

Child Welfare Education Project

CWEP NewsLine

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

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Director's Corner



Many people ask, why pursue an advanced degree in Social Work? The response should be "why not?" This is a career for those who truly enjoy helping as well as caring for others. It is a career where you can assist one single family with a multitude of problems, including financial, substance abuse, domestic violence, child abuse, employment, housing, mental illnesses, counseling, etc. You may serve as a liaison, advocate, mentor and role model for your clients. Your classroom and on-the-job training has assisted you in becoming a well- rounded social worker. You are expected

to not only handle major responsibilities but to also maintain good working relationships while working independently.

A Master's degree in Social Work can prepare you to work with your clients from a clinical point of view. Your degree will not only assist you in enhancing your skills and knowledge, it can make you a more credible witness and employee. Your education and skills will be in high demand within the DFPS agency. You could very well advance to an administrative level position where you might be responsible for not only managing large departments, but also developing policies and procedures. You will also receive a high level of respect from other professionals, including doctors, lawyers, educators, therapists, and law enforcement, just to name a few. The MSW program will assist you in enhancing your skills in assessment, interviewing, organization, communication, as well as case management. You are well equipped to work with the diverse CPS client population. Your clinical skills will assist you in assuring the safety, well-being and permanency of all children.

It is your responsibility to:

- o Ensure that children and families are receiving appropriate services
- o Make sure that children in the foster care system all have an attainable permanency goal
- o Locate adoptive and/or permanent homes for children who cannot safely return home
- o Address the psychological and social functioning of children and families in order for them to improve their circumstances

As you continue to assist children and families in their greatest times of need, you will need to remember why you chose social work as a career in the first place. Perhaps it was because you wanted to help hurting families and children. Maybe it was because you simply wanted to give back to the community. Whatever the reason, you will need to remember that each situation is unique and should be treated as such.

Annetia Walker

CWEP Director

Advisor Tip

**Always double check your
PeopleSoft account for holds,
so registration
will go smoothly.**



Brunessia Wilson

CWEP Student Affairs Coordinator

DFPS Spotlight: Shondra Rogers



1. What is your current position with CWEP or CPS? How long have you been working in this position? What prior experience(s) did you bring with you to this position?

I bring over 13 years of experience to my current role. My career with CPS began as a UHGSSW intern with the CWEP program. I later became employed with the agency fulltime and held such positions as conservatorship caseworker, adoption preparation worker, Family Group Conferencing and Team Meeting Facilitator, Foster Adoption P.R.I.D.E. trainer, on the job training supervisor and conservatorship supervisor.

Although I am no longer employed by CPS, my current position remains with the State of Texas and is affiliated with CPS due to the work our commitment to work with multiple systems.

I started this position under Health and Human Service Commission on January 1, 2012, following the legislative session in 2011 to expand our work. My current title is a Disproportionality and Disparities Specialist with the Texas Health and Human Services Center for Elimination of Disproportionality and Disparities. As a disproportionality and Disparities Specialist, my role includes partnering with systems, community and community stakeholders to identify and eliminate disproportionality and disparities in systems serving children, youth, families and vulnerable citizens across Texas.

Prior to assuming this role I was a disproportionality Specialist at CPS. This is where the work began in addressing disproportionality and disparities. However, after the 2012 legislative session and data/research showing a great need to expand and examine disproportionality in other systems

(education, health, mental health and juvenile justice, and child welfare), my position was moved from CPS to the Health and Human Services. As a result of this expansion, the work of addressing disproportionality and disparities in all of the systems under the Health and Human Services Commission as well as Child Welfare, Education, Juvenile Justice, Health and Mental Health.

Prior to CPS, I worked with Families under Urban and Social Attack (now known as Change Happens), which included working a lot with the community and youth in their summer and after school program. I facilitated classes on alcohol and other drugs prevention.

I also coordinated guest speaks such as inviting CPS to speak with the parents about child abuse and neglect.

