



# CASCW News

Center for Advanced Studies in Child Welfare

No. 11

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

February 1998

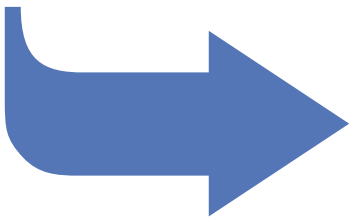
CASCW News is produced by the Center for Advanced Studies in Child Welfare and supported by Title IV-E funds, through the Minnesota Department of Human Services.



## AN EXCHANGE ON CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES: A PROGRAM EVALUATION REPORT

An interview with **Joel Alter**, Office of the Legislative Auditor

Center for Advanced Studies  
in Child Welfare  
School of Social Work  
425 Ford Hall, 224 Church St. SE  
Minneapolis, MN 55455-0493  
(612) 626-8202



### Also in This Issue

*Funding Issues in Out-of-Home Placements: Highlights*

*Report on Training Workshop: Work with Reluctant Families*

*SSW and Phillips Neighborhood: A University-Community Collaboration*

*Public Policy and Child Welfare: An International Opportunity*

*No-Cost Publications*

CASCW News  
Editor in Chief: Esther Wattenberg  
Editing and Design: Laura Baugh

### Introduction

In May 1997 the Legislative Audit Commission directed the State of Minnesota Office of the Legislative Auditor to study the effectiveness of Minnesota's county-administered child protection system. The resulting evaluation report was issued by the Office in January 1998. The following is a brief exchange of comments between **Joel Alter**, project manager of the study *Child Protective Services: a Program Evaluation Report*, and Professor **Esther Wattenberg**, director of CASCW, which was conducted by telephone on February 12.

### Interview

[Wattenberg:] You reported on widespread variations in county practices throughout the 84 county human service agencies administering child protection. The variations in screening, investigating, record keeping, and services were particularly noteworthy. The report recommends that the Minnesota Department of Human Services take the lead in standardizing practices. What role is there, then, for local community standards and how might these be reflected in a county's child protection practices?

Continued on page 2

### Practice Notes

CASCW Practice Notes, a 1997-98 initiative designed to assist child welfare practitioners in connecting research findings with day-to-day practice, has been inaugurated.

The practice digest is prepared by MSW graduate assistant

- Sharon Haas and doctoral graduate assistant
- Phu Phan under the direction of Professor
- Esther Wattenberg and will be published approximately four times per year.
- The theme for 1997-98 is strengthening permanency planning. The first issue of the digest examined visitation and the second looked at family reunification. ■

TO RECEIVE CASCW PRACTICE NOTES REGULARLY OR TO ORDER BACK ISSUES, PLEASE SELECT THE APPROPRIATE BOX(ES) ON THE ORDER FORM ON PAGE 11.

[Alter:] There is a long history of local control in Minnesota's system, and because counties pay for a large portion of the system's cost, they have good reason to want some say in the way services are delivered. However, there is a lack of common understanding

of what maltreatment is. The fact that the definitions of maltreatment vary from one county to the next makes some legislators—and some county officials—uncomfortable.

For example, some counties have criteria that result in high rates of "mentally injured" children per capita. Others rarely identify cases of maltreatment in this category.

A case can be made for some variation, but we are recommending a more clearly defined set of state criteria that could help to standardize some of these practices. If a county wants to supplement the state criteria and the county board approves, our report suggests that the county should be able to do this.

The definitions of maltreatment are not widely understood or discussed

by the public. In fact, the definitions are usually set by child protection administration, with little public discussion. We think that it is possible for people in the field to reach greater statewide consensus on these definitions. However, we not only need more

"Like the elephant and the blind man, [school social workers, law enforcement staff, and judges] are each feeling a different part of this complicated [child protection] system and reporting their perceptions on the limited parts that they encounter."

consensus, but also it would be beneficial if the process of setting clearer definitions resulted in policies that were better understood by the families to which these criteria will be applied.

*You noted in your report that a significant portion of county human services directors stated that budget considerations did not play a role in their decisions to provide services. On the other hand, 71% of district court judges responding to a survey stated that they perceived that budgets have at least "sometimes" affected county recommendations and actions. What*

*do you make of this difference in perception?*

Most county directors do not seem to think that financial considerations are driving their decisions about which cases to investigate and to whom to provide services. I

think they believe that these decisions are driven more by their county philosophies and the facts of the

cases than by money.

But many of the county directors acknowledged that budget sometimes plays a role in decisions about child placements, which are expensive decisions. Judges are often involved in cases involving out-of-home placements, and this may explain why they were especially likely to observe that budget issues sometimes influence decisions.

