

# Title IV-E Child Welfare Partnership

A Newsletter from the School of Social Work

December 2025

Editor: Sienna Harrold

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

Happy holidays 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.

As the state of Texas moves forward with Community Based Care, we are continuing to strengthen our partnerships with the Single Source Continuum Contracts (SSCCs) in different regions in Texas. Over the last couple of years, we have provided Title IV-E funding to employees in several SSCCs (SJRC/Belong, St. Francis Ministries, and 2INGage) who are interested in obtaining their MSW degree while still working full-time at the agency.

Additionally, we are working closely with SJRC/Belong to develop procedures and protocols related to providing Title IV-E funding to current BSW or MSW students at Texas State University who are interested in working at SJRC/Belong in Region 8 after graduation. We are excited to see the Title IV-E Child Welfare Partnership program continue to thrive as regions transition to Community Based Care, and look forward to continuing to build these partnerships.

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

– The CWP Team

**“There can be no keener  
revelation of a society’s soul  
than the way in which it treats  
its children.”  
– Nelson Mandela**

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

We are excited to celebrate five social work students who completed their final internships this fall and will be hired to work for Child Protective Services after graduation:



**Mac Berryhill (BSW – San Antonio)**

Hailey Hendrix (BSW – San Marcos)

ChiChi Nwagbaraji (BSW – South Austin)

Alex Ocasio (BSW – South Austin)

**Bailey Schmidt (MSW – South Austin)**



*"The program breaks the barrier to the general population's view of how social workers operate in the child welfare system allowing you to see the heartbreak, hope, and effort that goes into ensuring the well-being of children while giving every family the opportunity to thrive."*

**– Mac Berryhill**

*"The Title IV-E CWP was everything I could ask for and more! I learned so much about working with children and families, and I was surrounded by colleagues who supported me every step of the way. I would absolutely recommend this program to anyone interested in working in child welfare!"*

**– Bailey Schmidt**

## Welcoming New Title IV-E Participants

This fall, the Title IV-E Child Welfare Partnership program welcomed five new employee participants:

**Gizel Armenta** (Conservatorship Specialist, San Antonio), **Cambrielle Gorham** (Adoption Preparation Specialist, San Antonio), **Kalyn Marbach** (Conservatorship Specialist, San Marcos), **Tiffanie Muske** (Clinical Coordinator, Region 7), and **Erica Wonch** (Conservatorship Specialist, Killeen).

These five employees started receiving Title IV-E funding for their MSW education at Texas State University in August 2025. They will complete the part-time online MSW program while continuing to work full-time at Child Protective Services or SJRC/Belong.

**A warm welcome to these new Title IV-E CWP participants!**



# Faculty Led Research

## **“The association of adverse childhood experiences and generalized anxiety in college students: Roles of perceived social support and resilience”**

By Dr. Dasha Shamrova, MSW

The *Journal of Human Behavior in the Social Environment* highlights **Dr. Dasha Shamrova** and co-authors – Lee, J., Lee, J.M., and Kim, J.Y. in their work titled, “The association of adverse childhood experiences and generalized anxiety in college students: Roles of perceived social support and resilience.” As researchers committed to understanding students’ well-being, Dr. Shamrova and her team examined how generalized anxiety has increasingly affected college populations, and how adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) often influences this phenomena.



This article reflects their collective effort to examine the long-term impact of adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) and identify the protective factors that can help students navigate them.

This study applies a cumulative model, designed to explore how perceived social support and resilience mitigates the relationship between ACEs and generalized anxiety among college students ages 18 to 25. The sample included 435 students from four universities across the midwestern, south-central, and southern United States who completed a self-administered, online survey between November 2022 and January 2023.

Using a cross-sectional study, the research discovered how social support from friends, family, and university communities, along with students’ personal resilience, can shape their experiences of anxiety in the aftermath of childhood adversity.

The team’s findings emphasizes the important role of protective factors. While higher ACEs were directly related to higher generalized anxiety, ACEs were indirectly related to generalized anxiety through resilience. A serial mediation analysis showed indirect effects of perceived social support and resilience on generalized anxiety.

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Dr. Dasha Shamrova, Ph.D., is an Assistant Professor in the School of Social Work at Texas State University. Her research interests focus on the ways children's well-being is shaped by their participation in decision-making in domestic and international contexts. She employs a wide range of quantitative and qualitative methods, including participatory methodology with children and youth, to advance the action-focused research agenda. Dr. Shamrova was awarded over \$190,000 from external funders to support her research projects. Dr. Shamrova received a prestigious Fulbright Graduate Fellowship (2009-2011).



# Staying Aligned with Professionalism

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**“Professionalism is not about the work you do, it’s about how well you do the work.”**

**– Amit Kalantri**

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**Am I showing up with empathy and boundaries?**

**Are my actions aligned with our mission and ethics?**

**Am I maintaining respect for families and colleagues?**

**Am I taking care of myself so I can best serve others?**

**The work is complex and often heavy, but professionalism keeps us grounded in compassion, integrity, and collaboration**

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