



University of Houston  
 Graduate College of Social Work  
 Child Welfare Education Project

# CWEP NewsLine



CWEP Website

<http://www.sw.uh.edu/communityoutreach/cwep.p>

Volume 12 Issue 2

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## Director's Comments

Well, it is now the end of the semester and the beginning of the holiday season. I hope that your semester has gone well and that you will enjoy your break with your family and friends. I hope that each of you will have time to recharge your energy and commitment to the field of social work, in general, and child protective services, in particular. As we prepare for this holiday season, we should take time to think about what has been given to us and what we have given to others and take comfort in what a great year this has been. For the CWEP program, we experience the joy of seeing the increasing number of MSW graduates working in CPS and the continued growth of new applicants for the MSW program and our stipend program. We now have well over 100 graduates from the MSW program and many of them are still working in CPS and bringing in new ideas and programs to improve the services for the children and families that CPS serves. Our CWEP program continues to grow and offer an increasing number of courses that will help staff strengthen these services, and we continue to develop new courses that will meet the needs of the future. I am counting on each of you to help us strengthen the CWEP program during this next year and to take time to let us know what we can do that will help you become excellent professionals in CPS. I wish you a very happy holiday season, time with your family, and success in the future. Thank you for all that you do for the Graduate College of Social Work, Child Protective Services, and, most of all, for the children and families that you serve.

*Joe Papick, CWEP Director*

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### CWEP Staff

Dr. Monit Cheung  
 Principal Investigator  
 (Rm 424, 713-743-8107)  
[mcheung@uh.edu](mailto:mcheung@uh.edu)

Joe Papick  
 Director  
 (Rm 432, 713-743-1394)  
[jpapick@uh.edu](mailto:jpapick@uh.edu)

Kathy Clark  
 Field Coordinator  
 (Rm 434, 713-743-8157)  
[klclark@uh.edu](mailto:klclark@uh.edu)

Patrick Leung  
 Project Evaluator  
 (Rm 412, 713-743-8111)  
[pleung@uh.edu](mailto:pleung@uh.edu)

Ann McFarland  
 Stipend Coordinator  
 (Rm 444, 713-743-8145)  
[amcfarland@uh.edu](mailto:amcfarland@uh.edu)

Dr. Patricia Taylor  
 Curriculum Coordinator  
 (Rm 438, 713-743-8081)  
[ptaylor2@uh.edu](mailto:ptaylor2@uh.edu)

Brunessia Wilson  
 Student Affairs Coordinator  
 (Rm 436, 713-743-8147)  
[bwilson3@uh.edu](mailto:bwilson3@uh.edu)

Corrine Walijarvi  
 LEO Mentor, Graduate Associate  
 (Rm 412, 713-743-8115)  
[cmwalija@mail.uh.edu](mailto:cmwalija@mail.uh.edu)

Amanda Ford  
 NewsLine Editor, Graduate Associate  
 (Rm 412, 713-743-8115)  
[afford@uh.edu](mailto:afford@uh.edu)

# CWEP Spotlight



This month we are highlighting Scott Dixon, CPS Regional Director

## 1. Please describe your current position and some of the challenges you find in your work.

I am the Regional Director for Child Protective Services (CPS) for Region 6 which includes 13 different Texas counties of which Harris County is the largest. There are always challenges in work with children and families because of the many factors impacting the family system. One of the biggest challenges is gaining a good understanding of the dynamics of individual children and their families in an effort to keep children safe. An understanding of these factors can be difficult for staff at times because of differing degrees of openness among families – some families are very open and some can be more challenging. Other challenges include limitations to resources, budget restraints, and challenges related to staffing levels. Sometimes it is difficult to find the people that are best-suited for this type of social work and its ensuing challenges. Recruiting and retaining staff that are the “best fit” can be difficult endeavors.

## 2. What do you feel are some of the most important rewards in your work?

The most important reward is the ability to see change happen. People with commitment and motivation can change, and it is rewarding to facilitate changes in positive directions for families. Seeing families unified, creating families through adoption, and helping children and/or parents’ positive growth are very rewarding.

## 3. Did you receive the Title IV-E stipend when you worked on your MSW?

No, I did not receive the stipend. While I was completing my MSW, I worked in Austin at the CPS state office, and the stipend was not available. I wish that an opportunity like the Title IV-E stipend would have been available to me during this time.

## 4. What is your role with the CWEP program in Region 6?

At this time, I work closely with the University of Houston by working with individuals who are going into the program. I serve as a liaison to both sides – the university and individual students – by moderating the frustrations that are voiced. I strive to create a sense of balance for the administration at the University of Houston and for CPS employees who are involved in CWEP, especially for those who are simultaneously struggling to balance employment responsibilities and school work.

