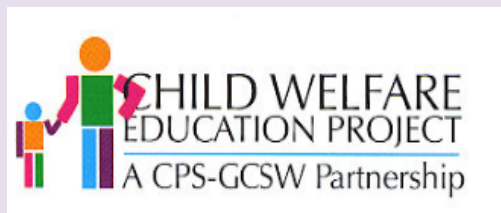


Child Welfare Education Project

CWEP NewsLine

Volume 13 Issue 4
March 2012



CWEP Website: <http://www.sw.uh.edu/community/cwep/current-students/index.php>

What's Inside:

Director's Corner	2
Spotlights	3-4
CWEP Events	5-6
Announcements	7-10
CWEP Calendar	11

CWEP Staff

Dr. Monit Cheung
Principle Investigator
Room 424 – 713.743.8107
mcheung@uh.edu

Dr. Patrick Leung
Project Evaluator
Room 412 – 713.743.8111
pleung@uh.edu

Brunessia Wilson
Student Affairs Coordinator
Room 436 – 713.743.8147
bwilson3@uh.edu

Arnitia Walker
Director
Room 432 – 713.743.1394
amitchell3@uh.edu

Ann McFarland
Stipend Coordinator
Room 444 – 713.743.8145
amcfarland@uh.edu

Jackie Duron
LEO Mentor
Doctoral Associate
Room 420 – 713.743.8115
jfduron@mail.uh.edu

Kathy Clark
Field Coordinator
Room 434 – 713.743.8157
klclark@uh.edu

Dr. Patricia Taylor
Curriculum Coordinator
Room 438 – 713.743.8081
ptaylor2@uh.edu

Stefanie Fisher
NewsLine Editor
Graduate Associate
Room 445 – 713.743.8141
stefaniedfisher@gmail.com

Director's Corner

Recently there has been much discussion regarding the overuse of psychotropic medications for children in foster care. Psychotropic medications are used for treating behavioral and mental health problems. Research shows that the use of psychotropic medications for youth in foster care is much higher than those within the general population. The list of medications is extensive and includes antidepressants and antipsychotics.

We have to remember that these children are already stressed out from having to deal with dysfunction within their families of origin. They were victims of abuse and neglect and as a result were exposed to violence and trauma. These young patients are being treated for mood disorders, thought disorders, behavior disorders, anxiety disorders, attention deficit disorders, and elimination disorders.

We all know that medications are made to heal and make life better; however overuse or misuse of any medication can have severe consequences. Side effects related to psychotropic medications are extensive, including headache, agitation, nervousness, suicidal ideation, fatigue, upset stomach, sleepiness, dizziness, insomnia, hostility, heart problems, hallucinations, psychosis, rage, obsessive thoughts, etc.

Parents and caregivers alike must become more aware of principles of use, potential side effects, withdrawals, and monitoring parameters. They must advocate for these children and become more aware of alternatives to medication since foster children are minors and generally may not represent themselves in meetings, court hearings, etc. It is strongly recommended that foster children especially older youth are involved in every aspect of their case planning as it relates to their mental and physical well-being.

In 2008, President Bush signed into law the *Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act*, Public Law 110-351. This law requires state child welfare agencies and Medicaid to provide ongoing oversight and coordination of medical and mental health services, including psychotropic medications, for youth in foster care. Texas Department Family and Protective Services offers training on psychotropic medication to Child Protective Services staff, foster parents and residential providers.

We must ask ourselves the following questions. Are medications given to manage behaviors or treat illnesses? When providing social histories for these children, who is better qualified? Who monitors the medications and advocates on behalf of the children? Are the mental health issues environmental or genetic? As the search continues to find the answers to these and other questions, we as advocates for children must ensure that the use of psychotropic medications must be given on an as needed basis and monitored often for decrease or termination of use as soon as possible.

Annitia Walker

CWEP Director

CWEP Student Spotlight



Margaret "Grace" Smith

Describe your experience while attending the Graduate College of Social Work so far.

