



A FEW WORDS FROM YOUR CHILD WELFARE STIPEND PROGRAM STAFF

**The following summarizes working with individuals that identify as intersex by former MSW students:
 Michelle Anklan, Jeff Matejcek, and Lorelei Tinaglia.**

Applying Social Work Values to the Care and Treatment of Intersex People

Each spring semester, Master of Social Work students in their concentration year develop a policy brief as part of the SOWK 655: Social Welfare Policy Practice course. This project reflects the intersection of research and advocacy as students use evidence-based strategies to develop policy recommendations and take concrete steps to support policy development that reflects social work values.

Three students in this course, Michelle Anklan, Jeff Matejcek, and Lorelei Tinaglia, developed a policy brief advocating on behalf of intersex infants and children. The term “intersex” refers to individuals born with “anatomies that are considered ‘atypical’ for either male or female bodies” (Human Rights Watch, 2017, p. 15). Despite medical and social advancements in the past decade, some children born with intersex conditions are still undergoing medically unnecessary genital surgery in order to conform to constructed societal norms. Genital assignment surgery in infancy is done without the consent of the child and can result in physical harm and psychological trauma (Minto, Liao, Woodhouse, Ransley, & Creighton, 2003; Lee et al., 2016). Some of these impacts include:

Physical repercussions:

- Loss of sexual sensation or inability to achieve orgasm
- Genital scarring
- Need for repeated surgeries
- Loss of reproductive abilities

(Creighton, 2004 & Minto, Liao, Woodhouse, Ransley, & Creighton, 2003).

Psychosocial repercussions:

- Gender misassignment (Lahood & Keir, 2012)
- Feeling abused by or mistrust of medical system (interACT, 2018)
- Feelings of shame from unexplained and/or repetitious medical examinations and genital photography (Lee, Nordenström, Houk, Ahmed, Auchus, Baratz... & the Global DSD Update Consortium, 2016)
- Dissatisfaction with the DSD (differences/disorders of sex development) terminology (Lee et al., 2016)
- Fear of devaluation (Lee et al., 2016)
- Negative body image (Lahood & Keir, 2012; Lee et al., 2016)
- Social isolation (Lee et al., 2016)
- Barriers to communication with significant others (Lee et al., 2016)

Many intersex children and their caregivers do not experience diminished psychosocial functioning resulting from a lack of surgical intervention (Sandberg, Gardner, Callens, & Mazur, 2017).

There are currently no state or federal laws prohibiting medically unnecessary intersex surgery on infants in the United States. The National Association of Social Work (NASW) currently has no policy statement addressing intersex needs and issues (NASW, 2015).

In order to preserve the autonomy, dignity, and worth of human beings, informed consent to medically unnecessary intersex surgery is vital. Delaying medically unnecessary intersex surgery until a person can make an informed choice can reduce the risk of physical and psychological harm (Creighton, 2004).

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DID YOU KNOW?

The term “intersex” refers to individuals born with “anatomies that are considered ‘atypical’ for either male or female bodies”

(Human Rights Watch, 2017, p. 15)

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**Intersex Awareness Day
 is October 26th!**

In order to promote child welfare, it is critical that social workers support the development of an NASW policy that protects intersex infants and children.

A special thank you to Michelle Anklan, Jeff Matejcek, and Lorelei Tinaglia for contributing to this newsletter and providing us with information about working with this population.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

****Counties in southern Minnesota are seeking qualified social workers****

The need for qualified social workers is more in demand now than ever before, especially in the areas of child protection and children and adult mental health in southwest/south central Minnesota counties.

CREATE AN ONLINE ACCOUNT IN NEO GOV:

1. Go to this link: <https://www.governmentjobs.com/Applications/Index/mnmeritsystem>
2. Click on “**Create an account**” in the upper right hand corner
3. Enter in your professional information

MN DHS is looking to fill County Agency Social Worker positions for a variety of counties. Both Bachelors and Masters level employees are needed. Follow the link for more information.

<http://agency.governmentjobs.com/mnmeritsystem/default.cfm?action=jobs&sortBy=&sortByASC=ASC&bHid eSearchBox=1&PROMOTIONALJOBS=0&TRANSFER=0&SEARCHAPPLIED=0>

Carver County is hiring in their Family Services program, follow the link for more details:

<https://www.co.carver.mn.us/departments/employee-relations/job-opportunities/job-descriptions>

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Minnesota Adopt has many workshops coming up this fall for information and to see the complete list with details for all please visit: <https://www.mnadopt.org/education/mn-adopt-trainings/>

October 30th, 2018: Talking to Kids about Tough Stuff Webinar, 12:00pm-1:30pm. Children do best when they know the truth about their lives. Sharing difficult information with children is not easy. This workshop will give you the tools to discuss the most challenging situations (e.g. abuse, parental incarceration, death, HIV, incest, termination of parental rights) to children of all ages. Please bring your challenging questions. No topic is off limits! Presenters: Barry Chaffkin and Bryan Hill.