## 5. How do you view CWEP’S impact on CPS staff?

The impact is totally positive. The staff grows as a whole, and individuals learn to effectively balance school responsibilities, employment, and family. Because of this experience, noticeable positive differences in the ways in which situations are handled begin to emerge.

## 6. What would you identify as the major benefit of the CWEP program?

The major benefit of the CWEP program is growth in the profession of social work both at the individual level and in terms of education.

## 7. What advice do you have for current CWEP students?

Although school is stressful, enjoy the moment and the various aspects of life that you are involved in whether that is school, family, work, or recreation. My advice for CWEP students is to relax and regroup after graduation. The pressure for students to succeed and maintain balance in a stressful environment can be difficult. Sometimes students are so accustomed to staying busy that they feel the need to continue over-committing and taking on too much after graduation. It is important to focus after graduation and to explore available options in social work. Don’t take on too much, especially in your last year with the program and as you finish. Don’t prolong the stress!

## 8. Additional Comments

I appreciate the partnership with the University of Houston’s Graduate College of Social Work. I cherish and respect the relationship between our agency and the college. I have worked with a lot of programs, but the CWEP program at the University of Houston is one of the best.



# ANNOUNCEMENTS

*In Memory Of*  
*Debra Garcia Arismendez*

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Tragically, Debra Arismendez, a CWEP student from Corpus Christi, passed away on June 16, 2010. Debra was a loving mother, daughter and sister who was always concerned for the well being of her children. She worked as a social worker for CPS and was more recently employed at the endocrine clinic for Driscoll Children's Hospital. She leaves behind her loving daughter and son, Miranda Mia (age 13) and Joe Arthur Arismendez (age 10); father of her children, Joe A. Arismendez; father, Benito B. (Del) Garcia and her sisters, Liza Garcia, Evelyn (Wilfredo) Galvan and Vicki (David) Ozuna. She also leaves behind several nieces, nephews, friends and many co-workers.

Condolences and donations can be sent directly to Joe Arismendez and the children:

**Joe Arismendez & Family**  
**1545 Clodah Drive**  
**Corpus Christi, Texas 78404**  
**361-944-1944; 361-944-1944 (Joe's cell)**

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## [Funding for Doctoral Students](#)

The National Quality Improvement Center on Differential Response in Child Protective Services is announcing an opportunity for doctoral students. As part of this federal project, 4 students will each be awarded \$50,000 over two years to support their doctoral dissertation as it relates to differential response. The next application due date is January 14, 2011 for award announcement on March 15, 2011. Please see our Request for Applications at [www.differentialresponseQIC.org](http://www.differentialresponseQIC.org) for more information.

# CONGRATULATIONS

**Congratulations to the following CWEP alums whose photos are now displayed on the Hall of Fame Wall of the CPS building at Murworth.**



**Katara Butler**



**Debbie Kumar-Misir\***

*\*also the recipient of the Community Builders Award (March 2010)*

**WE ARE PROUD OF BOTH OF YOU!!**

## ***New Findings Show State Public Health Agencies' Efforts in Child Maltreatment Prevention***

Millions of children are abused or neglected every year. Research indicates those experiences have a significant impact on brain development, and the long-term impact may contribute to some of the nation's worst health problems.

State public health agencies can play an important role in preventing child maltreatment and associated health problems in several ways: a focus on primary prevention; expertise in reducing risk factors; and access to families through a number of public health programs, within which they can apply and support both new and existing child maltreatment prevention strategies.

The *Child Maltreatment Prevention Environmental Scan of State Public Health Agencies* provides information on state public health agencies' involvement in child maltreatment prevention efforts. A product of the Public Health Leadership (PHL) Initiative,\* the scan findings offer a better understanding of the work state public health agencies currently do to enhance family resiliency, foster healthy child development, and prevent child maltreatment.

Go to <http://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/phl/> to see the findings or download copies.

To learn more about CDC's work to promote safe, stable, and nurturing relationships for children and to prevent child maltreatment, please visit [www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention](http://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention).

*\*The Doris Duke Charitable Foundation supports the PHL Initiative, in partnership with the CDC Foundation, and the Division of Violence Prevention of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.*



Centers for Disease Control and Prevention · 1600 Clifton Road, Atlanta, GA 30333 · 800-CDC-INFO (800)-232-4636

# Domestic Violence & Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI)

Did you know that...?

