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 we 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

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
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).

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!

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 your start your Social Work career at CPS in 2023!
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.

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.

If you would like to share your experiences with the Child Welfare Partnership program or training needs, please contact us at 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).
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.


### 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.


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