

Child Welfare Education Project: CWEP NewsLine

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New CWEP Students



Nikia Allen, Gabrielle Bernal, Demetra Douglas, Christie Fleming, Jamekia Greene, Leslie Hagemeyer, Ebonee Jones, Toni Kelly, Gabrielle Macon, Ayesha Reynolds, Lindsey Simmons and Cynthia Stewart
(Names are listed in alphabetical order)

CWEP Orientation

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The CWEP Orientation took place in July, 2018. The CWEP students had a great time.



There was a panel of continuing CWEP students sharing information during the CWEP orientation.



Dr. Patricia Taylor and Ms. Cindy Crews introduced the CWEP curriculum to students.

DFPS Resource Fair

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CWEP participated in the DFPS Resource Fair.

As we know, the main goals of CPS are to achieve safety, well-being and permanency. What can we do to ensure that permanency is maintained?

We need to make sure that the children that are in safe, stable and permanent environments remain there long term. When the case is closed or dismissed in court, the caretaker should be able to function without the required monitoring but with ongoing support from CPS and the community. This pertains to placements with adoptive parents, biological parents as well as relatives or kinship caregivers because all families need and deserve support.

Tips to maintain permanency:

- Families should have access to resources and community partners. Workers should encourage them to apply for all eligible benefits.
- Caretakers should have information necessary for follow-up treatment, meetings, etc.
- Clients should be able to contact former caseworkers should the need arise. Even though workers are very busy working with active cases, they should be available to offer assistance.
- Caseworkers should check on the families periodically, via e-mail, text, etc. to make sure the placement continues to be a success. Sometimes families may be too proud or afraid to reach out for fear that if a situation becomes problematic, they will be viewed as a failure and the children will be removed from their care or custody.
- Families should be encouraged to advocate for the children in their care.
- Caseworkers should have a conversation with the caretakers about how they will need to protect the children and keep them safe from future harm.
- Children and youth should have a sense of normalcy and an awareness of their culture and background. If at all possible and safe, the children should be allowed to maintain ties with their biological family.
- Caretakers should have knowledge regarding the children's basic needs and their development. Children have different mental, physical and emotional needs.
- Families should know how to problem solve and resolve challenges. They should expect setbacks as this has been a traumatic event for all involved.
- Caregivers need a solid, strong and positive support system outside of governmental and community agencies. Friends and relatives can often offer respite care, advice, parenting and wisdom.



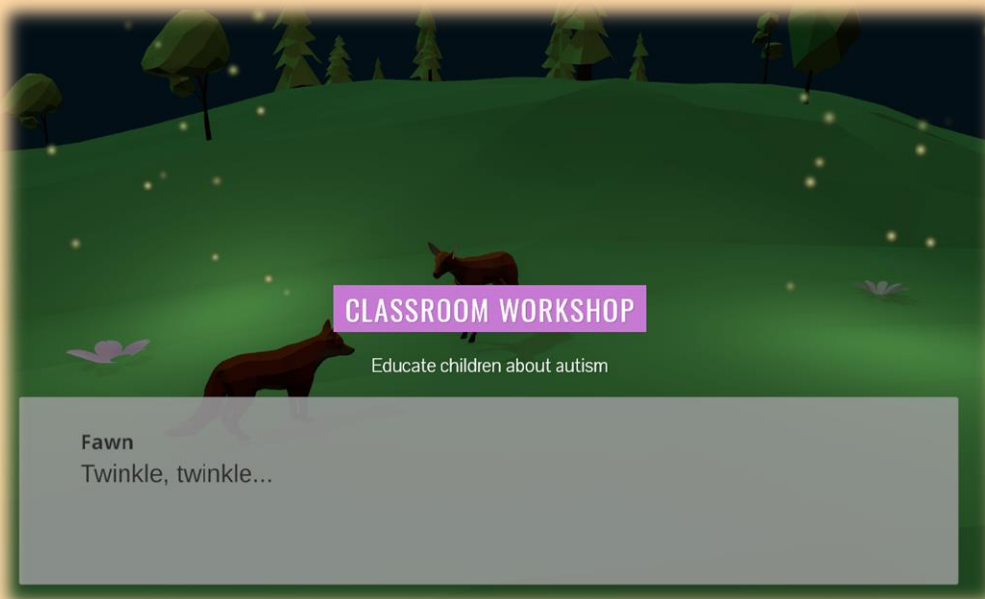
Arnitia Walker
CWEP Director

Announcements & Staff Tips

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Empathy



“Prism” - Video Game Helps Kids Understand Experiences Of Peers On The Autism Spectrum

Carnegie Mellon University students developed a new game called “Prism” to help elementary schoolers understand what life is like for kids on the autism spectrum. For instance, the screen fills with light and the music becomes distorted. Players can soothe themselves by howling. The developer said this situation represents how people with autism can cope with sensory overload.

