

According to the U.S. Department of Labor Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), social work is one of the fastest growing careers in the United States. The profession is expected to grow by 25% between 2010 and 2020. More than 650,000 people currently hold social work degrees.

New Beginnings

Dr. Nancy Chavkin

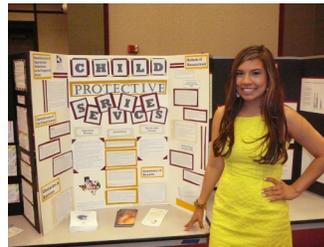
A Message from the Director



This fall begins the 21st year of the Title IV-E grant. And with a new academic year commencing, the Center has a new group of students coming into the Title IV-E program. The Center would like to welcome Gabriela Cortez (BSW) from Region 7 (Austin), Antonia Rayos (MSW) from Region 9 (Midland), and Sam Thomas (MSW) from Region 8 (San Antonio).

The Center would also like to congratulate the spring graduates who include Lauren Sanchez (MSW) from Region 7, Michele Lederman (BSW) and Rachel Lipsey (MSW) from Region 8.

Additionally, the Center would like to congratulate the summer graduates, Beatriz Salazar (BSW) and Susana Mijares (BSW), both from Region 7. Best wishes to our graduates!



Lauren Sanchez, MSW Graduate, at the Social Work Research Forum



Beatriz Salazar (left) and Susana Mijares (right) at Title IV-E Student Appreciation Luncheon

2014 National Title IV-E Roundtable

The Title IV-E National Roundtable took place this past May in Galveston. DFPS administrators and University partners attended. This was the fourth roundtable with a national focus and was sponsored by the University of Houston-Downtown's Center for Public Service and Family Strengths and the University of Houston's Graduate College of Social Work.

The theme of the event was "Dialogue among Title IV-E Programs: A National Collaboration and Consultation". Keynote speakers included Bob Sanborn, CEO of Children at Risk; Ken Nakamura, Title IV-E Project Coordinator at San Diego State University; and Alvin Sallee, former Director of University of Houston Downtown's Center on Family Strengths.

Curriculum and Field, Evaluation and Partner-Administration focus groups met during the roundtable. Focus group notes and videos of the keynote speakers can be found at the [Title IV-E National Roundtable website](#).

Data Brief: Recent Demographic Trends in Foster Care

The Administration on Children, Youth and Families has released a data brief using data from the Adoption Foster Care Analysis Reporting System. The brief summarizes changes happening within the national foster care system from 2002-2012. While the foster care population has experienced a reduction in size in the decade period, there has also been a shift in its ethnic composition. The number of children in foster care has declined almost a quarter from 2002 to 2012. The most substantial reduction has happened within the African American population, declining by 47.1 percent between 2002 and 2012. While this is

good news, rates for African American children remain at twice the national average.

Although the number of Hispanics has grown in the general population, numbers have decreased within the foster care population. Numbers declined among all major non-Hispanic race groups, while those who identified themselves with two or more races experienced growth over the period of a decade.

In 2002, African American and Native American children had the highest rates of representation in the foster care system. As of 2009, Native American chil-

dren have had the highest rates.

On a state level, ten states accounted for over 90% of the total decline during the decade, with Texas showing a relatively large increase in foster care numbers.

Average length of stay in foster care also declined from 31.3 months to 22.4 months, and this decline was seen within all race/ethnic groups.

One of the more interesting findings was that half of the reduction in national foster care population had taken place in just ten counties. [Click here for the brief.](#)

Events of Interest

The 38th Annual NASW/ Texas State Conference takes place in our own backyard! The conference will be held October 18-20, 2014 at Embassy Suites in San Marcos. Online registration is available through October 3rd. The conference theme is *All People Matter* and you can earn up to 19 CEUs. [Click for conference information.](#)

The 14th Annual Partners in Prevention Conference will be held October 28-30, 2014 in Round Rock. It is a multi-day training for professionals and service providers that covers such topics as child abuse prevention, juvenile delinquency prevention, mental health promotion and family violence awareness. [Click here for conference information.](#)

The National Association for Social Workers, Texas Chapter, works to provide continuing education opportunities. Opportunities include review course for licensure exams, and updates on Texas laws affecting social workers. They also offer continuing education opportunities online. [Click here to check out all the CE opportunities.](#)

Video series: A Framework to Effective Practice in Child Welfare

The Children's Bureau recently released a five-part video series titled *A Framework to Design, Test, Spread and Sustain Effective Practice in Child Welfare*. The videos are a continuation of the child welfare evaluation summit series. In the first video, an agency administrator and evaluator discuss why building evidence-based practice in child welfare can be difficult, while introducing a frame-

work developed by child welfare experts. The second video addresses identifying the target population and exploring possible solutions. Video three discusses how agencies can complete key steps when designing a new intervention and determine whether those interventions result in positive outcomes for the target population. The fourth video describes the next phases of the framework and how the

phases of "replicate and adapt" and "apply and improve" can be applied. In the final video, the five phases of the framework are illustrated through a single case example. Each video explores an evaluation related topic and proposes solutions to evaluation problems. All five videos can found on the [Children's Bureau website.](#)



The Center for Children and Families is located at Swinney House on the Texas State University campus.

National Adoption Day 2014

National Adoption Day is a collective effort to raise awareness of the more than 100,000 children and youth in foster care who are awaiting permanent homes. National Adoption Day has helped, in total, nearly 50,000 children find permanent families. National Adoption Day is held annually every Saturday before Thanksgiving and will take place November 22nd. Last year, approximately 4,500

children were adopted into their forever families on National Adoption Day alone.

Goals of the effort include finalizing adoptions throughout the country, raising awareness of children awaiting forever families, encouraging others to adopt children from foster care and building collaborations with adoption agencies, policy makers and advocacy agencies. This

year marks the 15th year of the initiative and approximately 400 cities across the country participate. To learn more about some of the families who have adopted through National Adoption Day or ideas for organizing your own event, visit: [http://](http://www.nationaladoptionday.org/about)

www.nationaladoptionday.org/about.



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Child Maltreatment & Domestic Violence

The most recent issue of Children's Bureau Express highlights the co-occurrence of domestic violence and child maltreatment. Children faced with domestic violence in the home have higher occurrences of negative developmental and psychological problems. The issue features the Chadwick Trauma-Informed Systems Project which helps

establish public child welfare agencies as trauma-informed agencies via toolkits. The toolkit is specifically targeted towards professionals who work with children who have been exposed to domestic violence and help them become more aware of trauma. Other topics featured in the issue include information on child welfare case outcomes

affected by domestic violence and prevention of domestic violence among immigrant and refugee families. It also includes a series of factsheets aimed at helping parents to better understand how their child may be affected by domestic violence and how they can help them heal. [Click here for the Children's Bureau Express issue.](#)

Rural Child Welfare

Child Welfare Information Gateway provides resources for those who work in rural areas or with rural populations. While the majority of child welfare research focuses on more urban populations, it is important to note that there are differences in the populations. Child welfare providers may need to adapt their practice to the needs of rural populations and consider that less related resources may be available. Articles availa-

ble through Child Welfare Information Gateway include issues faced by rural populations, access to services, cultural competency and ethical issues. Other resources include an issue brief on rural child welfare practice and a literature review addressing the recruitment and retention of child welfare social workers in rural communities. All resources can be found at [Child Welfare Information Gateway.](#)