My experience with the graduate program has been the experience of a lifetime. The school has provided a wonderful curriculum and an array of staff that have brought together so many social work fields. The experience that I gained from these last three years has brought a new sense of passion and understanding of clinical social work that I use with my peers and clients every day.

What are some of the ways in which you have been involved with CWEP?

My involvement with CWEP has mostly been attending the luncheons and networking with my peers. The CWEP program's greatest strength is the people. The staff and co-workers have been the support that has helped me complete this program with only a minor loss in sanity. The community that CWEP provides is invaluable; my peers who are in the program and those that have graduated make the biggest difference. CWEP peers can tell you the best classes to take, lend you books, and can help you understand what your professors' expectations are.

Describe your current position and some of the challenges you find in your work.

I have been with CPS for nine years. My current position is the Permanency Care Assistance (PCA) and Adoption Assistance Negotiator. The PCA program is part of the Fostering Connections program that is helping create permanency with relative and kinship placements for our children. The greatest challenge in social work is finding that balance of providing the best service to your clients but also having some emotional energy left for the rest of your life. Self-care is a difficult balance to find in any social work career but it is most important to provide your clients' needs and meet your own at the same time.

What do you feel are some of the most important rewards in your work?

The most important reward is the work with clients. I know that at the end of my life, although the difference may have been small, I was a part of something that brought change. In my opinion social work is the greatest challenge and greatest personal reward.

What advice do you have for other CWEP students?

USE THE CWEP LIBRARY!!! It has so many of the required readings that I wish I would have gone there my first semester. Talk to your peers; they are the greatest resources for understanding assignments, having class notes and having good advice in general.

CWEP Staff Spotlight



Ann McFarland, LMSW-AP

What are your past experiences with CPS and current role with CWEP?

My initial interaction with CPS was through my first field placement back in the early 90's. I was assigned to Verna McIntyre's investigative unit (she just retired recently). We would shadow the investigators when they went out on their cases. It was an eye-opener for sure. I remember a case where the caseworker and I had to drive our cars so each of us could have 2 cars seats to safely pick up the children. That didn't happen that day, but other MSW students and I developed a presentation that we gave to middle school students about CPS. When we asked the question, "What does CPS do" for families, their answer was, "take children away." In reality, less than 1% of the cases result in removals. I learned a great deal from my CPS internship experience, including mythbusting.

Currently, I handle the stipends for the CWEP students as a part of my position as Director of the Office of Community Projects. The world of financial aid at a university can be quite challenging. My goal is to get students their stipends as quickly as possible each semester. It's the behind the scenes relationships that help with that process. When a student calls or comes in to ask about their stipend, I get in touch with my contacts and see if we can quickly resolve any issues.

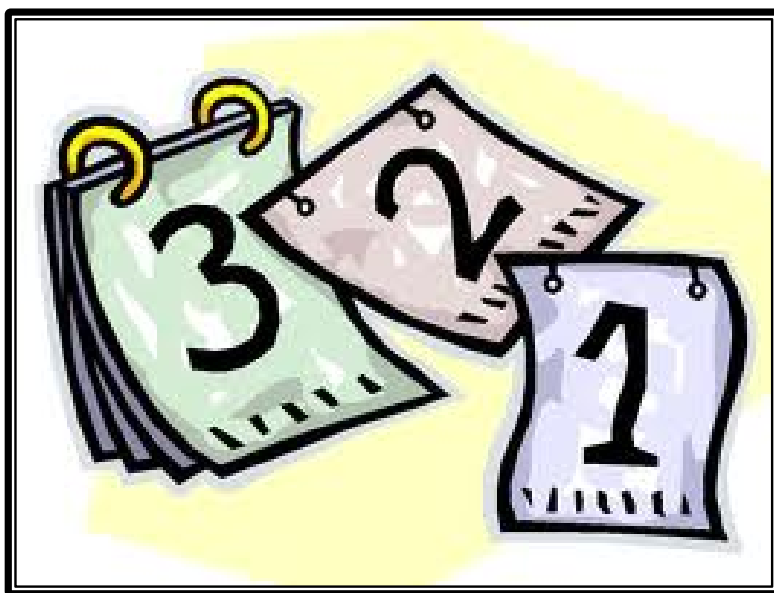
What have been the greatest rewards working in the CWEP or CPS family?

