



University of Houston
 Graduate College of Social Work
 Child Welfare Education Project

CWEP NewsLine



CWEP Website

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

Volume 11 Issue 4

April 2010



Director's Comments

"We are reaching the conclusion of another year of classes, field work, personal achievements, and for some the end of their structured class days. Congratulations to all of our CWEP graduates: Nakeisha Jones, Arnitha Jones, Daisy Delgado, Satmah Davis, Carly McGrew, Cathryn Bushman, Tiffany Castenell, Louela Dandy, Quanastacia McMillan, Bronwyn Ryan, and Sonya Hereford. You have accomplished a lot but your receipt of your MSW degree is only the beginning of life long learning and greater accomplishments as you begin to put into practice the knowledge that you have gained. After my 42 years in the child welfare field, I still find that I am challenged by new problems and still need to find new ways to work with families and children. I also find that I am often reminded of the tremendous strength and ingenuity of the families as they try to solve their problems with help from you the professional and their own extended families. Those of you who are graduating should always remember how important it is to listen to your clients, consult with your peers, and keep on learning. Also, keep in mind the importance of seeking input from others. We will be asking you to provide us with input as we ask you to respond to our annual CWEP survey both as a CWEP student and as a CWEP graduate. Please take the time to respond to our survey as this helps us learn what you need and want and makes us try to come up with new ways to serve each of you. For the CWEP graduates, I hope these last few years have been memorable years and for the CWEP students who will be with us next year, I hope you do everything you can to make your years productive, eventful, and fun. Have a great summer and the CWEP staff will see you continuing students this next academic year." **Joe Papick**

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CWEP Staff Spotlight

This month we are highlighting Diana Sutton, LCSW, Child Safety Specialist

1. What was your experience when you were attending the Graduate College of Social Work?

It was a great experience. Everyone affiliated with the GCSW was very supportive, and it was clear that everyone wanted me to succeed. I enjoyed to whole learning experience. The professors were very knowledgeable. .

2. What are some of the ways in which you have been involved with CWEP over the years?

I was on a committee to help assess the CWEP program with Dr. Leung and Dr. Cheung until I retired from CPS. After I was rehired at CPS, I was asked to be part of the curriculum committee. My first meeting with them is at the end of April. In addition, every so often I have been asked to present a topic to a graduate class.

3. Please describe your current position and some of the challenges you find in your work.

I am a Child Safety Specialist for CPS. I read certain high risk cases and either sign off for closure of the cases, or I ask that steps be taken prior to closure so that it is clear that children are safe. I also decide which staff should work with specific cases, and I train staff in risk assessment when asked.

4. What do you feel are some of the most important rewards in your work?

The most important reward is keeping children safe. In addition, making a positive difference in families' lives is very rewarding. Often CPS caseworkers and supervisors advocate for our clients in the community. I have been a mentor in a structured program within CPS, and it is very rewarding to be able to share information with protégées.

5. What advice do you have for CWEP students?

My advice is to hang in there and keep your goal in mind. Be happy when classes are fun and when they aren't as much fun, spend some time challenging yourself to learn new things anyhow. Everyone wants you to succeed, but you have to want to earn your degree a lot in order to balance home, work, and school. It isn't easy, but the reward is your MSW.



Announcements

New Report Highlights the Impact of Immigration Enforcement on the Child Welfare System

The following information was provided by First Focus, a children's advocacy organization. The report was developed by **First Focus** in partnership with the **Migration and Child Welfare National Network**. The report is the first of a new paper series entitled, **Caught Between Systems: The Intersection of Immigration and Child Welfare Policies**. Additional information is available on the First Focus website, www.firstfocus.net

WASHINGTON – A new report released today examines the impact immigration enforcement has on the thousands of children of undocumented immigrants, 73% of whom are U.S. citizens. This includes risks to child safety and well-being, such as the needless separation of children from parents. The report also highlights the growing challenges for state child welfare agencies that encounter separated children.

The report, entitled [*The Impact of Immigration Enforcement on Child Welfare*](#), reveals that the over 5 million children in the United States with at least one undocumented parent are at risk of unnecessarily entering the child welfare system when a parent is detained or deported. When a child enters the child welfare system, immigrant parents face huge obstacles in reuniting with the child. For example, if a parent is detained or deported, they cannot take part in child welfare proceedings like family court or case plan requirements, which creates the risk of permanent, unnecessary separation of the child from their parents.

The report reinforces the need for Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) to consider the well-being of children and families not only in work-site raids, as outlined in previous policy, but in *all* ICE enforcement activities. It recommends that authorities allow children to remain with their families and avoid placement in the child welfare system whenever possible. Furthermore, authorities should ensure that separated children in the system receive appropriate care, while detained parents are afforded the right to due process.

April is Child Abuse Prevention Month

Learn how you can support families and prevent child abuse during the month of April and throughout the year. Visit the 2010 National Child Abuse Prevention Month website for resources and strategies on engaging communities and supporting families. The site features:

(1) Strengthening Families and Communities: 2010 Resource Guide, a guide to help service providers strengthen families by promoting key protective factors that prevent abuse.

(2) An activities calendar using the Five Protective Factors. The calendar provides child welfare professionals with activities they can do with families throughout the month to help support children and families.

(3) A video explaining how Child Welfare Information Gateway helps connect professional with information and resources on preventing child abuse and neglect.

In addition, *Child Maltreatment 2008*, an annual report from the Children's Bureau is now available. The report presents national and State statistics on child abuse and neglect. The statistics are derived from data collected by child protective services (CPS) agencies through the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System.

This year's report shows the lowest child victimization rate in five years and a decrease in the number of children who suffered maltreatment for the second year in a row—772,000 in 2008, which is down from 794,000 in 2007. "Although we are encouraged by the decrease in child maltreatment, we know that the full impact of the recent economic situation is not reflected in these statistics," said Carmen R. Nazario, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services assistant secretary for children and families. "We will continue to strengthen prevention strategies that target critical resources for families and communities at risk."

www.childwelfare.gov/preventing/preventionmonth

Check Out Courses for Fall 2010

Fall 2010 Electives:

Child Abuse and Neglect – Taught by Brunessia Wilson

SELF (Self-Examination of Life Foundations) – Taught by Dr. Trish Taylor

Crisis Intervention – Taught by Sandra Lopez

Drugs in Society -- Internet Course Taught by Dr. Susan Robbins

School Social Work/Bullying – Co-taught by Dr. Sheara Williams and Jan Leger

Clinical Practice with Latinos – Taught by Dr. Luis Torres

Group Therapy – Taught by Travis Courville

Also, please check class schedules for course updates at

<http://www.sw.uh.edu/courseschedule/courseschedule.php>

Check Out Information on the CWEP WEBSITE!

Go to:

http://www.sw.uh.edu/communityoutreach/cwep_students.php

Check out scholarship opportunities for CWEP students!

Access the APA Citation Format, 6th Edition – Prepared by Dr. Cheung – A very useful format summary for all your class papers!

**HAPPY GRADUATION TO ALL OUR
NEW MSW GRADUATES!**