DFPS Spotlight Continued: Shondra Rogers

2. What have been the greatest rewards working in the CWEP or CPS Family?

One of the greatest rewards in participating in the CWEP was having my tuition paid. On a serious note, the CWEP program opened the door to several opportunities. One of the things that CWEP program provided me with was knowledge and skills to work with family and children. While in graduate school, I chose the children and families concentration so I took classes like domestic violence, child abuse and neglect, family therapy. Each really prepared me to work more effectively with the families involved with CPS. I have to honestly say I completed the CWEP program equipped and prepared to engage with the multirole in working with children and families different socioeconomic statuses, cultures, and family dynamics. The only piece I felt was missing from my educational experience was learning about racial bias, institutionalized racism and the impact it has on vulnerable populations. I am so glad to see this is now a priority in the GCSW program, as it is truly valuable to each student's educational experience.

I think the greatest reward in working with CPS as a Disproportionality and Disparity Specialist was seeing families reunited and multiple systems working together to ensure our families are provided with fair and equitable services. Due to the new cultural competency training provided to CPS staff, I learned not to blame the individual, but to examine the systems and the systems response that our families interact with on a daily basis. For me, just doing that form of internal analysis and seeing how the families responded has already provided me with great insight. It not only helped my clients but also enriched my understanding and capabilities.

3. What advice do you have for CWEP students?

I would encourage them to take advantage of every opportunity to work with the community. Often times, there is a great focus on individual work or contact (which is also important) but we usually come at this approach with the thought of "I'm going to fix this individual or blaming the individual". We must realize what the individuals we serve on a daily basis have encountered and are impacted by multiple systems, which brought these individuals to you in the first place. It is more so important to examine those systems and recognize how their policies, practices and beliefs contributed to that individual sitting in front of you at that moment. It is also important to take the opportunity to engage with the community. When you work with the community, you get a different perspective--a different set of lenses different from your own. Also, becoming more culturally competent is very crucial. The more you are aware of and apply what you have learned when working with them; we are better equipped to serve our clients.



CPS Staff Spotlight:

Glenda Martin



1. What is your current position with CWEP or CPS? How long have you been working in this position? What prior experience(s) did you bring with you to this position?

I am currently the Program Director for Foster/Adoptive Home Development, also known as FAD. I have been in this position for three and a half years. My career with CPS began in the State of Louisiana where I was hired as an investigative worker with the prestigious Lafayette Child Protection Center where we investigated physical abuse. After 8 years, I moved to Houston and was hired by the State of Texas in 1987 as an investigative caseworker. I have held several positions including case analyst, trainer, Permanency Planning Supervisor, Program Specialist, and one of the state's first Disproportionality Specialists. In my current position, I provide oversight of approximately 70 staff. We do all the recruitment, training, licensing, and monitoring for all foster and adoptive homes in the 13 counties that make up Region 6. My CPS career spans 33 years that have been most rewarding.

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

One of the greatest rewards is hearing the testimonies of older youth that have aged out of foster care. They frequently praise CPS staff that have gone above and beyond the call of duty to help them navigate their way through our most complex system. I am also inspired by foster or adoptive parents that have successfully adopted our children and provided them with "forever families". Every once in a while, I'll get a call from someone I may have trained or licensed as a foster/adoptive parent, telling me how well the children have done. This provides motivation and encouragement for me to continue doing the job that I do.

3. What advice do you have for our CWEP students?

The best advice I can give is to "take care of yourself". The social work profession by nature is a helping and giving profession. CWEP students especially juggle the responsibilities of school, work and family. All too often, we forget to be kind, and nurturing to ourselves. I find it important to do so, because when we take care of ourselves, we can give the best of ourselves to others. Secondly, always aspire to treat each individual with the dignity and respect that they are inherently deserving of.