For more information and to register: https://www.mnadopt.org/eventregister/?event_ID=1579

November 14th-16th, 2018: Minnesota Child Welfare Conference “Advancing Excellence in Child Welfare: Striving toward permanency and safety for older youth”. **Location: Intercontinental St. Paul Riverfront, St. Paul, MN.** Join colleagues in honoring excellence in the child welfare field, and bringing together professionals across Minnesota. The conference will highlight innovative practices across the state, supporting the unique challenges and circumstances of older youth in the child welfare system. Workshops will focus on utilizing best practices for advanced and supervisory child welfare staff. For more information and to register: <https://mn.gov/dhs/mn-child-welfare-conference/>

November 17th, 2018: United Way Reading Festival, 9:00am-12:00pm. **Location: Mankato Family YMCA, Blue Gym.** Join us for this wonderful day of celebrating how reading and literacy is OUT OF THIS WORLD at this outer-space themed event! The reading festival includes: Activities for toddlers through 3rd

graders (geared towards children ages 2-8, but all children are welcome!), literacy related information for parents, booths hosted by local organizations, free healthy snacks from Mankato Clinic, and Literacy Kits from Profinium. A fun, FREE event for kids! More information: <http://www.mankatounitedway.org/reading-festival-2018>

November 30th, 2018: Minnesota Association for Children’s Mental Health “Developing Resilience Skills with Elementary and Middle School Aged Children”, 9:00am-12:00pm. Location: Mount Zion Temple, St. Paul, MN. For professionals who work in a school or clinical setting who have experience using a mind-body-spirit approach in working with children, this presentation will provide a resilience model and practical strategies to help children develop skills to enhance physical, mental and social-emotional health and well-being. Participants will explore how to incorporate additional mind-body skills into their work to help youth improve academic performance, emotional regulation, concentration, creativity and tools to cope with current and future stressors. Presenter: Kevin Harrington, PhD, Licensed Psychologist – Private Practice. For more information and to register: http://www.macmh.org/event-page/workshops-trainings/fall-2018-training-series/?instance_id=169#7

DIVERSITY

The Child Welfare Program would like to encourage students, faculty, and alumni to engage in diverse events throughout the year. This falls’ events on campus include:

- **Latino Night:** October 26, 2018, 5:00-11:00pm CSU Ballroom on MSU Campus
- **Somali Night:** November 3, 2018, 6:00-10:00pm CSU Ballroom on MSU Campus
- **Hmong Culture Day:** November 10, 2018 5:00pm-TBD CSU Ballroom on MSU Campus
- **American Indian Night:** November 12, 2018, 6:00-8:00pm CSU Ballroom on MSU Campus

For more information regarding diversity events on MSU Campus: <http://www.mnsu.edu/cultdiv/activities/>

RESOURCES YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT

- **November is National Adoption Month!** Advocate and promote awareness around adoption by adding these widgets or email signatures to your correspondence during this month. <https://www.childwelfare.gov/topics/adoption/nam/spread-the-word/email/>
- For some information on adoption, these fact sheets from MN DHS are great resources. Adoption and Permanency Planning: <https://edocs.dhs.state.mn.us/lfserver/Public/DHS-4923-ENG>
Finding Families for Waiting Children: <https://edocs.dhs.state.mn.us/lfserver/Public/DHS-4746-ENG>
Concurrent Permanency Planning: <https://edocs.dhs.state.mn.us/lfserver/Public/DHS-4926-ENG>
- Information on Intimate Partner Violence in Child Welfare: https://www.cascw.org/portfolio_tags/practice-notes/
- Training modules from the Center for Advanced Studies in Child Welfare: https://www.cascw.org/portfolio_category/online-modules/
- Social Justice Solutions: The link below is an article specifically based on Child Welfare. Subscribe for more social justice solutions. <http://www.socialjusticesolutions.org/2016/11/09/notes-wicked-problems-big-data-trauma-solution-based-casework/>
- One place to find every states Federal Child & Family Services Plans (2015-2019) arranged by Federal Region:

<https://sites.google.com/site/2017titleveroundtable/resources/2015-19-child-family-service-plans>

- Fantastic video about working in the Child Welfare Profession in Minnesota! It is very honest and realistic about the field!

<https://www.cascw.org/portfolio-items/minnesota-realistic-job-preview>

The DHS Data Dashboard for Child Welfare is full of exciting and interesting information to keep you up-to-date on child welfare knowledge:

http://www.dhs.state.mn.us/main/idcplg?IdcService=GET_DYNAMIC_CONVERSION&RevisionSelectionMethod=LatestReleased&dDocName=dhs16_148137

ALUMNA, FACULTY, & STAFF UPDATES

The BSSW program is very proud to announce the graduation of the following students:

Emmalee Eide

DJ Macedo

Danielle Maher

Additionally, the MSW program is proud to announce the graduation of the following students:

Ashley Brown

Emily Camacho

Anna Garbers

Taneesha Hunter

Skylar Retterath

Congratulations graduates! Best of luck as you work to actively enhance child welfare!

Let us know what you are doing and we will share in the next CWSP E-News.

Send info to ChildWelfareSOWK@mnsu.edu



Like us on Facebook for more updates and information:

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