

# Title IV-E Child Welfare Partnership

A Newsletter from the School of Social Work

December 2022

Editor: Rendi Nutt

## A Message from the Title IV-E Child Welfare Partnership Team

Dear Title IV-E CWP alumni, students, and friends,

Greetings from the Title IV-E Child Welfare Partnership Team! We hope this newsletter finds you in good health. As we approach the close of another year, we are thankful to be able to continue to provide social work education, training, and stipends for current and prospective child welfare employees in Texas.

This year, in addition to continuing to work with DFPS, we have had the pleasure of partnering with several Single Source Continuum Contractors (SSCCs) in different regions of Texas as a part of the Community Based Care (CBC) Initiative. We now have employees in the Title IV-E CWP program working at 2INgage in Region 2 and St. Francis Ministries in Region 1, and are hoping to welcome an employee from Belong/SJRC Texas in Region 8B in the future. We look forward to the opportunity to further develop these relationships with 2INgage, St. Francis Ministries, and Belong/SJRC Texas, in addition to working with other SSCC's as different regions transition to Community Based Care in the future.

We hope you have a relaxing and safe holiday break. Take care!

-The CWP Team

## Ethics Trainings

The Title IV-E CWP program will be offering free online Ethics trainings to DFPS or SSCC employees on the following days/times:

### **Title IV-E Ethics: Trauma Informed Ethical Case Management:**

Thursday 1/26/23, 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Friday 2/3/23, 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

### **Title IV-E Ethics: Building Resilience & Promoting Self Care:**

Thursday 2/9/23, 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Friday 2/17/23, 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

All trainings are free and will be offered online via Zoom. If you are interested in registering for a training, please send your name, email address, and the training you want to attend to:

[CWPartnership@txstate.edu](mailto:CWPartnership@txstate.edu)

## Welcome, Rendi!

Rendi Nutt is Title IV-E's newest student worker for the 2022-2023 school year. Rendi is in her first semester of the MSW program after fifteen years of working as an elementary Montessori teacher. She is interested in trauma-informed, somatic based therapy and intervention for children and families. When she is not in school, you can find her camping at local state parks with her family, taking dance classes, or grabbing a coffee and catching up with a friend.



The mission of the Title IV-E Child Welfare Partnership is to enhance the values, knowledge, and skills of the child welfare workforce in Texas through social work education, financial assistance, ongoing training, and career support.

[Title IV-E Child Welfare Partnership Program Website](#)

# Title IV-E CWP Highlights

## Welcome to the Program!

The CWP Team would like to welcome the five employees who started the MSW program and the Title IV-E Child Welfare Partnership program in Fall 2022: Ricky Holtzlander (2INGage – Region 2), Ammie Martinez (CPS – Region 8), Marla Mericle (CPS – Region 7, not pictured), Kristen Virosteck (CPS – Region 8), and Shakirra Williams (CPS – Region 7, not pictured).



"The Title IV-E Child Welfare Partnership has awarded me the opportunity to be a Bobcat again! I am grateful for the opportunity to pursue my Master's Degree in Social Work and look forward to all of the experiences that come with it."

**-Kristen Virosteck**



"I feel quite honored to be a participant of the Title IV-E Child Welfare Partnership program. My journey is coming full circle. I truly believe that this program will not only allow me to expand and grow as a case manager but ultimately serve the children and families that I work with."

**-Ricky Holtzlander**



"I am so excited to be on this journey in getting my Masters Degree at Texas State. The Title IV-E Child Welfare Partnership is giving me the opportunity to get a degree in Social Work that I will use to better serve the community of Bexar County."

**-Ammie Martinez**

## Celebrating Our Graduates

Diana Sanchez, a Conservatorship Supervisor at CPS in Odessa, Texas, participated in the online MSW program while continuing to work in her full-time position at CPS. She graduated on August 6, 2022, and had the following to say about the Title IV-E Child Welfare Partnership program: *"This has been a one of a kind experience. It was a great journey and I am beyond excited about this achievement. The program has helped me in becoming a more competent and confident worker!"* Congratulations, Diana!

The CWP program is also celebrating four Pre-Service students (not pictured) who completed their full-time internship at CPS this fall. These students will be graduating in December 2022 and hired as Conservatorship caseworkers at CPS after graduation: Nina Burkett, Howard King, Josefina Rozelle, and Rebekah Van Over. Best of luck to each of you as you start your Social Work career at CPS in 2023!



Diana Sanchez

In addition to celebrating our recent graduates, two of our Title IV-E Child Welfare Partnership alumni recently received promotions at DFPS: **Marlena Roberts** was promoted to Conservatorship Program Director in Region 7, and **Asenath Sandy McCabe** is now a Conservatorship Program Director in Region 8. Congratulations to our Title IV-E CWP Alumni!



# Faculty Featured Study

## Overview

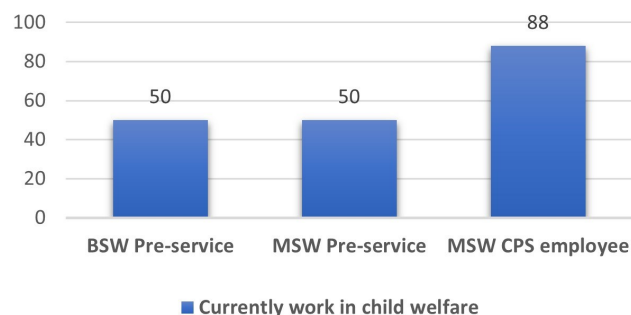
We surveyed former participants of the Title IV-E Partnership program at Texas State University to evaluate their experiences and satisfaction with the program and assess training needs. This survey was conducted from April 2022 to June 2022 and was distributed to 130 program participants via email. Fifty-one program participants responded to the study.