- Intimate partner violence is the leading cause of serious injury to American women between the ages of 15 and 44.
- Women who are abused often suffer injuries to their heads, with a high potential for mild to severe TBI. As injuries accumulate, likelihood for recovery dramatically decreases. Physical assaults account for 10% of all TBIs.
- The brain can be injured directly by physical force: a blow to the head, shaking of the brain, and/or a loss of oxygen to the brain.
- TBI can also be caused neurochemically from prolonged stress from intimate violence.
- Repeated mild TBIs occurring over an extended period of time (i.e. months or years) can result in cumulative and irreversible neurological and cognitive deficits.
- Repeated mild TBIs occurring within a short period of time can be catastrophic or fatal.
- Many TBIs go undiagnosed and misdiagnosed, and therefore, untreated.
- Women who were both physically and sexually abused had a 75% rate of TBI compared to women who were only abused sexually (34%) or only physically abused (23%). In those women who were both physically and sexually abused, 60% of their injuries were to the head, face, and neck.
- 35% of females who have experienced sexual violence also presented orbital fractures.
- TBI can result in significant impairments. Symptoms include, but are not limited to:
  - **COGNITIVE:** memory loss; reduced attention span; poor concentration; disorganization; impulsivity; low motivation; decreased problem-solving ability
  - **EMOTIONAL-BEHAVIORAL:** depression; anxiety; irritability; mood swings; apathy; aggression; avoidance; changes in behavior, personality, and temperament
  - **PHYSICAL:** headaches; neck pain; dizziness; fatigue; difficulty balancing; noise/light intolerance; sleep disturbance; nausea and vomiting; changes in vision



This information is brought to you courtesy of  
Fort Bend County Women's Center  
281-342-HELP (4357)

## LEARNING ENHANCEMENT OPPORTUNITY

Corrine Walijarvi, LEO Mentor for CWEP

When you want to get a third-person perspective about your academic preparation, or when you need someone to go over your presentation outline or paper format, please email or see Corrine Walijarvi, your LEO mentor for CWEP students.

Available hours in Spring 2010: **Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10:00 am – 2:00 pm**

Feel free to email Corrine any time at [cmwalija@mail.uh.edu](mailto:cmwalija@mail.uh.edu) to ask any questions related to your academic preparation or to confirm a specific time for meeting with her. She looks forward to meeting with you in Room 412 and helping in any way that she can.

# EVENTS

## 25th ANNUAL CONFERENCE ON THE PREVENTION OF CHILD ABUSE

"Make Prevention Your Priority"

February 28-March 1, 2011  
Westin Park Central Hotel Dallas

Presented by  
Prevent Child Abuse Texas

**A statewide Conference designed to offer quality training and information on topics and model programs of interest to leaders in child abuse prevention: social workers, counselors, educators, child care and youth workers, law enforcement personnel, medical & legal professionals, foster parents, child welfare board volunteers, elected officials, and other interested child advocates. Participants may attend their choice of a variety of workshops on child abuse and neglect prevention and educational programs or may select workshops for specialized training credits and professional development. The conference is featuring Harvey Karp, MD, George W. Holden, PhD, Jenna Quinn, and The Amazing Spiderman.**

To be a part of the conference, please complete the appropriate form(s) at:  
<http://www.preventchildabusetexas.org/forms.html>

### FAQ:

**CONFERENCE SITE / HOTEL REGISTRATION:** For hotel reservations call 1-888-627-7032 and identify the Conference for special rates good through February 4, 2011. If you would like to register online, please go to: <http://www.starwoodmeeting.com/Book/preventchildabusetexas>.

**HOTEL CHARGES ARE NOT INCLUDED IN YOUR CONFERENCE REGISTRATION.**

**EXHIBIT INFORMATION:** For information or to reserve a table, visit our web site at [www.preventchildabusetexas.org](http://www.preventchildabusetexas.org), or call 512-250-8438 x18. Deadline is December 31, 2010. Space is limited.

**REGISTRATION:** Workshop selections are based on a first come first serve basis so register early. Be sure to register by February 4, 2011 to get the Early Bird rate. Cut off for registration is February 23, 2011. After February 23, 2011 on site registration will be required.

**CANCELLATION POLICY:** If you are unable to attend the conference, you may cancel your registration by submitting your cancellation in writing (fax, postal mail or email) to PCAT by January 31, 2011. **Verbal cancellations will not be accepted.** PCAT is not responsible for cancellation notices not received. Substitutions for registered attendees may be made without penalty. All substitutions **MUST** be made in writing through the PCAT office. Refunds will be granted, less a \$25 processing fee, if a written notice of cancellation is received by January 31, 2011. No refunds will be granted after January 31, 2011.

**ADA STATEMENT:** Prevent Child Abuse Texas is committed to equality of educational opportunity and does not discriminate against applicants, students, or employees on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, sexual orientation, disability or veteran status. If you require reasonable accommodations for a disability in order to participate fully in this continuing education activity, please call 512-250-8438 x18 no later than December 31, 2010, so we may make the necessary arrangements.