Knowing that in the long run, we are positively impacting children, whether it's through more MSWs working at the agency or interacting with the CWEP staff, children are the top priority.

What advice do you have for our CWEP students?

Stay the course, work hard and know that graduation will come. Enjoy your experience as best as you can. And be proud to be a social worker.

Mark Your Calendars!



CWEP Symposium

Friday March 9, 2012

1:00 – 4:00 pm

SAVE THE DATE!

*** **Required** for all current CWEP Students***





"Celebrating CWEP"

Hello Everyone!

The results are in. The name of our event is.....

"Celebrating CWEP"



Rhonda Freeman is the winner!!!

Thanks Rhonda for helping us name this special occasion. We will present you with a token of our appreciation at the celebration. Also, thank you to everyone who submitted an idea. They were all very creative.

Save the Date!

By majority, you all have chosen **Friday, May 4, 2012** as the date for this event. It will be held at 2525 Murworth Dr. Houston, TX 77054, Room D-36 from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM. Look for an Evite that will be sent out soon. Your families are invited too!

Can't wait to see you all there!!!

Organizing Committee:

Monit Cheung (Faculty), Arnitia Walker (CWEP Director),
Dalen Dilieto, Amber Riaz, and Jamelle Gibbs (CWEP students),
Becky Cole, Diana Sutton, and Will Walker (CWEP alumni)

Congratulations to CWEP's Phi Alpha Honor Society Inductees!

Shannon Manning, Stacy Thompson, Diana Scroggins & Loretta Manjarrez



Shannon Manning



Stacy Thompson



Diana Scroggins

Loretta Manjarrez

Induction Dinner will be held on March 9, 2012 (Friday) 6-8pm at the Rockwell Room, M. D. Anderson Library. Email Dr. Patrick Leung at pleung@uh.edu for your table reservation.



National Child Abuse Prevention Month

2012 National Child Abuse Prevention Month Web Section Launches

Awareness about child abuse and neglect strengthens communities and builds support for children and families in the effort to prevent child abuse. Learn how you can raise awareness during National Child Abuse Prevention Month in April and throughout the year through the 2012 Prevention Month web section now live on the Information Gateway website.

The section features:

- *Preventing Child Maltreatment and Promoting Child Well-Being: Network to Action 2012 Resource Guide*
- Tip sheets addressing particular parenting concerns or questions—in English and Spanish—to distribute to parents and caregivers
- A calendar for April with activities relating to the Six Protective Factors
- Prevention Month widgets to post on your website

<http://www.childwelfare.gov/preventing/preventionmonth>

Your feedback is important to us! Please take the survey on the Prevention Month web section and give us your input. For more information on Prevention Month, contact Child Welfare Information Gateway at [1.800.394.3366](tel:18003943366) or info@childwelfare.gov.

The 18th National Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect is April 16-20, 2012 in Washington, D.C. For more information and to register, visit <http://www.pal-tech.com/web/OCAN/index.cfm?p=5>



U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Administration for Children and Families
Administration on Children, Youth and Families
Children's Bureau



NASW/Texas 2012 State Conference

Saturday - Monday, September 8-10, 2012

The Westin Galleria, Houston, TX

TWENTY-SIXTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE ON PREVENTION OF CHILD ABUSE

**MARCH 19-20, 2012
WESTIN GALLERIA HOUSTON
HOUSTON, TEXAS**

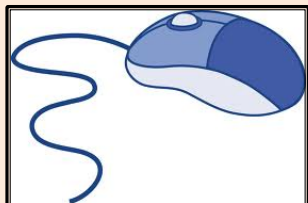
PRESENTED BY

PREVENT CHILD ABUSE TEXAS

In Cooperation with:

*Houston Metro Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force
State Child Fatality Review Team Committee
Texas Council of Child Welfare Boards
Texas Department of State Health Services
The Children's Assessment Center
US Attorney's Office-Southern District-Project Safe Child (PSC)*

A statewide conference designed to offer quality training and information on topics and model programs of interest to leaders in child abuse prevention: social workers, counselors, educators, child care and youth workers, law enforcement personnel, medical & legal professionals, foster parents, child welfare board volunteers, elected officials, and other interested child advocates. Participants may attend their choice of a variety of workshops on child abuse and neglect prevention and educational programs or may select workshops for specialized training credits and professional development.