Access to full article:

<http://www.wesa.fm/post/video-game-helps-kids-understand-experiences-peers-autism-spectrum#stream/0>

Access to the game and discussion guide:

<https://www.etc.cmu.edu/projects/prism/index.php/for-teachers/>



The ChildTrauma Academy (CTA) is a not-for-profit organization based in Houston, Texas working to improve the lives of high-risk children through direct service, research and education.

CTA offer courses on The Neurosequential Model in Education (NME) which is a neurodevelopmentally-informed, biologically respectful perspective on human development and functioning to help educators understand student behavior and performance. The training on Neurosequential Model which is a developmentally-informed, biologically-respectful approach to working with at-risk children is also offered.

There are other useful resources provided in CTA’s website and newsletter.

Access to CTA’s website: <http://childtrauma.org/>



The 42nd Annual NASW Texas State Conference will be held in October 11-13, 2018 in Arlington, TX. It is a great opportunity to connect with more than 1,000 social work professionals at the largest social work conference in the Southwest. Nearly 100 breakout sessions would be offered and participants can earn up to 20.5 CEUs.

Registration is still available.

More details: <https://www.naswtx.org/page/Conference18>



COUNCIL ON SOCIAL WORK EDUCATION
 64th Annual Program Meeting
 November 8-11, 2018 | Orlando, Florida

CSWE's 64th Annual Program Meeting (APM) will be held in November 8-11, 2018 in Orlando, Florida. The 2018 APM theme is "Expanding Interprofessional Education to Achieve Social Justice."

More details & registration: <https://www.cswe.org/Events-Meetings/2018-APM/APM-Information>



Staff Tips

Advising Tips:

- ✓ Always follow your degree plan and consult with GCSW academic advisors regularly.

From Arnitia Walker

Field Placement Tips:

- ✓ Do your homework on company before 1st day
- ✓ Set personal goals
- ✓ Keep yourself busy
- ✓ Be professional
- ✓ Ask questions
- ✓ Practice good time management
- ✓ Be adaptable
- ✓ Have a positive attitude

From Vanessa Shippard

Student Spotlight: December Graduates

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Rachael Taylor

Rachael is an Adoption Prep Specialist IV. Certain classes have helped her to understand the children diagnosis, abuse and neglect they have endured. She has been here for five years. She advised current CWEP students to talk with your peers about what class and professors you should talk to or not.

Toni Kelly

Toni is a Kinship Specialist IV. She expected to become more knowledgeable, more culturally aware and a well-rounded individual. She hoped to achieve a better understanding of child welfare education program. She wanted to develop more relevant skills for present day appreciations to best utilize the knowledge and skills that she learned from GCSW & CWEP. Overall, she can be the best to assist children and families.

LaDreamer Harrison

LaDreamer is a Kinship Specialist IV. GCSW and CWEP have helped her to learn how to better function in a group and be a better team player. She enjoyed working with her unit as they have been a big support during this process. She have been nominated and approved for two performance award. "CPS is your job, don't forget that. Take care of your job, so you can do your schoolwork. Remember God and your family come first. You can do this." is her advice for CWEP students.

Kimley Meredith

Kimley was recently promoted to a Program Director at CPS. She also looks forward to graduating this fall.

Staff Spotlight

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Sophie Wan
CWEP RA

1. What is your current position with CPS/CWEP? How long have you been working in this position? What prior experience(s) did you bring with you to this position?

I have been working as a Graduate Research Assistant for CWEP for almost one and a half years. I am passionate in working with children and adolescents. Prior to working in this position, I did overseas service trips and research trips in Nepal and Cambodia related to child welfare issues. I had an internship in a high school in Hong Kong and a youth center in Singapore during my BSW studies.

