Looking Back, Forging Ahead

Dr. Nancy Chavkin
A Message from the Director

The Center for Children and Families will enter year 16 of its Title IV-E work this fall. This grant has helped more than 300-plus students get their BSW and MSW degrees and bring a heightened level of expertise to their work with child welfare and DFPS.

Our three BSW and six MSW IV-E students beginning their program in the fall carry on a tradition set by those who’ve preceded them since the program’s inception in 1995. Two years after start-up, we added our annual Title IV-E Roundtables to share new developments and best practices in the field. The Roundtable helps to keep our Title IV-E alumni up-to-date on recent developments and lets them share their experiences from the field, which shows that expertise flows both ways. We learn as much as we teach at these Roundtables, and that’s how it should be.

The Center for Children and Families’ overall mission continues to be fostering collaborative research, grant proposal-writing, and experiential student learning to improve the quality of life for children and families. Our Vision is to be a nationally recognized, interdisciplinary resource center for education and best-practices information about children and families across the lifespan.

CCF is working on a grant proposal now to help a region in Russia develop a best-practices Child Welfare program for foster care and for keeping at-risk families together. We’re eager to share the rich pool of resources our alumni have helped us garner with the rest of the world.

Network Now! Join Us on Facebook

Social networking is all the rage these days. People realize how important connections are and how opportunities can come knocking from all corners of the globe—as long as opportunity knows where to knock, that is. This is especially true for folks new to their professions.

Enter Facebook, one of the most popular networking sites in Cyberspace, and guess what: the Texas State School of Social Work has developed its own Facebook page.

You can get to it the easy way by Googling it, or surf to www.facebook.com/pages/San Marcos-TX/Texas-State-University-School-of-Social-Work/189155220369 and check it out. You’ll see info on the school, presentation tips you can use in your classes, and a growing list of fans connecting from their own Facebook pages. Start building your social network by adding you own link today.

See you in Cyberspace.
13th Title IV-E Roundtable Well Attended

DFPS administrators, staff, and University partners from Federal Region VI attended the 13th Annual Child Welfare Title IV-E Roundtable last May in New Braunfels.

Featured was a panel of Title IV-E alumni who are agency employees: (bottom, l. to r.) Practicum Supervisor, Kelli Heath, Okla.; Family Services Caseworker Ashley Stewart, Ark.; Social Work Supervisor Grace Hernandez, New Mexico; and (top, from l.) Child Welfare Specialist Elisha McNeal, La.; and Supervisor Tara Hopkins, Austin.

Advanced Ethics Workshops Scheduled

The Title IV-E grant will sponsor several important ethics workshops for CPS/Title IV-E foster care and adoption workers in Texas over the next several months. The workshops will feature ethics specialists Dr. Dorinda Noble, Ph.D., LCSW, who is Director of the School of Social Work at Texas State, along with Mr. Andrew Marks, LMSW, who is a Clinical Lecturer at the school.

Date and locations:
- Austin, Oct. 8, 1:30-4:45 pm
- San Antonio, Jan. 21, 1:30-4:45 pm
- San Antonio, Jan. 22, 9 am-12:15
- Belton, Feb. 11, 1:30-4:45 pm
- Waco, Feb. 12, 9 am-12:15

These advanced workshops are designed especially for foster home development and adoption workers, child protective services workers, case managers, and supervisors.

Dr. Noble and Mr. Marks have expanded the number of workshops and locations this year in order to reach as many people as possible with this vital information. The session earns attendees 3.0 CE units—always a good thing to add to your resume.

To register, fax your information to 512.245.1958 or e-mail mg42@txstate.edu

Grads Head Out—New Candidates Head In

Taking a break from Fall orientation are six new Title IV-E MSW students (l. to r.) Heather Montgomery Tijerina, Jessica Cooper, Deane Novosad, Tamara Broyles, Cristal Martinez, and Jason Robbins. They join new BSW students Monica Tobias and Christina Gonzalez Yanez of Texas State and Monica Ochoa Morones of Our Lady of the Lake in launching their studies this fall. Congrats to summer grads Jimmie Gabel and Nicole Mueller (MSW) and Alan Prater, Andrea Belen, Miranda Schuerg, and Christina Rodriguez (BSW).
Long-Term Vet Tanya Rollins

What DFPS hopes to gain from its participation in the Title IV-E program is highly qualified long-termers, such as Alumna Tanya Rollins. Hired as an investigator in San Antonio in 1990, Tanya has worked over the past 19 years as an SWI Specialist, an SWI Supervisor, and an Academy Instructor. Tanya is currently the East Central District CPS Academy Manager, based in Austin. Tanya attributes her success, in part, to the skills and education she gained at Texas State. “Completing the MSW program,” she says, “has allowed me to explore other professional opportunities outside of child welfare. I think that the Title IV-E program allows individuals to explore opportunities within the child welfare system and in turn builds the child welfare workforce with dedicated individuals.”

Free Publications for Review

*Title IV-Enews* receives ongoing notices about new child-welfare publications. Here are a couple that might help guide your research and career growth.

- **What Works in Foster Care: Key Components of Success from the Northwest Foster Care Alumni Society** is especially well-suited for practitioners and policy makers working to improve the lives of youth in care. For more information visit the Web site at www.oacca.org/documents/crsTransitioningYouth2008.pdf

- **New Help for Children Raised by Grandparents and Other Relatives** guides implementation of the improvements outlined in the Fostering Connections to Success Increasing Adoptions Act for children who are being raised by grandparents and other relatives. Various organizations, many of which have been working to support children, collaborated to prepare the report. The Web site is www.clasp.org/publications/aaar-childcarestatealloc.pdf

News & Notes

**New OSSW Officers**
The Organization of Student Social Workers met on Aug. 31. New officers for the year are Loretta Lambert, President; Alex Hansen, VP; Kyla Morales, Secretary; Linda Aguilar, Treasurer; Arnie Williams, MSW Rep; and Amanda Cherry, BSW Rep. Come to the meetings and join up with this hard-working group.

**CSWE Conference**
Mark your calendars now for the Council of Social Work Education (CSWE) meeting to be held this year at the San Antonio Convention Center Nov. 7-8. This is a great opportunity to see what CSWE is all about. Students who volunteer to work on Saturday or Sunday, can register free, but limited volunteer slots are available. To register (and volunteer), go to the CSWE Web site at http://www.cswe.org/