

The experience of delving deeper into the social work profession through National Association of Social Work (NASW): “Milestones in the Development of Social Work and Social Welfare” interactive timeline feature, has giving me the opportunity to learn more about the historical milestones that have paved the way for the social work profession that is evident today. Throughout this interactive activity, I have learned a wealth of information that has helped me to value the social work profession even more, which also encourages me to strive to maintain the values, ethics and mission of social work, which is to; “enhance human well-being and help meet the basic human needs of all people, with particular attention to the needs and empowerment of people who are vulnerable, oppressed, and living in poverty” (NASW). This mission is rooted in the activities, social services and values that unsung creators and pioneers of social work have uphold over the past years.

Throughout this activity, a key theme that was noticeable and stood out to me was; regardless of the evolution and transitions that the social work profession undergoes, the common goal to meet the needs of people and promoting equality and justice was never lost, instead, it became more advance, diverse, inclusive and plausible. From this activity, I learned that people of color help shaped the social work profession. I learned that the NASW has advocated for many social issues that have shaped society today. For example, the NASW advocated for equal rights for African Americans in 1944, they also advocated for women through the formation of the National Committee on Women Issue (NCOWI), and in 2016 they also opposed Trump administration efforts to marginalize any group of people, etc. I was also able to recognize that the NASW also advocate for social workers, which was evident in the NASW Legal Defense Fund (LDF) that supports educational projects to increase social workers’ knowledge about legal issues within the practice, and the NASW Illinois Chapter that worked

hard to get social work hires written into the Chicago Teachers Union labor contract. The NASW also launched a campaign to get more schools to hire more social workers which has been successful and is evident to this date in the education system.

In closing, this activity was very informative and helped me to better understand social welfare, NASW and the social work profession. There were many interesting facts and knowledge that I have taken away from this exercise that I believe have encourage and will impact my journey as a social worker. A key nugget that I have taken away from this exercise is that advocacy takes different forms and is driven by passion and compassion.

**References:**

**News.** NASW, National Association of Social Workers. (n.d.). Retrieved January 22, 2023, from <https://www.socialworkers.org/News/Facts/Interactive-Timeline-of-Social-Work-and-NASW>

**About.** NASW, National Association of Social Workers. (n.d.). Retrieved January 22, 2023, from <https://www.socialworkers.org/About/Ethics/Code-of-Ethics/Code-of-Ethics-English#:~:text=The%20primary%20mission%20of%20the,oppressed%2C%20and%20living%20in%20poverty.>