



A FEW WORDS FROM YOUR CHILD WELFARE STIPEND PROGRAM STAFF

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. The following summarizes three of the policy briefs from current MSW students.

To access the following documents online, go to: <http://sbs.mnsu.edu/socialwork/policybriefs.html>

Expanding Full-Service Community Schools into Rural Minnesota

Authors: Rachel Cox Raverty, Lindsey Gilbert, Jessica Goettl, Claire Otto, and Korissa Smith

“Communities throughout rural Minnesota would greatly benefit from full-service community schools to support academic achievement and contribute to thriving communities. Lack of health and human services, mental health disparities, and cultural divides are among the greatest concerns for students in rural areas. One in 5 children birth to eighteen has a diagnosable mental health condition and 1 out of every 10 children experience a mental health problem that is severe enough to impair how they function at home, in school, and in their communities.¹⁴ When youth come to school hungry or experiencing in-home trauma, academic success is hard to achieve.⁶ Many children who have mental health needs and are referred to services do not attend the first appointment.⁴ Up to three-quarters of youth end services prematurely.⁴ The full-service community school model is an approach demonstrated to increase enrollment, and improve attendance and academic outcomes.⁶ Full-service community schools around the nation are providing supports, uniting communities, reducing barriers, improving educational achieve, and reducing educational gaps. It is vital that local health and human service agencies work together with community schools to improve service delivery for students and their families. Minnesota needs to increase its investment in the full-service community school model by expanding the availability of full-service community schools throughout every region of greater Minnesota.”

Paid Family and Medical Leave: An Investment in Minnesota’s Families

Authors: Hannah Krog, Danielle Kaderlik, Danielle Maher, Paxson Menard, and Kallie Trutnau

“The current policy Minnesota, the federal Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA), is unpaid and simply insufficient to meet the needs of Minnesotans. In 2016, only 1 in 7 U. S. civilian workers had access to paid family and medical leave (PFML) as an employee benefit.¹⁴ Ten percent of Minnesotans will take family or medical leave (FML) in any given year.⁹ While almost three-quarters of Minnesota workers receive at least some pay when they are out of work for family or medical reasons; access to pay during leave is not equally distributed.⁹ Low-wage (46%); part-time (38%); less educated (38%); black (42%) or Hispanic (39%); and younger (39%) workers are much more likely to receive no compensation during leave.⁹ 90% of companies surveyed in California, the first state to enact guaranteed paid leave, say the law had either a “positive effect or no effect on productivity, profit, morale, and costs.”¹⁵ If paid leave programs in California, New Jersey and Rhode Island can effectively deliver paid leave insurance programs for a small payroll tax of around 1% or less; Minnesota can do the same.⁹ Debra Fitzpatrick from the Humphrey School of Public Affairs has laid out six models for how guaranteed paid leave can be achieved, with each a step in the right direction. Model 6 provides the best approach to meeting the needs of all Minnesotans: Up to 12 Weeks of Paid Family and Medical Leave using a Progressive Replacement Rate Structure (80% to 55%) and Maximum Weekly Benefit of \$1,000.⁹”

Moving Beyond a Protective Approach to Stopping Sexual Violence of People with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities

Authors: Katie Crowell, Jenni Elwer, Beatrice Makori, and Laura Schultz

“Individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) have some of the highest rates of sexual violence of any group—at least 7 times the rate for people without disabilities.⁶ Attempts to alleviate this problem have been unsuccessful and based on the Medical Model of Disability, which views people with I/DD as inherently vulnerable and in need only of protection. Viewing people with I/DD as inherently vulnerable further stigmatizes them and increases dependency on others, instead of fostering capabilities and independence. Minnesota needs to move beyond taking a protective “recognize, report, and respond” approach, to taking a comprehensive approach to sexual violence prevention. We must invest in an array of Primary Prevention and Risk Reduction strategies to address the serious and pervasive problem of sexual violence perpetrated against children, adolescents, and adults with I/DD. Primary prevention and risk reduction need to start early with children and their caregivers in the places where they live, learn, and play to teach skills for self-advocacy, healthy relationships, distinguishing harmful caregiving from respectful caregiving, where to report crimes, and where to get help. We need to provide education and support self-determination through self-advocacy of people with I/DD as equal partners in our comprehensive approach.² We need to create change in cultural attitudes, norms, and policies to promote opportunity, freedom to make meaningful choice, inclusion, self-determination, and increased quality of life for all people with I/DD. Every person has a right to safety and a right to live their life free of sexual violence. At the forefront of Minnesota’s comprehensive approach must be the voices of people with I/DD.”