[CLICK HERE FOR CONFERENCE PROGRAM](#)

Title IV-E National Roundtable Conference

May 29 - June 1, 2012

Galveston, Texas

http://www.uhd.edu/academic/colleges/humanities/sos/family_strengths/

Sponsored by the University of Houston-Downtown's Center for Family Strengths and the University of Houston's Graduate College of Social Work, this conference builds on the 14 year history of the IV- E Roundtable sponsored by the Center for Children & Families at Texas State University-San Marcos.

The conference will focus on knowledge transfer for best practices for major IV- E topics including:

- Field Placements for IV- E
- Administration and Contract Issues
- Child Welfare Curriculum and Courses
- Recruitment, Retention and Employment
- Research and Evaluation

Conference Registration

-**Early-bird Registration:** \$275.00 (Expires May 11, 2012)

-**Regular Registration:** \$325.00 (After May 11, 2012)

- [Registration](#) can be completed online.
- Please make checks payable to UH-D
- ****Contract education hours are available for no additional fee.***



Location & Accommodations

(Reservations and payment paid by attendee)

-Galveston is located 45 miles south of Houston Hobby Airport.

-Rooms are \$101.00 at the [Moody Gardens Resort Hotel](#), Galveston.

CWEP Calendar of Events

Spring 2012 (also available via [GCSW website](#))

March

- 9th - No 'CWEP Symposium' (**Postponed to Fall 2012**)
- 12th – 17th - **SPRING BREAK WEEK**
- 23rd - GCSW/ Licensing Prep Class (**Spring Graduates Only**)*
- 26th -30th - CWEP Student Advising for Summer/Fall 2012
- 28th - Field Integrative Paper Due for Field IV Students
- 30th - Field Agency Marketplace

April

- 6th - Field Applications Due For Summer/Fall 2012
- 13th - GCSW/ Licensing Prep Class (**Spring Graduates Only**)*
- 30th - Field Grade Evaluations Due
- 30th - Last Day of Classes

May

- 2th -10th - Final Examination Period
- 4th - GCSW/ Licensing Prep Class (**Spring Graduates Only**)
- 4th - **CELEBRATING CWEP** (at Murworth CPS Office, Rm D36B from 6 pm-8 pm)
- 9th - Field Preference Forms for Concentration Year Summer/Fall Placements Due
- 11th - **CONVOCATION (1pm at Cullen Auditorium)**

Summer 2012

May

- 28th - **MEMORIAL DAY HOLIDAY**
- 29th -1st - Title IV-E child welfare roundtable conference in Galveston, TX (see the announcement on last page)

June

- 4TH - **Classes Begin for Summer**
- TBA - GCSW/ Licensing Prep Class
- 8th - New Applicant's Deadline to turn in CWEP Application for Fall 2012
- 18th - Field Educational Contracts Due

July

- 16th - Field Integrative Paper Due for Field IV Students

August

- 1st - Field Grades Due

*If you take the Licensing Prep Course (Free for the graduates), you will also take the online prep exam designed by the ASWB (the licensing exam board), free at GCSW computer lab. Ask Dr. Cheung for details.

**If you need academic assistance, please contact Jackie Duron, LCSW, a GCSW doctoral student who volunteers her time to be your Learning Enhancement Opportunity (LEO) mentor. Learn more about it at <http://www.sw.uh.edu/community/cwep/current-students/index.php> (under "The LEO Mentor Program").