

# The Center for Children and Families

## Quarterly Stipend Newsletter

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### *Welcome!*

We have a new title IV-E stipend student in Region 8. Her name is Jennifer Alba- Dausin.

We also have a new Title IV-E grant specialist for Region 7. Her name is Martha Wildberger. She will be officially joining our team on May 7. We'll have her contact information available for the next newsletter.

### *IV-E Graduates – Congratulations!*

Congratulations to our spring graduates---Shannon Garcia, Tanya Rollins, Jo Anna Wold, and Jennifer Alba-Dausin. We are very proud of you and know that you will continue to do many good things for the children and families of Texas. Thank you for your hard work earning your degree and for your commitment to the profession.

### *National News*

#### **STUDY SHOWS REDUCED ADOPTION DISRUPTION POST-ASFA.**

A recent study found that the risk of disruption of adoptions from foster care lessened after passage of the Adoption and Safe Families Act (ASFA) in 1997. There had been some concern among child welfare professionals that ASFA's required timeframe for termination of parental rights would cause some hasty placements of children that might lead to increased adoption disruptions. This study of almost 16,000 children in the Illinois child welfare system during the 3 years before and the 3 years after the passage of ASFA showed these concerns to be unfounded. In fact, the risk of disruption was 11 percent less for placements occurring after 1997. Researchers also examined risk and protective factors for adoption disruption. Among the factors associated with higher risk of adoption disruption were:

- Older age of the child
- Placement of two or three siblings together (but not four or more)
- African-American race of the child
- Physical, behavioral, or emotional disability of the child
- Placement with a non relative compared to kinship placement

The study's authors discuss the implications of these findings for post adoption services policy and practice. "Where Are We Now?: A Post-ASFA Examination of Adoption Disruption" was written by Susan Livingston Smith, Jeanne A. Howard, Phillip C. Garnier, and Scott D. Ryan and published in *Adoption Quarterly*, Vol. 9(4). Information on obtaining a copy of the article can be found online.

### Quotation

*How far you go in life depends on your being tender with the young, compassionate with the aged, sympathetic with the striving and tolerant of the weak and strong. Because someday in life you will have been all of these.*

*--George Washington Carver*

## National Child Abuse Prevention Month, 2007

All Americans share a responsibility to protect our Nation's children. During National Child Abuse Prevention Month, we renew our commitment to prevent child abuse and neglect and to work to enable our children to realize their full potential.

As we observe National Child Abuse Prevention Month, we underscore our commitment to building an America where all children can thrive, develop character, and learn to be responsible citizens in an environment of security and love. By honoring our obligation to support and protect our young people, all Americans have an opportunity to make a positive difference in the life of a child and build a brighter future for our country. For more information about how each of us can help stop child abuse, please visit [www.childwelfare.gov](http://www.childwelfare.gov)

### Dates to Remember

April 16-17	Ethics Training
April 30	Classes End
May 31-June 1	Roundtable



NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE W. BUSH, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim April 2007 as National Child Abuse Prevention Month. I encourage all citizens to help protect our children and work to create strong, healthy communities.

### *Save the upcoming events date for these!*

Planning is in progress for the 11<sup>th</sup> annual Roundtable on May 31- June 1, 2007 at the T bar M Ranch in New Braunfels! Go to [www.ccf.txstate.edu/](http://www.ccf.txstate.edu/) for registration information or contact Elena Gibson at (512) 245-6727.

Ethics Training will be presented by Dorinda Noble and Texas State faculty in San Antonio on April 16, 17. For more information contact Elena Gibson.

Behavior Management and Infant Brain Development Trainings are scheduled for Belton on April 28. We are also exploring the possibility of trainings in New Braunfels for May 5. For more information contact Elena Gibson.

## Resources

### RURAL ASSISTANCE MONITOR, WINTER 2007 ISSUE

RAC Online, an e-newsletter focusing on social, economic, and health issues from the perspective of rural needs, policies, and services can be found at <http://www.raconline.org/newsletter/web/winter07.html>.

### PUTTING DATA TO WORK TO IMPROVE CHILD WELL BEING – A REPORT

<http://www.casey.org/Resources/Projects/DataRoundtable/>

Last October, the National Governors Association and Casey Family Programs convened 90 public child welfare administrators, experts, analysts, and researchers. During a two-day meeting, participants discussed ways to help state and county agencies use their large volumes of mandatory data to produce better outcomes for children and families. Read the strategies they developed in the Post-convening report. *(From Casey Announcements, March, 2007)*

### NIDA: FIRST CONSUMER PUBLICATION TO EXPLAIN THE SCIENCE OF ADDICTION

<http://www.drugabuse.gov/scienceofaddiction/> In February, NIDA unveiled "Drugs, Brains, and Behavior: The Science of Addiction," a 30-page full-color booklet that explains in layman's terms how science has revolutionized the understanding of drug addiction as a brain disease that affects behavior. NIDA hopes this new publication will help reduce stigma against addictive disorders.