Congratulations to the Classes of

2

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1

3

May Graduates:

Roicía Banks (FT)

Dalen DiLieto (PT)

Jamelle Gibbs (PT)

Crystal Reid (PT)

Amber Riaz (FT)

Christina Veillon (FT/NE)

Summer Graduate:

Richard Holst (PT)

PT: Part-Time

FT: Full-Time

NE: Non-Employee



◇ March 8, 2013 ◇ Teotihuacan Mexican Cafe



Crystal is a native New Yorker, who moved to Houston in 1994. She has a passion for traveling; doing mission work and helping others help themselves. She is a clinical track student in the weekend college within the GCSW Program. Crystal has served as the CWEP student representative on the CWEP Evaluation Committee. For the last 3 years, she has been a Supervisor in the Adoption Preparation Program with Child Protection Services (CPS). Her career started with CPS in 2003 as a Family Based Safety Services Case Worker (FBSS) in the Sexual Abuse Program. She is a member of Phi Alpha Honor Society, Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society and NASW. Crystal believes CWEP has afforded her the opportunity to apply what she has learned, in order to be more effective in interactions, and assessments in her day to day work in the Child Welfare System. Crystal thanks: Dr. Doris Thomas-Buckler for her encouragement to pursue her MSW through CWEP; and Unit F4, Wyndi McPeters-Grant and the McPeters-Grant program supervisors for their support, and encouragement these past 3 years.



Richard Holst decided after 11 years with CPS to finally become a part of the CWEP program and pursue his Master's Degree. He is a member of the Phi Alpha honors society. He plans on continuing his career with CPS until retirement. He then hopes to utilize his Master's Degree and go to the private sector to work for an adoption agency. Richard enjoys spending time riding his motorcycle, soaking in a hot tub, or just hanging out with his Wife and two children.



Dalen started with the GCSW and CWEP in the Fall of 2010. She is currently employed with Children's Protective Services as an Adoption Prep Supervisor. She has been with CPS for 21 years. She plans to remain with CPS for the time being yet plans to explore new opportunities after retirement. Dalen currently holds the office of Secretary for the CWEP Student and Alumni Organization. Dalen helped create the CWEP Mentor Program and serves as a mentor for two CWEP students. She is also a member of the Phi Alpha Honor Society.

IT'S A GREAT DAY
TO BE ALIVE

DREAM

YOU DID IT!!

appreciate
the
past
make the most
of the
future
live for the
present

Roicia Banks is Child Welfare Education Project Recipient and is currently employed with Child Protective Services Conservatorship Program. Ms. Banks is an Arizona born native and an Arizona State Alumni receiving her Bachelor of Arts in African and African American Studies and a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science in May 2011. She moved to Houston in the summer of 2011 to begin her studies at the Graduate College of Social Work. Ms. Banks plans to continue working for Child Protective Services and in the future hopes to pursue a Phd in Sociomedical Sciences and do research abroad.



Amber Tariq Riaz became part of the CWEP as a non-CPS employee. She joined the CPS in January as an Adoption Prep Specialist. Before she joined the MSW program at GCSW, she was working for a South Asian Domestic Violence organization. She continues to volunteer for Domestic Violence shelters. Before joining CPS, she was a family educator for ESCAPE Family Resource Center and a financial education facilitator for high school girls in HISD schools through the Women's Resource of Greater Houston. At GCSW, Amber is pursuing clinical track. She is currently the Vice President of Communications and Outreach for CWEP student and Alumni Organization. She is also the NASW representative for the GCSW Student Association. Amber moved to Houston from Chicago about five years ago. In Chicago, she was primarily working for the immigrant community, specifically South Asian, Arab, Latino, South East Asian communities. Amber also has a Master's degree in Linguistics from Chicago. Amber's long-term career plans include working for the South Asian community as a social worker. Amber and her husband are expecting their first child in May. In her free time, Amber likes to bake and spend time with her family and friends.



We do not remember days we remember moments.

