

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

CWEP NewsLine

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The Legislative Process in Texas

Watch the NewsLine in the coming year for the column "Texas and the Legislative Process". Prefiling for the 79th Legislative session began on Monday, November 8, 2004, and actual activity on the bills will begin in January 2005 when the session officially convenes.

If you are interested in tracking certain bills in depth visit:

<http://www.capitol.state.tx.us/tlo/legislation/legislation.htm> . This web page will instruct you on how to sign up for free e-mail notification regarding action on bills that you would like to track. Generally, during each legislative session there are a variety of bills that are introduced relating to child welfare, which may be of interest to you. Even though there are many bills, there may be a few key bills that are important to follow. It is especially important to note, that this legislative session lawmakers have proposed overhaul in Child Protective Services. CWEP students may be interested in tracking bills related to this issue! According to CWEP Director, Joe Papick, 229 bills have been prefiled for the 79th Session thus far. During the last session over 9,200 bills were filed and only 1,583 were signed.

Important dates for the 79th legislative session:

Tuesday, January 11, 2005 79th Legislature convenes at noon
Friday, March 11, 2005 Deadlines for filings bills and joint resolutions (with some exceptions)
Monday, May 30, 2005 Last day of the 79th Regular Session
Sunday, June 19, 2005 Last day the Governor can sign or veto bills passed
Monday, August 29, 2005 Date that bills without specific effective dates become law

For Legislative Analysis: Watch the Senate Research Center, which provides quality, specialized, objective research and information to the Texas Senate and Office of the Lieutenant Governor. <http://www.senate.state.tx.us/SRC/Index.htm>

CWEP's Web Page has been updated!



Check it out at <http://www.uh.edu/ocp/cwep.htm>
You will find helpful links and contact information,
including recommended courses, required CWEP

Curriculum, syllabus links, the Child Welfare Resource List, the CWEP Library Catalog, APA Style Link and Learning Enhancement Opportunity (LEO) information.

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CWEP Spring 2005 Calendar

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|---------------------------------|---|
| Monday, January 18 | Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday |
| Tuesday, January 19 | First Day of Classes |
| Monday, February 14 | Last day to drop a course or withdraw without receiving a grade |
| Wednesday, November 3 | Last day to drop a course or withdraw |
| Monday-Saturday, March 14-19 | Spring Break |
| Monday, May 2 | Last Day of Class |
| Saturday, May 14 | GSSW Graduation! |



Upcoming Research Presentations at the Society for Social Work and Research and the Council on Social Work Education's Annual Program Meeting.

Alexander, D. & Leung, P. (2005). The marijuana screening inventory (MSI-X): Psychometric data from two samples. A paper to be presented at the 51st Annual Program Meeting, Council on Social Work Education, New York, 2/25-3/1.

Boutte-Queen, N., & Cheung, M. (2005). Licensure, barriers, & diversity issues. A paper to be presented at the 51st Annual Program Meeting, Council on Social Work Education, New York, 2/25-3/1.

Cheung, M., & Leung, P. (2005). The ASK cultural competency instrument for use in child welfare education. To be presented at the 51st Annual Program Meeting, Council on Social Work Education, New York, 2/25-3/1.

Saleh, M. F., Buzi, R., Weinman, M., & Smith, P. (2005). Young fathers participating in a father program: Their expectations and perceived benefits. To be presented at the 51st Annual Program Meeting, Council on Social Work Education, New York, 2/25-3/1.

Taylor, P. (2005). Enhancement of Integrated Personal/Professional Self (IPPS) through reflective/experiential learning in graduate social work students. To be presented at the Annual Conference, Society for Social Work and Research, Miami, 1/12-16.

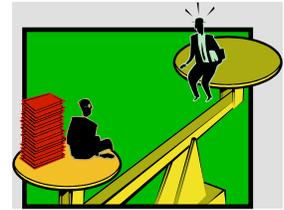
Taylor, P., & Cheung, M. (2005). Operationalizing integration of personal/professional self (IPPS): The impact of diverse experiences. To be presented at the 51st Annual Program Meeting, Council on Social Work Education, New York, 2/25-3/1.

National Conference Volunteer Opportunities for Students

The **Council on Social Work Education** is holding its 51st Annual Program Meeting in New York City February 26-March 1, 2005. Students are eligible to have their conference fee waived, if they volunteer during the conference. For further information and/ or to sign up please visit www.cswe.org and click on Annual Program Meeting, then click registration and then volunteer. Students must pay for their own transportation and lodging for the conference.