17 % of respondents (n = 8) participated in the program with the BSW degree plan, and 88% with the MSW degree plan (n = 45, responses are not mutually exclusive). All BSW participants were part of the pre-service program. 55.6% of MSW recipients were part of the CPS employee program, with the remaining recipients part of the pre-service program (42.6%).

## Child Welfare Worker Retention

68.6% of respondents (n = 35) reported that they are currently working in child welfare. The majority of MSW employee recipients (88%) and half of the BSW and MSW pre-service recipients currently work in child welfare.

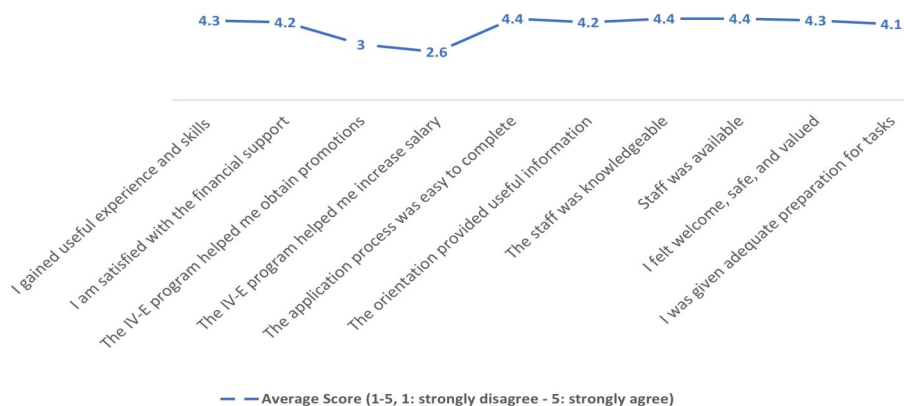
### Child Welfare Worker Retention



## Experiences with the IV-E Partnership Program and Training needs

Although participants disagreed that the program helped increase salary, they agreed or strongly agreed with most of the indicators of achieving the program's expected outcomes. Respondents highly reported training needs for trauma, mental health issues, child social and emotional well-being, and the effects of separation, grief, and loss.

### Experiences With The Title IV-E Program



If you would like to share your experiences with the Child Welfare Partnership program or training needs, please contact us at [cwpartnership@txstate.edu](mailto:cwpartnership@txstate.edu).

## About the Author

Mi Jin Choi is an Assistant Professor in the School of Social Work at Texas State University. Her research areas include child maltreatment, child developmental outcomes, disparities in the child welfare service provision, and child welfare workforce development (child welfare training and trauma-informed self-care).



# Strategies for Change:

## Evidence-Based Practices for Mental Health and Substance Use

The Title IV-E Prevention Services Clearinghouse selected two evidence-based practice models (EBPs) that are well-supported for strengthening family functioning and preventing teen substance abuse, respectively:

### Families First (Utah Youth Village Model)

**Aim:** Families First (Utah Youth Village Model) aims to build on family strengths and improve family functioning. This program serves families with youth birth to age 17 who have been referred for intensive in-home services from child welfare services, juvenile justice, or court systems.

**Dosage and Delivery:** Families First (Utah Youth Village Model) is delivered by Families First specialists who spend approximately 48–52 face-to-face service hours with families, typically delivered over the course of 8–12 weeks for 6–10 hours per week in participants' homes.

**Education, Certifications, and Training:** Families First specialists are required to have a bachelor's degree in social work, psychology, or a related field. Specialists must complete at least 130 hours of training, including at least 50 in-class hours, at least 80 hours of job shadowing, and additional required reading.

**Program and Service Documentation:** Utah Youth Village. (2021). Families First program manual.

*Families First (Utah Youth Village Model):* <https://preventionservices.acf.hhs.gov/programs/392/show>

### Guiding Good Choices

**Aim:** Guiding Good Choices [GGC] aims to prevent teen substance use and risk behaviors by training parents to develop positive parenting and family management skills. GGC serves families with children ages 9–14.

**Dosage and Delivery:** Workshop leaders deliver GGC over five weekly in-person or virtual group sessions with an additional introductory session. Each session lasts 2–2.5 hours. In-person sessions can be delivered in schools.

**Education, Certifications, and Training:** GGC workshops are designed to be led by two trained co-leaders. At least one co-leader should be a parent. To become a GGC workshop leader, individuals must complete training of 18–19 hours over 3–5 days.

**Program and Service Documentation:** Center for Communities That Care. (2020). Guiding Good Choices virtual workshop leader guide. University of Washington.

*Guiding Good Choices:* <https://preventionservices.acf.hhs.gov/programs/419/show>

## Title IV-E CWP Staff:

**Dr. Mi Jin Choi**  
Principal Investigator  
[m\\_c951@txstate.edu](mailto:m_c951@txstate.edu)

**Martha Wildberger**  
Grant Director  
[mw38@txstate.edu](mailto:mw38@txstate.edu)

**Michele Bauman**  
Grant Coordinator  
[mb19@txstate.edu](mailto:mb19@txstate.edu)

**General Contact:**  
Title IV-E CWP Staff  
School of Social Work  
Texas State University  
Encino Hall, Room 123B  
601 University Drive  
San Marcos, TX 78666  
[cwpartnership@txstate.edu](mailto:cwpartnership@txstate.edu)