

*“How far you go in
life depends on
your being tender
with the young,
compassionate with
the aged,
sympathetic with
the striving, and
tolerant of those
who are weaker
than you because
someday, you will
be all of these.”*
—George
Washington
Carver.

Completion Rates Soar for Title IV-E

By Kristin Thompson
CCF Graduate Research Assistant

Texas State University Title IV-E program’s success rates indicate that more than 92 percent of stipend recipients successfully fulfilled their contractual obligation with the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (TDFPS) between 2004 and 2009.

Of the 90 stipend recipients who participated in the Title IV-E program from 2004-2009, 74.4 percent are still employed with the department.

In the spring of 2009, a quantitative study was conducted using secondary analysis of

employee data from the TDFPS database and the Texas state University stipend database. Some information, such as name and contact information, was collected directly from the Title IV-E stipend recipients. Other items, such as employee positions, employment start dates, and employment separation dates, were gathered from the agency’s database.

Also, a survey was distributed to Title IV-E recipients, who complete the program successfully and continue to advocate for at-risk families for DFPS.

The survey is still open and available for response online. To participate, go to [http://](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=KdqaVL_2bQ1P6PU3UlX5xzmA_3d_3d)

www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=KdqaVL_2bQ1P6PU3UlX5xzmA_3d_3d and follow the prompts.

The responses received to date indicate that many respondents are satisfied that they participated in the Title IV-E program.

It is a “great program that provided me with an educational experience and opportunity that I would not have been able to do on my own. I probably would not have started an MSW program without the stipend program,” one of the participants said.

Kristin Thompson is a former DFPS employee and a Texas State University-San Marcos ‘09 MSW graduate.

What Your Peers Say About Title IV-E

Title IV-Enews is publishing anonymous responses from a few Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (TDFPS) employees based on answers to the questions included in the Texas State University Title IV-E Stipend Pro-

gram evaluation survey that is still open to TDFPS employees.

The goal is to gather employee feedback and gauge levels of satisfaction at TDFPS.

Q: *Would you tell a colleague*

or friend to consider the Title IV-E Program?

A: The experience and knowledge gained about the child welfare system was extremely beneficial and cannot be found anywhere else.

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Title IV-E Roundtable details and speaker lineup

The 13th Annual Child Welfare Title IV-E Roundtable will be held May 28-29 in New Braunfels Texas.



The Roundtable enables child welfare professionals to discuss issues, network, present research, and learn from their peers. Scheduled

Texas State graduate speakers include Texas State graduate **Aric Bostick encourages people with motivational speaking.** Aric Bostick, who is one of America’s top youth success and leadership speakers. At the conference, he aims to encourage

new ways to connect with generation Y in addition to youth of all ages and backgrounds.

Keynote speaker Eileen Pasztor has 40 years experience in the field of child welfare as a public agency caseworker, supervisor, and admin-

istrator. She is a professor at California State University-Long Beach.

Professor Monit Cheung is a professor at the University of Houston. Her research interests include creative family therapy, therapeutic touch, and immigrant adjustment..

Jane Burstain works for the Center for Public Policy Priorities, and she will speak on child welfare policy and CPS budget issues drawing from the well of her legal expertise.

For more information visit www.ccf.txstate.edu/

“Today we begin in earnest the work of making sure that the world we leave our children is just a

little bit better than the one we inhabit today,” said President Barack Obama.

Advanced Ethics Workshop Scheduled

Texas State University-San Marcos School of Social Work director and professor Dorinda Noble, Ph.D. and LCSW, and senior lecturer Andrew Marks, LMSW, clinical senior lecturer at the Texas State School of Social Work, will hold an Ethics workshop for CPS/Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Workers and their Supervisors.

The interactive workshop in ad-

vanced ethics is designed especially for foster care and adoption development workers, child protective services, caseworkers, case managers, and supervisors.

The workshop is sponsored by the Texas State University-San Marcos Title IV-E contract administered by the Center for Children and Families.

