

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

# CWEP NewsLine

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## CWEP Student Spotlight



This month we are highlighting **Berita Sherman**  
**Thanks Berita!**

### How did you come to Social Work?

I came to social work after 8 years in the U.S. Army. There I was not able to really use my undergraduate degree which was a BS in Human Development from Howard University. Social Work is allowing me an opportunity to put those skills to use and learn valuable skills for the future.

### What are some of your hobbies?

Some of my hobbies are going to the movies, volunteering in different organizations, such as the National Association of Black Social Workers at the University of Houston, and spending quality time with family and friends.

### What has been your favorite class thus far?

So far, I really don't have a favorite class. I've enjoyed them all the same and learned something new in each class.

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## SUMMER COURSE NEWS SOCW 7351 Sponsored by CWEP OFFERED THIS SUMMER

**Supervision and Consultation in Social Welfare Organizations (SOCW 7351)** will be offered in Summer III on Tuesdays from 12 noon – 4 p.m. Dr. Trish Taylor, CWEP Curriculum Coordinator, will teach this CWEP sponsored seminar course with a limited enrollment of 15 students. Trish has been an approved LCSW supervisor since 1995. Guest lecturers from several public and private agencies will comprise a portion of the class, with ample opportunities for students to ask questions and learn first hand from experienced social work practitioners and administrators about supervisory and staff management techniques. The class will begin on May 31 and meet weekly until August 9. The small class size will be conducive to learning.

## FALL COURSE NEWS

Dr. Trish Taylor will teach **Families in Transition (SOCW 7346)** in Fall 2005 on Wednesdays from 5:30 to 8:30pm. The content of this course deals with foster care, adoption, divorce, separation, as well as loss issues. If you are a CWEP student, this elective course comes highly recommended!





## CWEP CALENDAR

**Spring 2005**

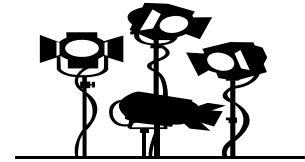
Monday, May 2  
Saturday, May 14

Last Day of Class  
GSSW Graduation!



## Student Spotlight

(Continued from Page 1)



### Getting to know....Berita Sherman

#### **If you work for CPS, how long have you been there and what is your position?**

I started working for CPS in March of 2003 in substitute care. I currently work for CPS as the worker for The Lower Kids from Residential Treatment Center (RTC) Initiative Pilot Program.

#### **Is there anything else you'd like to share with your fellow students about yourself?**

I'm very approachable and I hope to get a chance to meet as many students as possible.

## Announcing a New Journal

### Journal of Public Child Welfare

To receive a free sample copy visit and type in [www.haworthpress.com](http://www.haworthpress.com) and type in Journal of Public Child Welfare or follow this direct link:

[http://www.haworthpress.com/store/product.asp?sid=AHBFHGL6GH58M7VVU24RNVVWG8GB722&sku=J479&AuthType=4#abstract\\_indexing](http://www.haworthpress.com/store/product.asp?sid=AHBFHGL6GH58M7VVU24RNVVWG8GB722&sku=J479&AuthType=4#abstract_indexing)

## FREE INTERNET COURSE ON CROSS-CULTURAL COMMUNICATION

The University of Medicine and Dentistry of the New Jersey School of Public Health, Office of Public Health Practice, in collaboration with the New York New Jersey Public Health Training Center, is offering a free, Web-based interactive learning experience entitled "Communicate to Make a Difference: Exploring Cross-Cultural Communication." This course introduces different facets of culture and communication in real-world public health scenarios.

Visit <http://www.nynj-phtc.org/cc> for more information or to sign up!

## Texas and the Legislative Process

As most of you know CPS reform is a huge issue during this legislative session. Two websites to help keep you up to date on what is happening include NASW-Texas and the Center for Public Policy Priorities.

