

Graduate Goodbyes and Gearing Up

This August, the Title IV-E program had fifteen summer graduates; one of the largest classes of graduates in a semester. The BSW graduates include Holly Jones, Bonnie Rushing and Rebecca Pace, all from Texas State University.

The MSW employee graduates (some pictured below) include Jason Robbins, Teresa Greenburg, Christin Ivey, Lurene Tapia, Shannon Brooks, Nicole Curel, Kristina Garcia, Montreece Green, Lisa Lopez, Felicia Penn, Ana Perez-Ingram, and Tracey Ramirez., all from Texas State University. Congratulations and good luck to all graduates in future endeavors!

Joining the Title IV-E program this fall as BSW stipend students are Samkutty Thomas from Texas State University and Anchorah Cameron from Our Lady of the Lake University. We wish both a warm welcome!



When the lives and the rights of children are at stake, there must be no silent witnesses.
- Carol Bellamy

Good Things Happening Here

Dr. Nancy Chavkin

A Message from the Director



The Center for Children and Families (CCF) is entering year 19 of its Title IV-E work

this fall. This grant has helped many students pursue their BSW and MSW degrees in order to bring a special expertise needed to work in child welfare and DFPS.

Within the last five years of graduates, 82% are still working at DFPS, and within the last ten years, 64% of graduates are still employed at DFPS. This speaks volumes of the program and our graduates!

As of 2011, Roundtable has a national focus; building upon the 14 year history of sponsorship by CCF. The national Roundtable, sponsored by the Center for Family Strengths at University of Houston, enables professionals from Title IV-E programs across the country to come together to learn from each other and exchange ideas.

Good things going forward!

Realistic Job Previews: Working in Child Welfare

The *Child Welfare Information Gateway* features links for [Realistic Job Preview](#) (RJP) videos. RJP videos are designed to accurately portray the realities of working in child welfare to potential job applicants. The videos were created to present a balanced view of the rewards and challenges of working in child welfare and communicate the requirements needed for doing so.

Some states and counties develop their own videos to distinguish their area’s child welfare agency, client populations, job openings and geographic service areas.

RJP videos can be used at specific points in the hiring process including prior to applying for a position, during the interview/ screening process or as a teaching tool for students in social work or child wel-

fare. Videos are even categorized for use as “pre-application”, “during the screening process” and “for training”.



Ethics and Trauma Trainings

Mark your calendars for the following upcoming training workshops on ethics and trauma for DFPS/Title IV-E foster care and adoption caseworkers.

The ethics workshops will be led by Dr. Dorinda Noble, the Director of the School of Social Work at Texas State, and Andrew Marks, LCSW, the BSW coordinator at Texas State.

Dates and locations include:

- Oct. 19, Austin, 9:00-12:15
- Jan. 31, San Antonio, 1:30-4:45
- Feb. 1, San Antonio, 9:00-12:15
- Feb. 8, Belton, 9:00-12:15

Dr. Angela Ausbrooks, LMSW, is an associate professor at Texas State. She will be facilitating trauma workshops for DFPS/Title IV-E foster care and adoption caseworkers.

This workshop will be held:

- Oct. 26, Belton, 9:00am-12:15pm
- Feb. 22, Austin, 9:00am-12:15pm

To register or for questions, email: Trainings4e@txstate.edu. Attendees earn 3 C.E.U. credits.

The Help and Hope Campaign

Help and Hope is far more than one of the biggest child abuse and prevention campaigns in Texas, it is a statewide campaign by DFPS that is purposefully designed to target the sources of child abuse; the parents. Thousands of children have been removed from hostile and abusive homes in the last year alone. Hearing the staggering statistics

that surround child abuse have fueled the hearts of people determined to stop child abuse. Help and Hope’s goal is to not only help correct the problem of abuse after it has occurred, but to stop it before it starts. Funded by a federal grant of about \$2.5 million, the valuable lives of children are changed by educating parents about what abuse looks like. Help and Hope makes resources

available in order to allow parents to evaluate their own behavior and offer help to those in need. Working alongside this program, the public is encouraged to get involved in an issue that truly affects everyone. The campaign hosts community events, encourages corporate involvement and much more. More information on the campaign, community events and resources is available at: www.HelpandHope.org.



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

National Adoption Day

The Dave Thomas Foundation is sponsoring [National Adoption Day](#), taking place November 17th, 2012. It is a collective national effort to raise awareness of the more than 100,000 children in foster care awaiting adoption into forever families. In the past, this one-day event has produced adoption placements for many children

by working with policymakers, practitioners and advocates to finalize adoptions and celebrate adoptive families. Because of National Adoption Day, a total of 40,000 children have transitioned from foster care to forever, loving families. This year, the National Adoption Day coalition expects 4,500

children to be adopted on this day alone.

Ideas for local events for this day include a day of finalizing adoptions in family court, a press conference for local media or an adoption fair.



IV-E Faculty & Staff

CCF Director

Dr. Nancy Chavkin
nancychavkin@txstate.edu

Rhonda Smith

rs32@txstate.edu

Martha Wildberger

mw38@txstate.edu

Michele Bauman

michele.bauman@txstate.edu

Abbi Mott

abbi@txstate.edu

CCF Web

www.ccf.txstate.edu

General Contact:

Center for Children and Families
Texas State University—San Marcos
508 North Street
San Marcos, TX 78666
(512) 245-6600
ccf@txstate.edu

TEXAS STATE
CENTER FOR CHILDREN
AND FAMILIES

Kinship Care Resources

One of the important things to consider when a child is removed from an unsafe home situation, is how the child will be impacted by being placed in a completely new environment. New surroundings, new family, and forced adjustment is always challenging. Kinship care refers to a child being cared for by a relative, or a close family friend and this alternative is preferred if family preservation is possible. If children are able to stay with peo-

ple they know, the readjustment process becomes that much easier. The process of kinship care can be formal or informal but either way the supportiveness and stability of the home is assessed to ensure it is the best environment for the child. [Child Welfare Information Gateway](#) features resources on locating and supporting kinship care, benefits of kinship care, maintaining permanency and additional resources for managers of kinship care programs.

Dates of Interest

The National Association of Social Workers Texas chapter is offering the [LMSW, LMSW-AP, LCSW review course](#). It is being held December 6th and 7th, 2012 in Austin and lead by Dr. Cynthia Franklin from the School of Social Work at UT Austin. The course will provide a comprehensive review of the areas included in the Association

of Social Work Boards exam. The course is approved for 12 hours of continuing education, including one hour of ethics.



The [CSWE Annual Conference](#) is taking place November 9-12, 2012 in Washington DC. The conference

theme this year is *Social Work: A Capital Venture* and aims to create a greater understanding among constituents on the value of social work in addressing social concerns. The conference will offer 40 tracks of programming.

