



CWEP Website

<http://www.sw.uh.edu/communityoutreach/cwep.php>

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Welcome to All CWEP Students!



We would like to extend a very warm welcome to all new and continuing students to a new Fall semester and we wish you all the best in your graduate studies!!



Director's Comments

CWEP's 10th Anniversary

"Congratulations and welcome back to the start of a new year and the **10th anniversary of the CWEP project**. In January, 1999, CWEP started with 5 stipend students and today we are starting the fall with 29 students. There have been many exciting changes over the ten-year period. We have greatly expanded our resource library that is open to all of our CWEP students. The **NewsLine began in 2000** as a means to provide you with some basic information about the program. **The LEO mentorship program was established in 2001**. We have increased our stipends twice in this period in response to increased costs to our students. We have begun new foster/adopt training activities and continuing education for CPS employees in 2007. These activities and many others were the result of input from past CWEP students and DFPS over these last ten years. I hope that the next ten years will see as many and more new changes and additions in the program but it is only possible through all of our efforts. I encourage you during this the tenth anniversary year to start some new activity and make your mark on this program. Provide us with your thoughts and needs and desires in the NewsLine and encourage your fellow students to let us know what they need to help them during their education here and after they return to work. **Thank you for 10 great years and I look forward to 10 more growing years.**"

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CWEP Staff Spotlight

This month we are highlighting

Brunessia
Wilson



1. What is your current position with CWEP? How long have you been working in this position? What prior experiences(s) did you bring with you to this position?

I am the **Student Affairs Coordinator** for the Child Welfare Education Project, and have been in the position for the past two years. I earned my MSSW at the University of Texas at Arlington in 2003. Prior to joining CWEP, I was a **Practitioner Trainer** with Protective Services Training Institute at the University of Houston Graduate College of Social Work and conducted a variety of training for PSTI on topics including risk assessment, child development, family assessment, worker safety, discrimination, parenting drug-affected children, and supervising for retention. I worked in Texas CPS for 11 years, gaining experience in investigations, family-based safety services, conservatorship, and foster and adoption work. I served as a **permanency specialist**, a **permanency planning team convener**, a **case analyst**, and as an **On-the-Job-Training/Hire Ahead supervisor** for Region 9.

2. What has been your experience as a Student Affairs Coordinator with CWEP?

I really enjoy working with the students. My main role is to **advise the students** to make sure they meet all their requirements for the CWEP program. Also, I help them if they have issues involving **balancing their work, personal issues, and with their academics**. I help them make sure they **maneuver through the MSW program** and are successful in the program.

3. What have been the greatest challenges you have faced in your current position?

I have to say that all my challenges have been good challenges, but probably the greatest challenge is finding ways to be more **creative in communicating with students as well as in communicating creatively with DFPS**.

4. What have been the greatest rewards from working in the CWEP family?

Working with **CWEP has been the best job** I have ever had. Everyone here is so nice. The staff is really supportive.

5. How do you balance your work and your personal life?

I am a single mother with two kids, so I have to **be very organized**. I put everything on my calendar. Every day I get up and use my planner – it keeps me organized and helps me get everything done.

6. What advice do you have for our CWEP students?

I would tell the students to **embrace their learning experience here, and take advantage of all the different opportunities**. I would also tell them, *“Don’t forget that I am here and ready to help you.”*



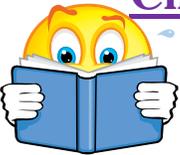
Announcements

CWEP Fall 2009 Student Orientation

In July 28, 2009, CWEP students participated in our **annual CWEP Student Orientation** held at 6300 Chimney Rock, one of the Child Protective Services facilities. The Orientation included welcoming and introductory remarks from **Joe Papick**, the Director of CWEP, **Dr. Monit Cheung**, Principal Investigator, and **Scott Dixon**, CPS Regional Director, Region 6. **Corrine Walijarvi**, CWEP Doctoral Associate, provided information regarding the CWEP NewsLine and the LEO Mentor program. **Ada Cheung**, CWEP Doctoral Associate, provided information on CWEP Evaluation on behalf of **Dr. Patrick Leung**, CWEP Performance Measure Manager. **Ann McFarland**, Director, Office of Community Projects and CWEP Stipend Coordinator, informed the students about the stipend process, and **Brunessia Wilson**, Student Affairs Coordinator, discussed student advising. **Dr. Patricia Taylor** provided an overview of the CWEP curriculum and discussed the opportunities for the SELF course and independent studies such as organizing a conference for foster/adopt parents, training curriculum design, case vignette writing, and other child welfare related subjects. **Kathy Clark**, Field Coordinator, discussed field placement with the students. Students were given the opportunity to ask questions and make comments. The Orientation was a helpful way to introduce students to a new academic year.



New and Revised Child Abuse and Neglect User Manual Series (3rd Edition)



The manual provides a foundation for understanding child maltreatment and explores the responsibilities of child care providers in prevention, identification, investigation, assessment, and treatment.

To know more about *“The Role of Professional Child Care Providers in Preventing and Responding to Child Abuse and Neglect”*, read the manual at www.childwelfare.gov/pubs/usermanuals/childcare

In addition, for more details on *“Protecting Children in Families Affected by Substance Use Disorders”* (The nature of substance use disorders (SUDs), a condition that also is referred to as “substance abuse”), read the manual at www.childwelfare.gov/pubs/usermanuals/substanceuse

The entire *User Manual Series* is available for download from the Child Welfare Information Gateway website at www.childwelfare.gov/pubs/usermanual.cfm

For more information, contact Child Welfare Information Gateway at info@childwelfare.gov or 1.800.394.3366.

