org](http://www.pscsw.org)

## **GUIDELINES FOR THE PSCSW AWARDS FOR CLINICAL EXCELLENCE**

(Please title your paper!)

- I. **Introduction to agency**
  - A. Description of the agency and focus of service.
  - B. Community context, socio-economic and socio-cultural description of the population served.
- II. **Case presentation**
  - A. Presenting problem/precipitating event that triggers client's contact with the agency.
  - B. Bio-psycho-social assessment of the client.
    1. Biological: age, sex, physical appearance, physical health, level of intellectual functioning, cognitive deficits. If the client is a child, include developmental history. Other disorders that may have biological effects such as eating disorders and substance abuse.
    2. Psychological: mood/affect, level of psychological functioning, evidence of psychopathology (DSM IV Axis 1 and Axis 2 disorders), family history of mental illness, substance abuse.
    3. Social Functioning: client's familial and social relationships, sexual identity, ethno-cultural identity, economic situation.
  - C. Clinician's initial assessment of client and client's problems. DSM IV **assessment**, including the 5 Axes.
- III. **Review of the literature**
  - A. Carefully documented theories relevant to case study.
  - B. Clinical approaches and techniques utilized by presenter.
  - C. A rationale for treatment approach chosen for this client based on clinician's assessment and the literature review.
- IV. **Process of treatment**
  - A. Treatment goals and expectations of progress (including limitations pertaining to the function of the agency, the treatment time frame, client's motivation, etc.).
  - B. Description of the clinical relationship, including examples of the working alliance from clinical sessions, resistance to the treatment, clinician's use of self, transference and counter-transference.
  - C. Discussion of the initial, middle, and termination phases of treatment including description of intra-psycho, inter-personal growth and changes in client's external circumstances.
- V. **Use of Supervision**
  - A. Description of case presentation, questions, and guidance during the supervision process.
  - B. Discussion of self awareness and self growth within the supervision process.
  - C. Relationship with the supervisor including, if applicable, any challenges within the supervision process and how those were handled or negotiated.
- VI. **Conclusion**
  - A. Evaluation of clinical work. What might you have done differently; what went well, what might your goals/expectations be if you could continue to work with this client?

\*Judges will take into account the written quality of the paper including style, grammar, organization, focus and flow with an emphasis on readability and reader's engagement.

## **PROCEDURE FOR APPLICATION**

Students who are interested in being considered for the **PSCSW Awards for Clinical Excellence** should mail the application form on the back page. To submit an application you must:

1. Complete the application form.
2. Complete a case study paper, 20 pages or less. The paper should preserve the client's anonymity. Candidates may find that papers written for course work, with some revising, will demonstrate the clinical social work skills required for the Award. The outline provided is meant as a guide. Your individual case may preclude certain topics and suggest others that are not included. Please feel free to use it to the extent that you feel it is helpful.
3. Submit one copy of a letter by hardcopy providing written permission from the agency, for use of the case study accompanying the application.
4. You must, if you are submitting your paper by hardcopy, mail **three copies** of the paper and application and **one copy** of agency permission letter to:

**Kathy Beidler, Administrative Assistant  
PSCSW, 112 Carol Lane, Richboro, PA 18954**

5. You must, if you are submitting your paper by email, attach the application form and paper as Word documents, and send to Kathy Beidler at **pscsw@aol.com**.

Put "**PSCSW Paper Competition**" in the subject line. You will get a confirmation email. You **must** send the agency permission letter by mail, postmarked by the deadline. Please keep PSCSW informed of any changes in your phone number or email address.

**The deadline is April 2, 2012**

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