

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.

Celebrating Accomplishments

Dr. Nancy Chavkin

A Message from the Director



Thank you to all of our Title IV-E partners---students, faculty, supervisors, co-workers, agency administrators. Since this year marks three program anniversaries for Texas State, and 22 years for the Title IV-E partnership, we would like to celebrate the accomplishments of our alumni. We want to start a new tradition of focusing on the accomplishments of our alumni in our newsletters. In this issue,

we spotlight five alumni. Please let us know if you would like to share your story and a photo.

Contact us at ccf@txstate.edu and tell us about your current position, past positions, and the benefits you received from the Title IV-E program.

Once again, thank you for all of your work with Texas's most vulnerable children and families!



Title IV-E Welcome

The Center would like to welcome the new MSW cohort for the Summer 2015 Semester: Karina Rivera and Diane DeLeon from Region 8 in San Antonio. We would also like to welcome the new Spring 2016 MSW cohort: Gabriela Luna from Region 9 (Midland), Staci Shockley from Region 7 (San Marcos), and Stephen Cole from Region 7 (Lockhart). The Center extends a warm welcome to the new students.



Staci Shockley (Left) and Gabriela Luna (Right)



Karina Rivera (Left), Dr. Nancy Chavkin (Middle), and Diane DeLeon (Right).



Spotlight on Alumni



Chris Johnson

2003 Graduate

Current Position: Director Child Welfare Education Collaboration UT Austin

Past Positions: CPS Supervisor, CPS Statewide Intake Supervisor, Program Specialist for Sub-care and Adoption, Program Director for Foster Care & Adoption

“The Title IV-E program allowed me to further my education and skills while employed at CPS. I have to work to support my family. I could not have afforded to go to graduate school any other way. Additionally, the skills and opportunities this degree allowed me were amazing and continue to benefit me to this day”

Rich Brooks

2008 Graduate

Current Position: South District Training Academy Manager for CLOE (Center For Learning Organizational Excellence).

Past Positions: CVS Caseworker, CVS Supervisor, OJT Supervisor, and Trainer.

“The Title IV-E Program has opened doors and given me the opportunity to personally and professionally grow. It has allowed me to make an impact and change lives. The Educational Background helped me think big picture and plan for my future within CPS/CLOE organization. Most importantly, gain a network of support that I can always count on.”

Michelle Cunningham

2005 Graduate

Current Position: Rural Investigation and Family Base Safety Services Program Director (6 counties)

Past Positions: Investigation Caseworker and Investigation Supervisor

“The program initially allowed me the opportunity to do my practicum at CPS, which resulted in me being hired on the week after I graduated with my BSW. When I returned for my MSW, I was able to continue working and continue my education without having to worry about paying for it (with a continuity commitment). While working on my MSW, I was promoted to supervisor.”



Maddison Moore

2007 Graduate

Current Position: Investigation Supervisor for Child Protective Services

Past Positions: Permanent Managing Conservatorship (PMC) caseworker, Temporary Managing Conservatorship (TMC) caseworker

“I chose to participate in the Title IV-E program because I had worked full time throughout college, and needed an income while doing my social work practicum. I had an excellent university liaison, Rhonda Smith, who

guided me through the process here in San Antonio. She inspired and challenged me to do this work for a year, and I have been here ever since.”

Teresa Greenburg

2012 Graduate

Current Position: Kinship Support and Development Specialist IV

Past Positions: DFPS Volunteer, Conservatorship Specialist II-IV, Transitional Youth CVS Specialist IV

“Excellent program that not only filled in the gaps, but gave justification and rationale as to why DFPS does what it does in terms of assessment and plans of service. More importantly, the program helped me to understand and articulate to other professionals and clients why the children and families I work with were acting the way they were in response to trauma, mental illness, addictions and their environment and work as a team to find positive solutions to overcome these deficits in order to achieve sustained success.”



Praise From All Around



From left to right: Shawna Cuevas and Janisa Hodges

The Center would like to congratulate the fall 2015 graduates from Region 8 in San Antonio. The students graduating with their Bachelor of Social Work include Sara Cardwell and Sara Proctor. The students graduating with their Master of Social Work include Tom Molnar, Shawna Cuevas, and Janisa Hodges. We wish them well on their future endeavors.

The Center would also like to welcome and congratulate Derek Beckford, the new Graduate Research Fellow for the Title IV-E program. He is a first year foundations track MSW student with the School of Social Work. Originally from El Paso, Derek received his Bachelors of Community Health in 2014. He hopes to be working with adolescents in a drug treatment and prevention setting. We are happy to have him aboard!



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

National Adoption Month 2015

The month of November is National Adoption Month. It is a Children's Bureau initiative that brings attention to children and youth waiting for permanent families. This year, National Adoption Month focused on the adoption of older youth currently in foster care—because “We Never Outgrow the Need for Family.” This theme calls attention to our nation's population of older youth in foster care

who need loving, permanent families. Youth ages 15 to 18 make up 5 percent of the foster care population – 84,778 youth. During National Adoption Month, prospective adoptive families can learn more about the needs of older youth and opportunities to positively guide them toward successful outcomes. Learn More: <https://www.childwelfare.gov/topics/adoption/nam/>



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Events and Trainings

Ethics Workshop for CPS/Title IV-E Foster Care

When: Jan. 28, 2016 from 1:30 PM - 4:45 PM

Jan 29, 2016 from 9:00 AM- 12:15 PM

Where: 3635 SE Military Dr. San Antonio, TX 78223

Room 2C20 (Both Dates)

To register email trainings4e@txstate.edu or if you have any questions contact Rhonda Smith 210-337-3582

2016 National Title IV-E Roundtable

When: June 1-3, 2016

Where:

The University of Utah College of Social Work Salt Lake City, Utah

More information:

Derrick Tollefson, derrick.tollefson@usu.edu

Children and Families: Evidenced Based Practice (EBP) Consortium

The webinar series manifests the firm belief that evidence-based practice is a shared responsibility of both academic programs and child and family behavioral health services. The Webinar is online at: <https://ebpconsortium2014.wordpress.com/webinars/msw-faculty-webinars/>



40th Anniversary



On October 10th, the School of Social Work celebrated their 40 years of Social Work education at Texas State University. In 1975, the Walter Richter Institute of Social Work offered the Bachelor of Social Work degree which the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) accredited in 1978. Since then the school has seen major growth from the development of the MSW program in 1995 to the launch of the online

MSW degree program in 2005. Now the school has 25 full-time faculty, enrolled over 600 students (pre-majors, BSW, and MSW), and has the largest and fastest growing graduate program at Texas State. We look forward to wonderful things to come in the future.