The NASW website offers a brief summary of key legislation related to CPS Reform, as well as the current status on the Committee on Children and Families' strategy on reform. Visit [http://www.naswtx.org/Committees/Children\\_and\\_Families.htm](http://www.naswtx.org/Committees/Children_and_Families.htm)  
NASW TX also has a current key bills in the House on CPS reform as well as the written testimony given to the House Human Services Committee. Visit <http://www.naswtx.org/About-NASWTX/Texas-Bills.htm>

Visit the Center for Public Policy Priorities to find the latest analysis of the legislation focusing on privatizing Child Protective Services at <http://www.cppp.org/>

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## HOW COMMITTEE HEARINGS WORK

**By Joe Papick, CWEP Director**

The next few weeks are critical to the survival of bills as we are running out of time for bills to be heard in committees. The committee stage is at the core of legislative politics, since the fate of bills under consideration hinges on committee action. A large percentage of all legislation is never reported out of committee. Every committee is run a little bit differently. Some committees never take up a vote the first time a bill is heard in committee, leaving it pending only to either be brought back up for a vote later on or left to "die" waiting to be heard. Other committees vote immediately after the bill is heard either favorably and "kick the bill out" of committee sending it through to the House or Senate floor or vote the bill down "killing" it in committee.

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## April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month

### Resources for Child Abuse Prevention Month

Copies of the *2005 Child Abuse Prevention Community Resource Packet* (2nd Edition) in Spanish and English are being disseminated nationally for Child Abuse Prevention Month. Limited print copies may be ordered online from the Prevention Initiative website (<http://nccanch.acf.hhs.gov/topics/prevention>) or by calling the National Clearinghouse on Child Abuse and Neglect Information at (800) 394-3366. English and Spanish versions also can be downloaded from the website

Source: [http://cbexpress.acf.hhs.gov/articles.cfm?issue\\_id=2004-04&article\\_id=790](http://cbexpress.acf.hhs.gov/articles.cfm?issue_id=2004-04&article_id=790)



## ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT BARBARA NAVARRO



**A special thanks to Barbara Navarro, CWEP Alumnae, for sharing and for her words of wisdom!**

**What is your current position?**

I am a supervisor in the foster care and adoption program with CPS.

**What did you like most about the CWEP program?**

I enjoyed the classroom experience—the opportunity for discussion and exchange of ideas with professors and other students.

**How did CWEP prepare you for your job?**

I had already worked for CPS for a number of years prior to starting the CWEP program. Being involved in CWEP and GSSW helped me develop a more global view of social work and how social work practice is impacted by politics, money, societal expectations, etc.

**Do you have any advice for current CWEP students?**

When pressure, stress, and deadlines began to pile up, it helped me a lot to remember that graduate school is time limited, and things will get better before long.

**What are your plans for the future?**

I plan to continue working in my current position. I will be ready to retire in a few years.

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### The NSDUH Report: Substance Use and Need for Treatment Among Youths Who Have Been in Foster Care

**Highlights:**

About 680,000 youths (2.7%) aged 12 to 17 in the U.S. have ever been in foster care. Based on SAMHSA's National Survey on Drug Use and Health, youths who have *ever* been in foster care had higher rates of any illicit drug use than youths who have *never* been in foster care (33.6% vs. 21.7%). Youths from substance-abusing families frequently have serious emotional and behavioral problems, including a tendency to choose risky behavior, such as alcohol or other drug use. Substance abuse is a factor in at least three quarters of all foster care placements, and recent studies indicate high rates of lifetime substance use and substance use disorders for youths in the foster care system. The National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH) asks youths aged 12 to 17 if they ever stayed in foster care. This report looks at the need for and receipt of substance abuse treatment among youths who have been in foster care. All estimates are annual averages based on combined 2002 and 2003 NSDUH data. Source: <http://oas.samhsa.gov/2k5/FosterCare/FosterCare.htm>

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### Congratulations to all Spring Graduates!



**With a special note to the Corpus Christi Cohort who will be completing the MSW Distance Education program this year!**