Christina Veillon accepted and completed her studies as a recipient of the CWEP scholarship through funding for non-CPS employees. Upon graduation, she will complete her training with CPS in June and begin employment with a conservatorship unit shortly after. Prior to entering the University of Houston Graduate College of Social Work MSW program, Christina served as a language arts school teacher in middle school and high school settings and is especially proud of her work with a creative writing club for at-risk youth. Christina currently serves as president of the CWEP Student and Alumni Organization, co-president of the GCSW Student Association, chair of the GCSW SWIFT Christian Student Organization, and member of NASW and NACSW. She received a Bachelor of Arts in English in 2002 from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette and a Bachelor of Arts in sociology from the University of Houston in 2011. Christina currently lives in Baytown with her two children, Cody Blake and Abrial, and spends most of her free time enjoying life with them, reading, and writing.



LIFE IS TOO SHORT
& UNPREDICTABLE
NOT TO LIVE IT
EXACTLY AS YOU
PLEASE.

nobody
said
it was
easy

Congratulations to the
following graduating students
newly admitted to
Phi Alpha Honor Society
in Spring of 2013:

Dalen DiLieto Richard Holst
Crystal Reid Amber Riaz
Christina Veillon

The University of Houston's (UH) Child Welfare Education Project (CWEP) website is now the house for the National Title IV-E Website!

As a result, UH's CWEP NewsLine will officially expand & adopt the web name of

National Title IV-E NewsLine

in response to this recent change



The purpose for this change focuses on the idea of connecting with other participating Title IV-E programs in the U.S. to:

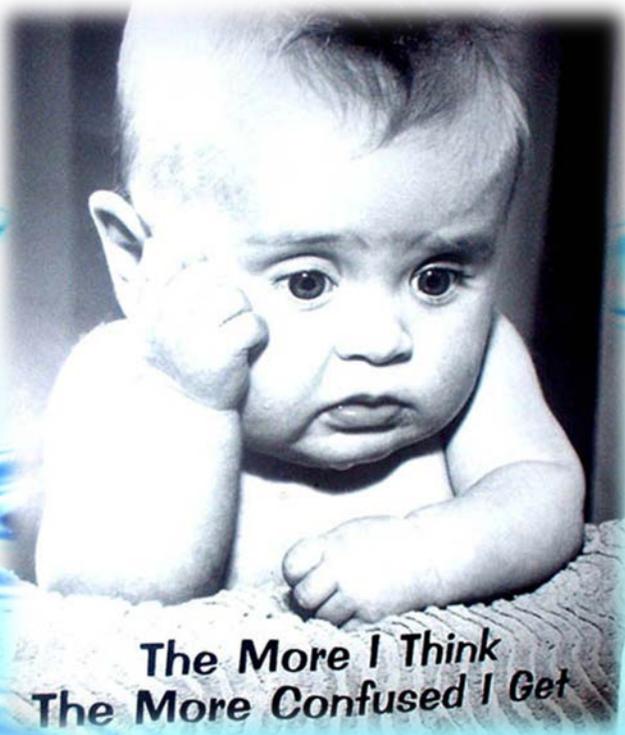
1. Jointly promote greater public awareness of child welfare
2. Create a channel to announce news related to child welfare and policies on city, state and national levels
3. Provide a larger pool of training opportunities for faculty, staff, practitioners and students, and
4. Establish a national networking system for Title IV-E faculty, staff, IV-E partners, practitioners, students and alumni

We invite you to write about your Title IV-E successes, child welfare stories, curriculum designs, and IV-E partnership experiences to share and inspire other readers of this newsletter!
Please submit your writing(s) to
Dr. Monit Cheung at
mcheung@central.UH.EDU

**BE ON THE LOOKOUT
FOR THE 1st ISSUE IN
FALL of 2013**



CWEP Students: Are Your Elective Courses on the CWEP Recommended List?



