



University of Houston  
 Graduate College of Social Work  
 Child Welfare Education Project

# CWEP NewsLine

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## CWEP gives Foster Parent Training a Facelift

Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) recently requested that CWEP design a new version of a training curriculum for foster parents. Normally, foster parents are mandated by DFPS to attend one four-hour training for behavioral intervention each year.

The new training program curriculum was developed by CWEP staff during 2006-07 and uses an interactive lecture format with power-point presentation, videotapes, group activities, and class discussions. The training received a very positive response when it was piloted with a group of experienced foster parents in April.

It is expected that the training will be available for CPS use sometime in 2007-08. A *Train-the-Trainer* curriculum will be developed by CWEP during 2007-08 so that CPS workers will be able to provide this new behavior intervention training to foster parents on an ongoing basis.

(See *Foster Parent Training*, p. 2)

## Summer Course News Sponsored by CWEP

### SOCW 7301 Psychodynamic Theories and Psychopathology –

“**Psycho Psycho**” will be offered in Summer III on Tuesdays from 5pm-9pm. Dr. Trish Taylor, CWEP Curriculum Coordinator, will teach this CWEP sponsored course with a limited enrollment. The content of this course includes a review of the DSM and mental illnesses, introduction to psychobiosocial models and roles of social work in medication management. Classes will begin May 29<sup>th</sup> and meet weekly until August 9<sup>th</sup>.

## FALL Course News

The following courses will be offered in the Fall 2007 semester:

### REQUIRED COURSES for Concentration Year students:

**SOCW7343 SW Practice with Families** – Two sections will be offered, one taught by Dr. Cheung.

**SOCW7348 Issues Children and Families** – Two sections will be offered, one taught by Dr. Taylor.

### Recommended Elective Courses (in order of CWEP competency requirements):

**SOCW 7344 Family Violence** – Instructor, Shetal Vohra-Gupta

**SOCW 7377 Drugs in Society**

**SOCW 7365 Crisis Intervention**

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## Foster Parent Training (continued)

The training includes learning objectives that are set by DFPS and include:

1. Review DFPS Policy on Discipline
2. Review developmental stages and their relationship to foster children
3. Review the unique behavioral issues associated with foster children
4. Learn effective strategies for behavioral intervention with foster children.

There are three sections to the training, in order to accommodate these learning objectives:

1. Why children in care act the way they do (developmental stages, attachment, trauma, and crisis)
2. Discipline and Punishment (definitions and overview of DFPS Discipline Policy)
3. Strategies for effective discipline

During each of the behavioral intervention training sessions, parents receive a packet of handouts at the beginning, are encouraged to give experiences and ideas throughout the training, take a verbal or written test at the end, as well as provide feedback through an evaluation form for CWEP. For more information on the development of this training program curriculum, see Dr. Trish Taylor.

### CWEP Spring 2007 Calendar

May 29<sup>th</sup> – Summer Classes begin: Sessions I-III  
Session IV- July 5th

August 20<sup>th</sup> – First day of Classes for Fall 07



**Congratulations to CWEP PHI ALPHA Honor Society Graduates:**

**Oswaldo Gomez, Lauren McLaughlin, and Dorothea Pitikas**



Also, congratulation to instructors, Cindy Reibenstein and Sandra Lopez, and Shetal Vohra-Gupta on their inductions this year

\* Phi Alpha is an honors society which recognizes students who maintain 3.7 or above GPA



**CONGRATULATIONS TO CWEP STUDENTS THAT GRADUATED  
DECEMBER 2006:**

**Shekerah Jacobs  
Angela Davis Rhoden**

**CONGRATULATIONS TO CWEP STUDENTS THAT  
GRADUATED SPRING 2007:**

**Charlene Brown  
Erica Figueroa (Rodriguez)  
Demetria Gaines  
Lauren McLaughlin  
Berita Sherman  
Katara Wallace (Butler)**

**CONGRATULATIONS TO CWEP STUDENTS THAT  
HAVE APPLIED FOR AUGUST GRADUATION 2007:**

**Oswaldo Gomez**



# National Foster Care Month

Each May, National Foster Care Month provides an opportunity for people all across the nation to focus attention on the year-round needs of American children and youth in foster care. The campaign raises awareness about foster care and encourages many more citizens to get involved in the lives of these youth -- whether as their foster parents, volunteers, mentors, employers or in other ways.

## Campaign Goals:

- Raise awareness about the magnitude of the issue and the urgent and sustaining needs of children and older youth in foster care and their families;
- Issue a national CALL-TO-ACTION that motivates, inspires and facilitates many more Americans to come forward and help [change a lifetime](#) for a young person in foster care; and,
- Develop a positive framework for maintaining visibility and interest in the foster care issue to support the year-round efforts of the National Foster Care Month Partner organizations and other child welfare agencies.

## 2007 National Foster Care Month Core Messages

- **THE MAGNITUDE:**  
Over 513,000 American children are in foster care because their own families are in crisis and unable to provide for their essential wellbeing.
- **THE FACES OF FOSTER CARE:**  
Child welfare issues arise in families of every race, ethnicity, culture, and age group. Even though research shows that there is no difference in the incidence of abuse and neglect according to racial group, children of color comprise a disproportionate percentage of youth in foster care.
- **THE CONSEQUENCES:**  
Like all young people, youth in foster care deserve and benefit from enduring, positive relationships with caring adults. Without these permanent connections, former foster children are far more likely than their peers in the general population to endure homelessness, poverty, compromised health, unemployment, incarceration and other adversities after they leave the foster care system.
- **THE PRIORITY:**  
Older youth are in most urgent need of attention. Nearly half of the young people in foster care are over the age of 10. Each year, more than 20,000 young Americans age out of foster care, most without the appropriate resources, skills or options they will need to live independently.
- **THE FUTURE:**  
If nothing changes by the Year 2020:
  - Nearly 14 million confirmed cases of child abuse and neglect will be reported;
  - 22,500 children will die of abuse or neglect, most before their fifth birthday;
  - More than 9,000,000 children will experience the foster care system;
  - More than 300,000 children will age out of the foster care system, in poor health and ill-prepared for success in higher education, technical college or the workforce; and,
  - 99,000 former foster youth, who aged out of the system, can expect to experience homelessness.
- **THE SOLUTION:**  
With guidance and support from nurturing adults, children and youth in foster care are capable of overcoming the repercussions of previous abuse and neglect. Across the country, people just like you are helping them build brighter futures by serving as their foster parents, relative caregivers, mentors, advocates, social workers and volunteers.

Source: <http://www.fostercaremonth.org/TheCampaign/Pages/default.aspx>