**WHAT TO WEAR:** The dress code will be casual business attire.

25th ANNUAL CONFERENCE ON THE  
PREVENTION OF CHILD ABUSE

## CONFERENCE AT-A-GLANCE

### MONDAY - FEBRUARY 28

8:00 REGISTRATION/CHECK-IN

9:00 WELCOME - OPENING

Libby Carroll, President, Prevent Child Abuse Texas

Kristy Piazza, Texas Young Lawyers Association

KEYNOTE ADDRESS - Harvey Karp, M.D., "The Happiest Baby on the Block"

10:15 - BREAK

10:30 - WORKSHOPS - SESSION I

12:00 - LUNCH (ON YOUR OWN)

12:00 - Harvey Karp, M.D. (Special Luncheon, additional cost)

1:30 - WORKSHOPS - SESSION II

3:00 - BREAK

3:15 - WORKSHOPS - SESSION III

### TUESDAY - MARCH 1

8:00 - GENERAL SESSION

KEYNOTE ADDRESS - George W. Holden, PhD. "Families, Parenting, and Discipline: A Dynamic Perspective"

9:00 - BREAK

9:15 - WORKSHOPS - SESSION IV

10:45 - BREAK

11:00 - WORKSHOPS - SESSION V

12:30 CLOSING LUNCHEON

KEYNOTE ADDRESS - Jenna Quinn "Songs for Silence"

DFPS Legislative Update - DFPS Staff (to be determined)

2:30 CONFERENCE ADJOURNS

3:00 Dave Pelzer (Special Presentation, additional cost)

*\*This program has been submitted for CEU/CLE credits from the National Association of Social Workers and Texas Board of Professional Counselor.*

For additional information:

Toll-free: 800-CHILDREN

[www.PreventChildAbuseTexas.org](http://www.PreventChildAbuseTexas.org)

Email Rene Scoggin at [rene@preventchildabusetexas.org](mailto:rene@preventchildabusetexas.org)

## SAVE THE DATES

**MARCH 11, 2011**

**1:00 – 4:00 pm**

**CWEP Symposium**

**MAY 24-27, 2011**

**Title IV-E Roundtable**

**In Houston-Galveston**

*Organized by UH-Downtown and UH*

<http://www.sw.uh.edu/images/IV-ERoundTable.JPG>

# CWEP Calendar of Events

UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON, GRADUATE COLLEGE OF SOCIAL WORK

<http://www.sw.uh.edu/communityoutreach/cwep.php>

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## FALL 2010

### December

- 4th - Last Day of Classes and Field Instruction
- 11/6<sup>th</sup> -2/26<sup>th</sup> - **ONLINE APPLICATION FOR SPRING GRADUATION OPENED (FEE-\$25)**

## SPRING 2011

### January

- 17<sup>th</sup> - **MARTIN LUTHERN KING, JR., HOLIDAY**
- 18<sup>th</sup> - **Classes Begin for Spring Semester**
- TBA - Brown Bag at CPS from 12:00pm-1:00pm
- 11/6<sup>th</sup> -2/26<sup>th</sup> - **ONLINE APPLICATION FOR SPRING GRADUATION OPENED ( FEE-\$25)**

### February

- 5<sup>th</sup> - Field Educational Contracts Due
- 11/6<sup>th</sup> -2/26<sup>th</sup> - **ONLINE APPLICATION FOR SPRING GRADUATION OPENED (FEE-\$25)**
- TBA - Social/Networking Event (Self Care)
- 2/27<sup>th</sup>-3/26<sup>th</sup> - Late Period for Spring Graduation/ Late fee \$ 50

### March

- 11<sup>th</sup> - CWEP Symposium 1-4pm (Required for current CWEP students)
- 14<sup>th</sup> - 19<sup>th</sup> - **SPRING BREAK WEEK**
- 21<sup>st</sup> -25<sup>th</sup> - CWEP Student Advising for Summer/Fall 2011
- 25<sup>th</sup> - **GCSW/ Licensing Prep Class**

### April

- 6<sup>th</sup> - Field Agency Marketplace
- 8th - **GCSW/ Licensing Prep Class**
- 15th - Field Applications Due For Summer/Fall 2011

### May

- 2nd - Field Evaluations Due / Last Day of Classes
- 11<sup>th</sup> - Preference Forms for Concentration Year Summer/Fall Placements Due
- 14<sup>th</sup> - **CONVOCATION**

## Summer 2011

### May

- 24<sup>th</sup> -27<sup>th</sup> - **TITLE IV-E CHILD WELFARE ROUNDTABLE IN GALVESTON, TX**  
*STUDENT VOLUNTEERS NEEDED*
- 30<sup>th</sup> - **MEMORIAL DAY HOLIDAY**
- 31<sup>ST</sup> - **Classes Begin for Summer**

### June

- 10<sup>th</sup> - **GCSW/ Licensing Prep Class**
- 10<sup>th</sup> - New Applicant's Deadline to turn in CWEP Application for Fall 2011
- 13<sup>th</sup> - Field Educational Contracts Due

### August

- 9<sup>th</sup> - Field Grades Due