A special thank you to all the MSW students for contributing to this newsletter and providing us with this information.

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&bHideSearchBox=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 spring. For information and to see the complete list with details for all please visit: <https://www.mnadopt.org/education/>

Minnesota Association for Children’s Mental Health has several spring trainings. For more information, please visit: <https://www.macmh.org/event-page/workshops-trainings/>

April 28th-30th, 2019: Minnesota Association for Children’s Mental Health Annual Conference. Location: Duluth, MN. Designed for people who care for or work with infants, children, and youth. Learning objectives consist of: “Improve policy and enhance practices for children (birth to 21) who have or are at risk of developing mental health disorders; Acquire skills and strategies that will improve outcomes for children with mental health needs; Learn about best practices and latest research in children’s mental health and related fields; Enrich understanding of different perspectives and common goals in support of all children.” For more information and to register: <https://www.macmh.org/event-page/annual-child-adolescent-mental-health-conference/2019conference/>

April 30th & May 1st, 2019: Center for Advanced Studies in Child Welfare 20th Annual Child Welfare Spring Conference “Understanding Substance Use and Interventions in Child Welfare”. Location: Minneapolis, MN. In partnership with the Minnesota Center for Chemical and Mental Health, the Center for Advanced Studies in Child Welfare is pleased to announce our 20th Annual Spring Child Welfare Conference! This year’s conference will be a two-day conference featuring local and national speakers. Day 1 will be web-streamed and Day 2 will be on-site attendance only. For more information and to register: <https://casw.umn.edu/20th-annual-child-welfare-spring-conference/>

May 10th, 2019 at 9:30am-11:00am: Center for Advanced Studies in Child Welfare “Supporting Parents with Co-occurring Disorders in Child Welfare (Part Three of a Three-Part Training Series). Location: Bemidji, MN. Parents with co-occurring substance use and mental health disorders are overrepresented in child welfare cases. An estimated 50% to 80% of all confirmed child neglect and maltreatment cases involve a parent struggling with substance use disorders (National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University [NCASAC], 1999). In a collaborative effort between MNCAMH and CASCW, MNCAMH Clinical Trainer, Steve Carlson, Psy.D. will provide a forum for discussion and learning to provide support for parents in the child welfare system struggling with co-occurring substance use and mental health disorders. For more information and to register: <z.umn.edu/beltrami-COD-training>

May 17th, 2019 at 8:00am-3:00pm: Minnesota Social Service Association’s Region 9 Summer Conference. Location: MSU, Mankato Centennial Student Union. The full-day program will offer two tracks and a chance to earn up to 6 CEUs! For more information and to register: https://www.mnssa.org/web/MNSSA/Education_Events/Regional_Events/Region_9_Summer_Conference/MN_SSA/MSSA_Events_Education/test2.aspx?hkey=66e270c6-487a-43d1-8eb9-664cc4ee9fee

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:

- **Feminist Feast: Black Feminism-** April 17, 2019, 5:30pm-6:30pm; CSU 218 on MNSU Campus
- **Open Kitchen Gender/Sexuality-** April 17, 2019, 11:30am-1:00pm; CSU 269 on MNSU Campus
- **Ubuntu Civic Engagement in the Black Community-** April 23, 2019, 7:00pm-8:30pm; CSU 269 on MNSU Campus

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

RESOURCES YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT

- 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/2017titleiveroundtable/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 December 2018:

Samantha Hanson

Jo Robbins

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:

Child Welfare Program at MSU, Mankato's Department of Social Work

Debra Gohagan, MSW, PhD
BSSW Child Welfare Stipend Program Coordinator
d.gohagan@mnsu.edu; 507-389-1699

Kimberly Zammitt, PhD, LICSW
MSW Child Welfare Stipend Program Coordinator
Kimberly.zammitt@mnsu.edu; 507-389-1219

Minnesota State University, Mankato
Department of Social Work
358 Trafton Science Center N
Mankato MN 56001
(Dept. office) 507-389-6504; (fax) 507-389-6769
ChildWelfareSOWK@mnsu.edu;

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Editors: Danielle Maher, CWP Graduate Assistant, Debra Gohagan, CWP BSSW Coordinator & Kim Zammitt, CWP Coordinators.