Evidence-Based Child & Teen Mental Health

The Ins and Outs of Child Psychopharmacology: Oct. 22, 2009
The 2nd National Institute for Primary Care Providers: Oct. 23, 2009
Arizona State University College of Nursing and Health Innovation
Academy for Continuing Education

For more information and to register online, please click
<http://nursing.asu.edu/ace/courses/ebpctmh/index.htm>



Child Protective Services and the 81st Legislature

- Texas has one of the lowest rates of providing child abuse prevention services.

The 81st Legislature made additional investments in CPS and passed legislation to further reduce the number of children entering the state's care and improve outcomes for those children who do.

Here are some of the highlights of that legislation:

- Legislation to reduce the number of children entering the (CPS) system.
- Legislation to get more children into permanent homes.
- Legislation to improve outcomes for youth aging out of care
- Legislation to improve inter-agency coordination



To learn more about this updated policy, visit Center for Public Policy Priorities website at <http://www.cppp.org/research.php?aid=899>

Coping with Disaster Training for Foster Parents

“Coping with Disaster” for foster parents was pilot tested on Saturday, July 18, 2009 at CPS offices at 2525 Murworth, Houston. **Dr. Trish Taylor**, Curriculum Coordinator at the Child Welfare Education Project conducted the training for foster parents of Child Protective Services, private agencies and kinship care for foster parenting. Overall, evaluations indicated the presentation was well received.



Topics addressed included:

- disaster and what it means to children in care;
- disaster planning for DFPS foster/adoptive & kinship homes; and
- useful resources for coping with disaster for children and families.



A total of 39 people attended!

Life After Loss Facilitator Training

On July 31, 2009, **Venus Tsui and Corrine Waljarvi**, CWEP doctoral associates, participated in a seminar designed to help volunteers facilitate support groups for grieving individuals and families. The seminar, titled “Life After Loss Facilitator Training,” was presented by **Jim Monahan** of **Silverado Hospice**, and hosted by **the American Cancer Society, Asian American Family Services, and Silverado Hospice.**

Venus and Corrine reported that the seminar provided valuable information about support groups for the bereaved, and also addressed some of the cultural considerations that arise when providing services for different ethnic groups.



Client Relationships and Ethical Boundaries for Social Workers in Child Welfare

By Rose M. Handon, BSW, MSA, LSW



This article explores the issue of client relationships and ethical boundaries for those particularly working in child welfare settings. According to Dietz and Thompson (2004), boundary issues involve concerns about *the effects of power differentials between clients and professionals*, and about *boundary violations*. Social workers must be alert to clinical issues of managing dual relationships and management of transference and countertransference and knowledgeable about the NASW *Code of Ethics*. **Earning clients' trust, confidence, and respect** is a major skill that social workers must develop. Furthermore, if social workers fail to identify and/or manage their emotional issues, they may hurt the client while disclosing their own personal experiences.

In addition, the author provides a **warning list and signals that may indicate violations in the worker/client relationship**. Examples include a worker giving the client his/her personal e-mail, cell, home address or phone number, or disclosing his/her MySpace or Facebook account. All in all, be alert and examine behaviors and interactions with clients, to ensure that our client engagement skills are healthy.

Source: *THE NEW SOCIAL WORKER*, Volume 16, No. 1 (Winter 2009). Free to download at http://www.socialworker.com/home/Feature_Articles/Ethics/Client_Relationships_and_Ethical_Boundaries_for_Social_Workers_in_Child_Welfare/



L. E. O. For CWEP Students ONLY! Learning Enhancement Opportunity Corrine Walijarvi, LEO Mentor for CWEP

Your LEO Mentor is here to help you!

When you want to get a third-person perspective about your academic preparation, or when you need someone to go over your presentation outline or paper format, please email or see Corrine Walijarvi, your LEO mentor for CWEP students.

Corrine writes, “**My name is Corrine Walijarvi, and I am a second year student in the Ph.D. program at GCSW.** I received my MSW at GCSW in May 2008, after completing four years in the program as a part-time student. I received my undergraduate degree in economics from Harvard, and worked as a public accountant while earning my M.S. in Accounting degree from New York University. I then earned an MBA from Harvard Graduate School of Business Administration, and pursued a management career while working for General Motors and General Electric. Following a diagnosis of cancer, I retired from the corporate world and devoted myself to raising my children and contributing to a variety of volunteer and charitable activities. I applied to the MSW program at GCSW after I had regained my health and my children had reached an age of relative independence.

I am currently working as a CWEP Doctoral Associate. I am looking forward to the opportunity to help students currently in the CWEP program. I hope I can help you achieve your goals and avoid unnecessary stress!”

Corrine's office hours for CWEP students in Fall 2009 are Mondays from 10:00 to 3:30, and Thursday from 10:00 to 3:30. Feel free to email Corrine any time at cmwalija@mail.uh.edu to ask any questions related to your academic preparation, or to confirm a specific time for meeting with her. She looks forward to meeting with you in **Room 430** and helping in any way that she can.