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Title IV-Enews

A Newsletter from the Center for Children and Families

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All People Matter

Dr. Nancy Chavkin
A Message from the Director

March is Social Work month and the National Association of Social Workers has announced the month's theme as "All People Matter". This year's theme was selected to raise awareness about the profession's 116 year history of improving social conditions and quality of life for many people.

The overall goal of Social Work month is to raise awareness of social work values and the importance of these values on improving family relationships, creating social support systems and building strong communities.

Although it is agreeable that all people matter, one thing to be mindful of in the work of child welfare is biases and/or stereotypes. Everyone has them and they can hamper casework if there is a lack of awareness. They may be biases about certain family systems, or expectations about situations children inadvertently find themselves in. At times, we may not be aware of them but they can effect work outcomes and clients.

One of the first steps is to become aware of biases, prejudices and develop a self awareness. Another important step is developing a compe-

tency toward diversity and then manifesting that in ways clients are served. This means leaving the safety of pre-conceived notions or stereotypes in order to better serve clients and families.

In the everyday practice of working with clients, you can demonstrate the professional values that social work upholds and communicate that all people matter.

The American social work profession was established in the late 19th century to ensure that immigrants and other vulnerable people gained tools and skills to escape economic and social poverty.

Obstacles of Youth Permanence

This month, the Children's Bureau Express is highlighting the importance of permanence for youth in foster care. Of the 400,000 children in foster care nation wide, one-third are between the ages of 12 and 17. The Children's Bureau has provided resources that focus on achieving permanency for youth that include reunification, kinship foster care, and transition planning for youth.

Reunification with family is the first goal. In 2012, 51% of children were reunited with primary caregivers. An issue brief is provided that discusses challenges of reunification and types of services needed.

Kinship care is another option that provides youth more stability. Information in the provided article includes the lack of support kinship caregivers receive, policy that is providing more support and other services.

Another factor that affects youth is transition planning for those leaving foster care. A report chronicles the deficiencies in transition processes, access to health care and adult connections. Policy recommendations include increasing caregiver involvement in transition plans, and improving efforts to connect youth to resources. All of these resources and more can be found at the Children's Bureau Express.

Starting Out and Finishing Up

With a new spring semester commencing, we have a new group of Title IV-E students. The Center would like to welcome Shawna Cuevas (MSW), Janisa Hodges (MSW), Constance Lenderman (BSW) and Lauren Sanchez (MSW) all from Texas State University. Shawna, Janisa and Constance are all with Region 7 (Austin) and Lauren is with Region 8 (San Antonio). The Center extends a warm welcome to them.

From left to right: Shawna Cuevas and Janisa Hodges at MSW orientation

The Center would also like to congratulate Tamara Broyles for graduating in December from the Title IV-E program. Tamara is a MSW graduate and is from Region 8. Tamara will continue to make a difference in her position with DFPS

DFPS Caseworker & Foster Parent Trainings

Save the dates! Make sure to mark your calendars for the upcoming training workshops on trauma and diversity for DFPS caseworkers and foster parents. All workshops will be led by Dr. Angela Ausbrooks, LMSW, from the School of Social Work at Texas State University.

Dates and Locations:
Victoria, April 5, Trauma Workshop (10:00am-1:00pm) Parkway Church, 4802 N John Stockbauer

San Antonio, April 26, Trauma Workshop (9:00am-12:15pm) AND Diversity Workshop (2:00pm-5:00pm) 3635 SE Military Dr.

New Braunfels, May 3, Diversity Workshop (9:00am-12:00pm) Location TBD

To register for the workshops or if you have questions, send an email to Trainings4E@txstate.edu. Attendees earn 3.0 CEU credits.

Upcoming Conferences

Title IV-E National Roundtable will be held May 21-23, 2014 in Galveston. Early bird registration is until May 10th at the price of $275.00. Topics range from models for student preparation in child welfare practice, childhood poverty, collaboration among Title IV-E programs and self care for professionals. More information can be found at: http://www.uhd.edu/academic/colleges/publicservice/cpsfs/title-ive-2014.html

The 5th Annual Education Reach for Texans Convening will happen May 30th, 2014 in Austin. The convening is a one day event for professionals from universities and foster care advocates. Topics focus on the postsecondary education journey that foster care youth face. CEUs and contact hour certificates are available. More information can be found at: http://www.educationreachfortexans.org/convening.html

The 38th Annual NASW/ Texas Conference is taking place in San Marcos October 18-20, 2014 with the theme, *All People Matter*. Registration is scheduled to open July 1. More forthcoming information can be found at the NASW Texas Facebook page and at the NASW Texas website.

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

Foster Care Outcomes 2012

Child Welfare Information Gateway has released new statistics for the state of foster care in 2012. In 2012 approximately 255,000 children entered the foster care system bringing that year's total to approximately 400,000 children in foster care. Of these children , 47% lived in non-relative foster homes, and 27% lived in homes with relatives. Their case plans almost always have the goal of finding permanent homes with caring parents: 53% planned to be reunited with biological parent(s); 24% planned to be adopted by non-biological parents; 5% planned to be in long term foster care; 5% planned to be emancipated; 5% had no case plan; 4% had a goal of guardianship; and 3% planned to live with other relatives. 2012 also experienced an increase in the number of children actually reunited with biological parents and primary caretakers, and 46% of these children were in foster care for less than a year. Of the 240,000 children who exited foster care in 2012, 51% were reunited with biological parent(s) or primary caretakers; 21% were adopted; 10% were emancipated; and 7% went to live with a guardian. Read the full report here: https://www.childwelfare.gov/pubs/factsheets/foster.cfm

Child Maltreatment 2012

The *Child Maltreatment 2012* report summarizes child abuse statistics that have been submitted by states during 2012.
The report provides information on how the data is used and collected, where the data is available, who reported the maltreatment and much more. The report was designed to provide state-level data from the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System. According to the report, the number of children suffering abuse, neglect and maltreatment has dropped nationwide for the sixth year in a row. The report can be found at: http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/resource/child-maltreatment-2012

National Child Abuse Prevention Month

April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month and this year's theme is *Making Meaningful Connections.*
Childwelfare.gov has provided numerous tips sheets in English and Spanish that can be given to parents and caregivers. In addition to tip sheets, they have also provided the *2014 Resource Guide: Making Meaningful Connections*, as well as widgets that can be uploaded to websites to help promote the initiative.
More proactive and tangible ideas include activity calendars for prevention programs, parents and community partners, sharing prevention videos from child abuse prevention partners and an online media toolkit that provides strategies on how to raise awareness about events and reach potential supporters.

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