Attending conferences is a great way to learn more about new research in the field, to increase your understanding of your practice and research areas, as well as it providing good networking opportunities in the field. Volunteering at conferences can also help you gain insight into presentation styles, which can help you on your own class presentation ideas. Further, it can help prepare you for what it is like presenting at national conferences. In our last issue November 2004 the NewsLine highlighted Corpus Christi students who presented at the Texas Statewide NASW conference. Way to go Corpus students!!!!

Texas and the Legislative Process



Following are some of the pre-filed bills of interest for the 79th Legislative Session:

Senate Bill 6 and 22 Sponsor Zaffirini Relating to the care and custody of foster children and the duties and responsibilities of Health and Human Services Commission and DFPS concerning the care and custody of those children

Senate Bill 40 Sponsor Zaffirini Relating to the permanency planning procedures for children residing in state institutions.

Senate Bill 46 Sponsor Nelson Relating to a universal benefits issuance and identification card for health and human services programs.

Senate Bill 69 Sponsor Shapleigh Relating to restoring services under the Medicaid and children's health insurance programs; making an appropriation.

Senate Bill 1990 Sponsor Shapiro Relating to creation of a program to provide for timely replacement of child protective services caseworkers.

House Bill 171 Sponsor Dukes Relating to caseload assignments for certain DFPS employees

Source: www.capitol.state.tx.us

For more information on these pre-filed bills look up www.capitol.state.tx.us

RESOURCES

ADOPTIONS - NEW REPORT ON COMPOSITION AND TRENDS

http://naic.acf.hhs.gov/pubs/s_adoptedhighlights.cfm. Fact sheet

http://naic.acf.hhs.gov/pubs/s_adopted/index.cfm. Full report

The Children's Bureau is pleased to announce the availability of a new report, How Many Children Were Adopted in 2000 and 2001? Using data from State Courts, a Federal data verification system, and other sources, the report estimates that the number of adoptions annually has remained steady since the late 1980's, but the source of adoption has shifted from mostly private agency, kinship or tribal organizations to a greater number of public agency and inter-country adoptions. This is first comprehensive look at total number of adoptions in over ten years.

Students with an Anticipated Graduation of Fall 2004

Debra Arismendez
Sandra Betancourt
Elizabeth Bryars
Lois Castillo
Rumalda Lee
Tena Lovell
Jarita Wharton





NEWS FROM THE CORPUS COHORT

BY CLARA TRAINER

There is a lot of exciting news to report from the Corpus Christi group.

The first six of the Corpus Christi Cohort are anticipating graduation in December 2004. Congratulations to **Debra Arismendez, Sandra Bentancourt, Elizabeth “Libby” Bryars, Lois Castillo, Tena Lovell and Rimalda Lee**. We are all very proud of them.

One of the December graduates has even more to celebrate. **Sandra Bentancourt** was promoted to Child Protective Services Supervisor in Edinburg, TX. Congratulations Sandra.

Marianne Vogt was selected as a new Risk Director that will be housed in the Round Rock office. We are all very proud of her but she will be greatly missed.

Debra Arismendez continues to be a strong advocate for car seat safety. She participated in another car seat event on November 20th.

The Corpus Christi group was privileged to have Sandra Lopez back as our Professor for both our Grief and Bereavement class and the Social Welfare Policy and Services to Children and Families course. The classes were both challenging and very interesting.

Carmela Quintanilla and **Malda Lee** were quite resourceful when doing research for their Pioneers of Social Work presentation for our Policy class. Ms. Quintanilla actually called Facundo Valdez, the pioneer they were assigned to research and conducted a personal phone interview. She found Mr. Valdez in New Mexico. He had just retired and was about to leave for Denver to accept a lifetime achievement award. Mr. Valdez sent Ms. Quintanilla an audiotape that contained a biography of his life. Way to go Carmela and Malda!

With six classmates anticipating graduation and the rest of the class beginning field placement and graduating in Spring 2005, Saturday, December 4th marked the last class for all of the Corpus Christi group. The occasion was celebrated with a night of Karaoke and dancing. Several of our “superstars” belted out some songs.

Seasons Greetings to everyone!