



SACRAMENTO STATE
Title IV-E Child Welfare Stipend Program

Newsletter (Spring 2009)



The Project Coordinator Speaks:

By Tracy Kent, MSW

Reflecting on my first year as Project Coordinator I find myself thinking about the Title IV-E MSW graduates who are getting ready to join the child welfare profession at a very challenging time. There are many changes occurring in child welfare agencies, including the current strategies that are being implemented to improve child welfare outcomes. In the midst of these changes, there continues to be a lot of public attention focused on some of the less positive outcomes that have occurred over the last year in CPS. Although this is a very important profession with intrinsic value attached to everything that child welfare workers do, there is limited recognition of these values and even less recognition of the work done around strengthening families. The rewards come with successes in insuring the safety, well-being and permanency for the children that we work with, which I would like to recognize here and now.

In our Title IV-E MSW curriculum, we strive to promote the knowledge, skills and attitude that will be necessary for our students to be successful in the field of Public Child Welfare. At the same time, it is important that we continuously evaluate our program in order to effectively educate students and keep in line with the goals and outcomes outlined by County and State Child Welfare Improvement Plans. It is with this reasoning that I ask for feedback from students post graduation to improve our Title IV-E MSW program here at CSUS.

I would also like to Congratulate all of our Title IV-E MSW graduates!! You have all demonstrated a great degree of success in achieving your Master's Degree in Social Work. You have chosen a profession that requires a strong commitment to children and families as well as demands hard work and continued dedication to professionalism. As the Title IV-E Project Coordinator, it is my hope that we have prepared all of our students to have sound knowledge, competence and confidence as they embark in their professional careers in child welfare. I am very proud of each and every one of you who will successfully complete the program. I wish you well in your career in social work.

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<http://www.hhs.csus.edu/homepages/sw/title-ive/>

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IV-E Day

2009 Title IV-E Student Day
April 17, 2009

We are pleased to announce that the 2009 Title IV-E Student Day will be held at the Joseph Wood Krutch Theatre on the UC, Berkeley Clark Kerr Campus, on Friday, April 17, 2009.

Student Day is an annual working conference that brings together Title IV-E MSW and BASW students, alumni, scholars, and practitioners to network and to attend workshops and presentations dealing with best practices in child welfare. The theme of the 2009 Title IV-E Student Day is: ***Ties that Bind: Integrative Approaches to Child Welfare***. The Student Day Coordinator is Susan Alfaro of San Francisco State.

This year's keynote speaker will be *Judge Katherine Lucero*, Supervising Judge of the Dependency Court of Santa Clara County. The conference will also feature a presentation of California's Child Welfare Program Improvement Plan by *Linne Stout*, Department of Social Services Bureau Chief, as well as workshops on such topics as family finding, concurrent planning and independent living programs for foster youth. Registration for the conference is restricted to current Title IV-E students, associated faculty, and program alumni. For general questions about the event, please contact: Elizabeth Gilman 510.642.9273 or egilman@berkeley.edu.

Recognition

The staff and faculty of the Title IV-E Program, Division Social Work would like to congratulate **Ana Nguyen** for being one of the Sutter Health Scholarship recipients.

We are proud that she represented herself and the Division of Social Work well, by being awarded one of the scholarships from Sutter Health.

Congratulations, and keep up the good work!

IV-E Graduates-Where are they now?

Sandra Ralph, MSW Sacramento County/Permanency Services (written by Sandra Ralph)

Prior to entering the full-time Title IV-E MSW Program at CSUS, I had been working at CPS in "Long Term Placement" for 1 ½ years. When I graduated in 2003, I knew that I wanted to return to "My" program and I was fortunate in that there was one open Master's

Position, and it was with my former supervisor, yea.



Five and one-half years later, more than twice my “commitment,” I am still in “My” program now called “Permanency Services.”

