



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

CWEP NewsLine

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WELCOME BACK CWEP STUDENTS!

Thirty-One Strong!

We wish a warm welcome to all 31 new and continuing CWEP Students and we hope you have a great semester. Please mark your calendars for the CWEP Symposium on Friday, October 7, from 1-4 PM at the CPS Office/Murworth. **This symposium is mandatory for all CWEP students.** The topic is to be announced.

CWEP PEER NETWORK GROUPS



Peer Network Groups will be announced at the CWEP Student Orientation on August 17, 2005. New students will be paired with returning CWEP students. These informal groups will help new and returning students become acquainted with each other. As well, returning students will be able to informally learn some of the ropes and ask seasoned students questions about their experiences.

Welcome Shetal Vohra-Gupta!



Shetal is a doctoral student at the GSSW and CWEP doctoral associate. She graduated with a B.A in Psychology from University of Texas at Austin in 1998 and received her MSW from University of Michigan at Ann Arbor in 1999. She worked at the Brown Schools Residential Treatment center for children and adolescents, where she gained experience in individual, family, and group therapies. She has also worked in Houston with the Psychiatric Response Team of Memorial Hermann. Now she has a private practice serving South Asian clients.

Need CWEP Information? Check out the CWEP Website!

<http://www.uh.edu/ocp/cwep.htm>

The CWEP website is updated regularly. You will find important information on the site, including the CWEP Advising Guide, CWEP Syllabus Links, a Child Welfare Resource Guide, contact information for staff, and much more!

What's Inside

CWEP Welcome 1
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CWEP Staff Members:

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CWEP FALL 2005 Calendar

Wednesday August 17	New Student Orientation
Monday, August 22	First day of classes
Monday, September 5	Labor Day Holiday
Monday, September 19	Last day to drop a course or withdraw
Friday, October 7	CWEP Symposium 1-4 PM at CPS Murworth



Mark your
Calendars!

Learning Enhancement Opportunity (LEO)

A mentorship project providing help for CWEP students in the area of academic support

Are you stuck on a paper? Do you need help sorting through your ideas? Effective communication is a critical part of a social worker's job, because your written word profoundly affects the lives of your clients. Under the supervision of Dr. Monit Cheung, Shetal Vohra and Mahasin Saleh (CWEP associates & doctoral students) serve as mentors to the CWEP students to help in such diverse areas as computer research skills, APA formatting, paper organization, preparation of presentation materials, etc.

We do not provide editing services, but we can offer suggestions to improve paper structure and organizational style.

If you need academic mentorship, you may contact Shetal or Mahasin at 713-743-8338 or email svohra-gupta@uh.edu

Do you have a few minutes and a Kleenex?

Go to <http://www.childrensdefense.org/multimedia/watcslideshow.aspx> to watch

What about the children? Cradle to Prison Pipeline Slideshow

Photography by Steve Liss; Song by Yolanda Adams

The children in this slideshow face enormous challenges as they attempt to move through childhood to a

Productive and positive adulthood. Steve Liss photographed children predominately in Texas and

Around the nation. (source: Texas Early Childhood Education Coalition)

The Texas Revenue Primer: April 2005

The Center for Public Policy Priorities (CPPP) has released "The Texas Revenue Primer" which outlines where the state gets its money and the available revenue options. In a time when we continually hear about a lack of available funding for critical services for Texans, the report demonstrates how the state spends its money and ways to increase the revenue to build a stronger

Texas for everyone (source: Texas Early Childhood Education Coalition).

STUDY: PARENT-CHILD RELATIONSHIP IS KEY PREDICTOR OF BEHAVIOR

A study of 83 African American adoptive families found that qualities of the parent-child relationship, such as amount of enjoyable time the parents and children spend together and how often the parent thinks of the child when separated, are stronger predictors of child behavior problems than pre-adoption characteristics of the child or parent. "Child Behavioral Outcomes in African American Adoptive Families," by T. Chedgzsey Smith-McKeever, was published in the final 2004 issue of *Adoption Quarterly* (Volume 7, Issue 4). Children's age at adoption, a factor strongly associated with problems in previous research on primarily white or mixed-race samples of adoptive families, was not a predictor of behavior problems in this study. (Source: Evan B. Donaldson Adoption Institute Newsletter [geninfo@adoptioninstitute.org] July 2005)

NEWS Highlights From the Texas 79th Legislature

DFPS Funding Highlights from the 79th Legislative Session

The 79th Legislature appropriated \$2.1 billion to DFPS for the 2006-2007 biennium. This allocation represents a 21.6% funding increase over the previous biennium. Of this amount, \$770.5 million comes from the state's General Revenue and General Revenue Dedicated funds—a significant increase from \$549 million for the 2004-2005 bienniums. This appropriation includes 8,443 FTEs in fiscal year 2006 and 9,532 in 2007. The increase represents a 24% in the first year of the biennium and a 36% increase in the second year over the last biennium FTE caps.

Two significant bills affect the DFPS budget, Senate Bill 1, the General Appropriations Act, and House Bill 10, the supplemental appropriations bill. While Senate Bill 1 appropriates the majority of funds for DFPS and outlines how all DFPS funds will be spent, House Bill 10 appropriates \$200 million from the Economic Stabilization Fund, also known as the Rainy Day Fund, for CPS Reform. In addition, House Bill 10 provides \$10.2 million to cover expenses already incurred or encumbered by the agency for CPS Reform efforts.

Source: DFPS

The Mental Health Association of Greater Houston's 79th Legislature Mental Health Wrap-Up included the following five legislative priorities:

- 1) Restore the 5% reduction in general revenue funding for the State Department of Health Services mental health services.
- 2) Restore the benefits and eligibility criteria of the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) to 2002 levels.
- 3) Increased funding for the four pilots in the Texas Integrated Funding Initiative.
- 4) Support improvements to the criminal code to make the Not Guilty by Reason of Insanity defense more effective for people with mental illness.
- 5) Support improvements to the 1997 Mental Health Parity Act that would offer comprehensive mental health parity to the six million Texans with health plans regulated by the Texas Department of Insurance.

Source: Texas Mental Health Association of Greater Houston

Welcome Back Students!

Best wishes for a great semester!

Bienvenido