2. What have been the greatest rewards working with CWEP?

It is my honor to work with the CWEP team who has incredible passion in child welfare. I am grateful that I have learned a lot from Dr. Cheung, Dr. Leung and Ms. Walker through the tasks such as assisting in the research projects, preparing grant applications and as editor of NewsLine. It was a valuable experience for me to apply the social work knowledge and skills into my RA work.

3. What advice do you have for our CWEP students?

Remember to take good care of yourself & keep up with your passion in child welfare 😊

CWEP Calendar

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UNIVERSITY of HOUSTON GRADUATE COLLEGE of SOCIAL WORK

CWEP CALENDAR 2018-2019

(Subject to Change)

FALL 2018 SEMESTER

JULY

31st CWEP FALL 2018 Student Orientation
(9am - noon)

AUGUST

3rd Field II & IV Meeting with Field Instructor
(10am - CPS office in Pearland)

11th GCSW Alumni Annual Meeting
(9 - 1pm) UH Alumni Building

16th GCSW New Student Reception
(12 - 1pm)

16th - 17th SOCW 6201 (all incoming students, except online)

20th First Day of Fall Semester

SEPTEMBER

3rd University Holiday: Labor Day

4th F2F Foundation Cohorts start Field Practicum I

12th F2F Fall 2018 Foundation Mandatory Field Orientation
(4:30-6:00pm, location TBD)

29th **FIELD FORMS DUE**
(Contracting Phase)

OCTOBER

5th CWEP Symposium - Normalcy/Cultural Diversity CE Class
(9 - 12) CPS Chimney Rock - Houston

29th Last Day to submit agency information for students who live
outside the Greater Houston area **(for Spring 2019)**

NOVEMBER

1st Last Day to Drop a Course

2 nd	Brown Bag (12 - 1 pm) Time and Place TBA
14 th	Online Fall 2018 Mandatory Field Orientation (Zoom Meeting: 6:00-8:00pm)
15 th	Hybrid Fall 2018 Mandatory Field Orientation (Zoom Meeting: 6:00-8:00pm)
21 st - 24 th	University Holiday: Thanksgiving
26 th	Last Day to start Agency Affiliation process for SPRING Semester start

DECEMBER

1 st	<u>FIELD FORMS DUE</u> (Evaluation Phase)
12 th	Close of Semester

SPRING 2019 SEMESTER

JANUARY

14 th	First Day of Spring Semester
21 st	MLK Holiday
23 rd	Field FaceTime: Open Meeting (Zoom Meeting, 4:30-5:30pm)
25 th	Brown Bag (12 - 1 pm) Time and Place TBA

FEBRUARY

9 th	<u>FIELD FORMS DUE</u> (Contracting Phase)
22 nd	<u>FIELD AGENCY MARKETPLACE: Practicum Fair</u> (Inside Greater Houston Students) (10 AM - 2 PM Student Center South, UH Main Campus)

March

11 th - 16 th	Spring Break
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APRIL

3 rd	<u>MARKETPLACE PREFERENCE FORMS DUE</u>
15 th	Last Day to submit agency information for students who live outside the Greater Houston area (for Summer/Fall)

29 th	Last Day to start Affiliation Agreement process for Summer/Fall 2018 start
MAY	
2 nd	CELEBRATING CWEP (Rockwell Pavilion in MD Anderson Library) 6 – 8 pm
4 th	<u>FIELD FORMS DUE</u> (Evaluation Phase)
9 th	Official Close of the Semester
27 th	MEMORIAL DAY HOLIDAY
TBA	Title IV-E Conference

SUMMER 2019 SEMESTER

JUNE	
1 st	CWEP Application Deadline
3 rd	First Day of Summer Semester
12 th	Field FaceTime: Open Meeting (Zoom Meeting, 4:30-5:30pm)
15 th	<u>FIELD FORMS DUE</u> (Contracting Phase)
JULY	
4 th	University Holiday: Independence Day
AUGUST	
3 rd	<u>FIELD FORMS DUE</u> (Evaluation Phase)
9 th	Official Close of the Semester

Additional Information:

*All Field Forms are due in Internship Placement Tracking (IPT) by 11:59 PM on date specified.

*Liability Insurance and Safety in Practicum forms are due during first semester of Field Practicum and included in Contracting Phase due date.

*CWEP student advising dates – TBD.