

Title IV-E Child Welfare Partnership

A Newsletter from the School of Social Work

May 2026

Editor: Sienna Harrold

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

We hope this newsletter finds everyone in good health! Our Title IV-E Child Welfare Partnership Team has been working on several projects this spring, including providing Ethics trainings to child welfare staff in several regions in Texas.

Positive feedback about the trainings was received from the participants. Participants liked the interactive nature of the trainings, and especially enjoyed the case scenarios and the opportunity to discuss ethical issues with other staff. Additionally, participants mentioned that they enjoyed learning more about how to maintain professional boundaries and how to communicate with others professionally and ethically. The list of ideas for self-care that was provided during one of the trainings was also appreciated.

The Title IV-E CWP trainings are typically offered for free each spring via Zoom, and CEU credits are provided through the School of Social Work. Stay tuned for additional training opportunities during the 2026-2027 year! If you would like us to alert you once next year's trainings are scheduled, please send an email to cwpartnership@txstate.edu.

We hope everyone has a wonderful summer!

-The CWP Team

Comments from the Title IV-E staff trainings included:

“I really appreciated the discussions of specific examples or case scenarios to further the understanding of each code of ethics regarding communication, as well as specific topics. It was very helpful to tie ethical expectations to our daily jobs.”

“I liked when real-life examples were asked from the participants, as it made it more relevant to my job.”

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

Congratulations to the Title IV-E CWP Graduates for Spring 2026

We are excited to celebrate two non-employee BSW students who completed their final internships this spring and who will be hired to work for Child Protective Services after graduation in May: **Allison Kirby** (*pictured below*) and **Cali Wadkins**.

Additionally, two employee participants who received Title IV-E funding to complete the part-time MSW program while still working full-time in child welfare are also scheduled to graduate in May: **Ammie Martinez** and **Alexis Mickens** (*pictured below*). Both Ammie and Alexis started the MSW program in August 2022, so their dedication and commitment to obtaining their MSW has paid off.

Congratulations to all of our graduates!



Alexis Mickens

“The Title IV-E program allowed me to further my education while showing me how strong I can be. It was a difficult journey but one I am truly grateful for. There were times I thought I may not make it but with the support of my family and my cohort I was able to persevere and earn my degree. I look forward to continuing my journey and serving children and families navigating the child welfare system.”

“Through the Title IV-E Child Welfare Partnership program, I have had many wonderful opportunities to learn and grow as a person and as a professional. An aspect of this experience that has been especially impactful to me is being able to observe and apply the engagement strategies that I have learned throughout my time in the Texas State University Bachelor of Social Work program to best serve children and families.”



Allison Kirby

Artificial Intelligence Algorithms, Bias, and Innovation: Implications for Social Work

As artificial intelligence (AI) tools become more visible in human services, social work educators and practitioners are beginning to consider how these technologies may influence practice, ethics, and client outcomes. Kapur et al.'s (2025) study examines how social work students understand the role of AI in practice. Through structured interviews with 15 bachelor's- and master's-level students and an interpretive phenomenological analysis approach, the authors identified five themes in students' perspectives: perceived risks of AI, ethical considerations, bias and fairness, potential applications, and the need for training and awareness.

Participants recognized that AI may assist with certain social work tasks while also noting concerns related to bias, fairness, and ethical use, particularly for clients from marginalized communities. Students emphasized the importance of understanding both the capabilities and the limitations of AI-based tools in practice settings.

The findings suggest that social work education may benefit from greater attention to AI-related topics, including ethical reflection and practical guidance. The authors recommend further research, including mixed-methods approaches, to better understand how AI is being integrated across social work domains and how practitioners can be prepared to engage with these technologies thoughtfully and responsibly.

Reference

- Kapur, I., Kennedy, R., & Hickman, C. (2025). Artificial intelligence algorithms, bias, and innovation: Implications for social work. *Journal of Evidence-Based Social Work*, 22(4), 548–570.
<https://doi.org/10.1080/26408066.2025.2470903>

Self Care in the Workplace

Acknowledge Your Limitations

- Recognize your limits and know when it's time to take a break
- Seek help from your supervisor or co-workers when needed
- Be kind with yourself when you make a mistake
- Remind yourself that you can only control your own actions, not the actions of others

Micro Breaks

- Set calendar reminders to schedule mini-breaks throughout the day
- Take a lunch break away from your desk, if possible
- Get up to get a glass of water or a snack
- Take five minutes to organize your desk space

Maintain Boundaries

- Establish a time to stop working, and stick to it (if possible)
- Say “no” when you can
- Seek supervision when boundaries feel unclear
- When you are not working, keep your laptop and phone off
- Reminder: Boundaries look different for everyone!

Intentional Body Awareness

- Step outside to get fresh air and take a short walk
- Pay attention to how your body feels from head to toe
- Stand up and stretch for one minute
- Practice mindfulness by taking ten deep breaths while sitting at your desk

References:

American Psychiatric Association. (n.d.). *Preventing burnout, protecting your well-being*.
<https://www.psychiatry.org/news-room/apa-blogs/preventing-burnout-protecting-your-well-being>

KVC Health Systems. (2023, May 16). *Self-care for social workers: Seven steps to avoid burnout*.
<https://www.kvc.org/blog/self-care-for-social-workers-seven-steps-to-avoid-burnout/>

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