The meeting will be held from 9

a.m. to 12:15 p.m. on Friday, May 22 at the Department of Family and Protective Services office, 1711 Herring Avenue, Training Room #36 in Waco, Texas.

Those who attend the workshop will receive three, continuing-education credits.

To register, fax your information to 512.245.1958 or e-mail mg42@txstate.edu

Three Title IV-E Students Set to Graduate in May

Title IV-E congratulates our graduating students and welcomes our summer stipend students from Region 7- Austin and Region 8-San Antonio.

BSW graduates include Monica Chapa and Melissa Summerville from Our Lady of the Lake, and Region 7

graduates Sara Foshat and Erika Gomez.

Region 7 welcomes Andrea Paola Belen, Christina Rodriguez, and Miranda Schuerg.

Region 8 welcomes Alan Prater and and Leonor Cisneros-Salazar.





The Center for Children and Families is located at Swinney House on the Texas State University-San Marcos campus.

Peers talk about Title IV-E

Q: What are the strengths and benefits of the Title IV-E program?

A: The meetings with the field instructors were very helpful. They had CPS experience and a wealth of knowledge to share with the stipend students. I felt better prepared than my counterparts in my BSD (Basic Skills Development) training class to handle the stresses at CPS. The stipend was very help-

ful. It made it possible for me to cut down my hours at work drastically and focus on my internship.

Q: Do you feel that the Title IV-E program better prepared you for employment at Child Protective Services? If so, please explain.

A: Yes, having spent so much time with caseworkers and in the field prior to work[ing] here provided me with the resources I

needed as well as a much better understanding of the job itself. Also, my field instructor had experience working in the agency, and she had a wealth of knowledge to share where CPS supervisors lacked time to do this. There is a large number of CPS workers who began with the stipend program and remain... with the agency for a very long time compared to other new workers.

IV-E Faculty & Staff

**CCF Director
Dr. Nancy Chavkin**

nancychavkin@txstate.edu

Dr. Karen Brown
kb01@txstate.edu

Rhonda Smith
rs32@txstate.edu

Martha Wildberger
mw38@txstate.edu

Michele Bauman
michele.bauman@txstate.edu

Elena Gibson
Elena.Gibson@txstate.edu

General Contact:

Center for Children and Families
Texas State University—San Marcos
508 North Street
San Marcos, TX 78666
(512) 245-6600
ccf@txstate.edu

TEXAS STATE
CENTER FOR CHILDREN
AND FAMILIES

Free Publications for Review

Title IV-Enews receives a lot of information about new publications, so each month we feature resources that might help guide your research and career growth.

Youth Transitioning Away from Foster Care is a recent Congressional Research Service Report by Adrienne L. Fernandes. The report includes background

and federal programs for youth transitioning out of foster care. For more information visit the Web site at www.oacca.org/documents/crsTransitioningYouth2008.pdf

New Help for Children Raised by Grandparents and Other Relatives guides implementation of the improvements outlined in the

Fostering Connections to Success Increasing Adoptions Act for children who are being raised by grandparents and other relatives. Various organizations, many of which have been working to support children, collaborated to prepare the report. *The Web site is www.clasp.org/publications/aara-childcarestatealloc.pdf*

News & Notes

Get In Touch

Title IV-E would like to send you announcements, newsletters and notices about future Title IV-E events.

We would also like to hear about positive things happening for you and your career. Please e-mail us your permanent personal e-mail addresses (Yahoo, Gmail, Hotmail)

along with your news, notes, or photographs to ccf@txstate.edu.

Child Depression Awareness Day

It's important to note that May 7, 2009 is **Child Depression Awareness Day**. The day promotes positive youth development, resilience, recovery and

community involvement with children and youth with serious mental health needs. The theme for this year's event is "thriving in the community." The focus is to help kids improve grades and have fewer negative outcomes. For more information visit the Web site www.tapartnership.org/