**The More I Think
The More Confused I Get**

**✧ Link to the CWEP Student
Advising Guide ✧**

Here are the classes offered in 2013 from the "CWEP Recommended List":

SUMMER II 2013

**7397/18985 Trauma Treatment
for Children & Adolescence**

SUMMER I 2013

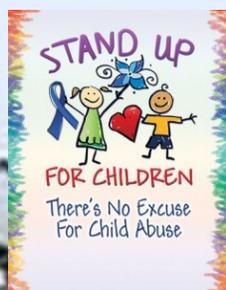
**7377/16562 Drugs in Society
7316/17701 Clinical Practices with
Latinos**

FALL 2013

**7365/17205 Crisis Intervention
7356/17204 Group Therapy in Mental Health
7377/23220 Drugs in Society**

**You probably already signed up for
classes, but it wouldn't hurt to double
check!**

April is NATIONAL CHILD PREVENTION MONTH

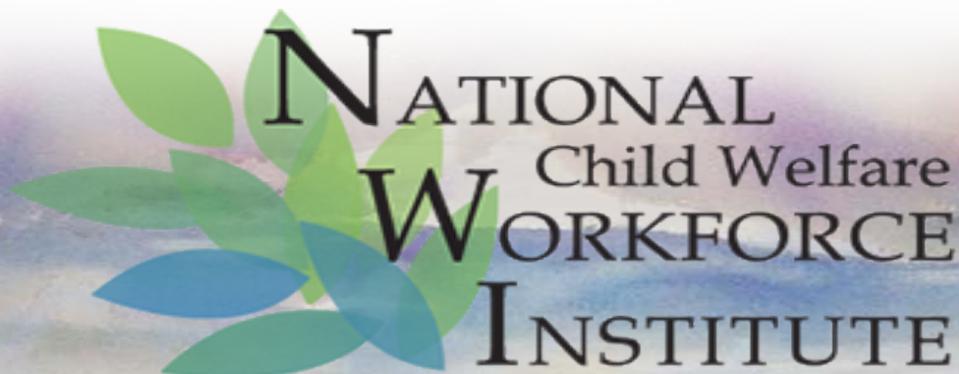


Learn about how you can help raise awareness during April and throughout the year by visiting the **2013 National Child Abuse Prevention Month** web section on the Information Gateway website. Features include:

- [Preventing Child Maltreatment and Promoting Child Well-Being: Network to Action 2013 Resource Guide](#)
- Tip sheets addressing particular parenting concerns or questions—in English and Spanish—to distribute to parents and caregivers
- Three calendars with activities relating to the six protective factors, available in English and Spanish
- Video gallery
- Media toolkit
- Widgets to post on your website



For more information on Prevention Month, contact Child Welfare Information Gateway at 1.800.394.3366 or info@childwelfare.gov.



Learning, Leading, Changing

WHO:

National Child Welfare Workforce Institute Present:

Joyce James, LCSW-AP, Associate Deputy Executive Commissioner, Center for Elimination of Disproportionality & Disparities (the Center) at the Texas HHSC

Tanya Rollins, MSW, CPS State Disproportionality Manager, TX Department of Family & Protective Services

(click [here](#) to learn more about the speakers)

WHAT:

National Webinar Series

*What Works for the Workforce: Leadership Competencies in Action –
the NCWWI's National Webinar Series on Leading Change to Strengthen the Child Welfare Workforce*

Session 8:

*Developing a Culturally Responsive Workforce: The Texas Model for Undoing
Disparity & Disproportionality in Child Welfare*

WHEN: May 8, 2013 @ 3-5:00 PM EDT

WHERE: Online event; Web link and connection instructions provided at registration.

LINK to register online

This session will highlight a collection of strategies for building a culturally responsive workforce based upon the Texas Model for Addressing Disproportionality & Disparities, a framework that encompasses

- (1) data-driven strategies; (2) leadership development; (3) culturally competent workforce development; (4) community engagement; (5) cross-systems collaboration; (6) comprehensive training systems defined by anti-racist principles; and (7) a systems-wide understanding of the history of institutional racism and its impact.*

For questions or concerns, please directly contact:

Sara Munson

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