I work in the “Generic” unit with Dependent children in foster care homes waiting for permanency, reunification, or emancipation. The case loads are high, always higher than the State caseload studies recommend; and usually higher than the County “average” case load. In spite of increasing Federal, State, County, and Program expectations and mandates, we do the best we can with the resources we have. Staff retention & turnover is a constant battle causing high case loads to climb even higher. We often work long, tiring days (including weekends and days off) and feel discouraged that we can never “keep up” or do everything we know we need to do for our kids. Still, given all this we try our best day after day.

Why am I still here beyond my “commitment”? The kids, their families and my friends/co-workers. Don’t think I don’t “threaten” to quit and walk out, because I do, almost every day, just ask Alex, our night security as I leave the building, “I quit. I’m leaving and I’m not coming back...at least not until tomorrow.” It’s a tough job. Don’t let anyone tell you it’s not. The media beats us up daily and many citizens think we’re incompetent. But we know it’s not true and so do our clients who appreciate what we do for them. Most of us are dedicated, diligent social workers who are true advocates for our children and their families that we serve and with whom we work. That’s all that really matters. We know are making a difference, case by case. It takes a “special” social worker to be a CPS social worker and I am proud to be one.



Tutoring Available

Regarding tutoring, we have had some changes this semester. Faith Fogel received a promotion with another job and can no longer Tutor. We have hired two new tutors. The tutoring hours are as follows:

Mondays	12:30 to 7:30	Ilana Johnson
Tuesdays	9 to 6	Shawn Hansen
Wednesdays	9 to 5	Alana Gibbs
Thursdays	9 to 6	Shawn Hansen
Fridays	9 to 4	Ilana Johnson

Ilana Johnson is currently teaching at Napa Junior College, taught at Sacramento City College, and has a Masters Degree. She is getting her doctorate in Cultural Anthropology. She was a teacher’s aid and assisted in grading a multitude of papers each semester. She has also travelled to Peru where she became proficient her Spanish speaking and writing skills.

Alana Gibbs has a Bachelor’s degree in Engineering. She ran a volunteer literacy program where she assisted clients in their writing and reading skills. As an engineer she worked with many public agencies where she wrote public papers and participated in public meetings.

They will start during the week of February 2nd. Both tutors will be wonderful additions to our tutoring staff. Please welcome them.

Keeping Kids Safe



Child Protective Services

Thanks, Mary Hill-Hughes

Also,

College of Health & Human Services Writing Center – Spring 2009

Need help with writing skills?

Visit the CHHS Writing Center in Solano Hall

Room 5011 during the hours of:

Monday:	1:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.	Trina Drotar, Tutor
Wednesday:	1:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.	Trina Drotar, Tutor
Wednesday:	9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.	Mandy Kyes, Tutor

Contact the Writing Center at 916-278-5417 or e-mail

Mandy Kyes or Trina Drotar (hhsWC@csus.edu) to make an appointment.

Important Dates

April

17 Title IV-E Student Day, "Ties that Bind: Integrative Approaches to Child Welfare," Clark Kerr Campus, UC Berkeley. Contact: Elizabeth Gilman

21-22 Training for Trainers: From Data... to Outcomes, Contra Costa County Child and Family Services, Hercules. Contact: Sevaughn Banks

29-30 Seventh Annual Symposium on Fairness and Equity Issues in Child Welfare Training and Education, Clark Kerr Conference Center, UC Berkeley. Contact: Phyllis Jeroslow

May

7-8 CalSWEC Board and Committee meetings, Los Angeles, facility to be determined. Contact: Chris Mathias

14 CC25I (California Connected by 25 Initiative) ETO Convening, Doubletree Hotel Sacramento. Contact: Carin Harkness

21-22 12th Annual National Human Services Training Evaluation Symposium, Faculty Club, UC Berkeley. Contact: Leslie Zeitler

June

1-2 2009 Northern California Mental Health & Spirituality Conference

8 Statewide Training and Education Committee meeting, Sacramento, facility to be determined. Contact: Melissa Connelly

For more information please visit:

<http://elearning.networkofcare.org/calswec/>