*You asked human service directors about the adequacy of services for the families they serve. The most often-cited unmet need was for truancy and educational support services. Considering*

*the extent of child neglect cases and their association with chemical dependency and mental illness, I was surprised that chemical treatment programs and mental health services were not named as unmet needs. Do you have a response to that?*

I was surprised by this, too. It is common to find problems of chemical abuse and mental illness in families that chronically neglect their children. But I think that human services directors feel like they have at least some programs within their agencies that address the needs of chemically dependent and mentally ill people. In contrast, human services directors do not always have services within their agencies to address problems such as truancy, transportation, and housing—some of the services that our surveys indicated are the least adequate.

*You surveyed perceptions about the effectiveness of the child protection system from those who work closely with the system. The differences among perceptions were quite notable. For example, you reported that pediatricians and*

*school social workers generally perceived child protection as unresponsive and inconsistent in its responses.*

*On the other hand, law enforcement agencies expressed considerable satisfaction: 91% of police chiefs and sheriffs surveyed said that child protection staff “always” or “usually” conducted thorough investigations, and they generally believed that they had established cooperative working relationships with each other. Further, judges reported that they think that child protection staff generally have pursued reasonable options before recommending child placements or termination of parental rights. Although they did note that frequently parents are given “too many second chances.” What do you make of the rather wide variance among the perceptions of those who work most closely with child protection?*

Each of these constituencies sees differing parts of the system. Like the elephant and the blind man, they are each feeling a different part of this complicated system and reporting their

perceptions on the limited parts that they encounter. Law enforcement staff are partners chiefly in cases of sexual abuse and the assessment of physical abuse that borders on criminal charges.

School social workers and pediatricians see a wider array of cases, including more cases of child neglect and more cases in which the evidence of maltreatment may be less clear-cut. Judges often see a fairly small subset of maltreatment cases—such as those involving referrals for child placements and cases in which parents are uncooperative.

*As you probably gathered in the course of your very intensive review of child protection, one sees how difficult it is to strike a balance between an intrusive state intervention and the privacy rights of a family. In this connection, what were the general sentiments about how the system is operating in striking this elusive balance?*

For the most part, Minnesota judges told us that they do not believe that child protection staff have been too intrusive in the lives of families. Because judges work so closely

with cases involving child placement, they are in a good position to comment on the intrusiveness of child protection interventions—and generally they said that agencies were more likely to be too timid in their interventions than too aggressive.

*Did you survey child protection workers on what they thought of the judges and the county attorneys with whom they work?*

*In your recommendations you were concerned with the fact that records were destroyed too quickly. You noted that a record of investigations could help counties in deterring the repeated maltreatment of children. You observed that in those cases in which an investigation did not result in a determination of maltreatment, the records should be kept*

LEGISLATIVE AUDITOR'S EVALUATION REPORT:

The evaluation report issued by the Office of the Legislative Auditor of the State of Minnesota is available upon request. For a copy of this influential report, contact the Office at (612) 296-4708. The report is also available on-line at <http://www.auditor.leg.state.mn.us/pe9801.htm/>

No, we did not—partly because there was no statewide list of child protection staff available to us. But we did talk with workers during our site visits to counties. It was apparent to us that some of the variations in practices that we cited in our study reflected variations in county attorney and judicial practices, not just variations in the practices of child protection agency staff.

*for an extended period of time to track evidence of a pattern of repeated reports of abuse and neglect.*

*Further, you noted that after completing their case plans, some families still need some continued monitoring in order to effectively protect children from repeated maltreatment. Again, this raises the very important question*

Continued on page 4

*of the privacy rights of families "to be left alone" and the public's obligation to protect children. The continuing scrutiny of family life after completing a case plan could be considered by many as an unwarranted intrusion. What is your response to that?*

I think that legislators are growing increasingly willing to take the steps needed to ensure child safety, even if it requires some greater intrusion into the lives of families who have maltreated their children. For example, legislators wondered whether the murder of Desi Irving [a four-year-old child in Minneapolis] by her mother could have been prevented with longer monitoring of the family.

We know that some of the problems that contribute to maltreatment—such as chemical dependency—don't disappear overnight. I think there is a growing acceptance that once families have maltreated a child, and especially if they have done it repeatedly, that a certain period of monitoring is reasonable. This may require the families to sacrifice some privacy, but I think that legislators appear to be comfortable with this in the case of high-risk children. ■

*It seems there has always been tension between counties and the state's role in oversight. Did I detect in the accumulated observations from your report that you might be leaning towards a centralized state system in order to reduce the variations among counties and to have a more standardized and perhaps more regulated child protection system?*

Not necessarily. Minnesota has a long tradition of local service delivery in child protection, and moving to a state-operated system would result in tremendous upheaval and potentially harmful change. I'm more interested in ensuring that the system produces good results than in who provides the services. I would prefer to see improvements made in our system of locally delivered services—including greater oversight by the MN Department of Human Services. Most states provide child protective services with state employees, and Minnesota could consider this option—but I think there are less disruptive options that should be explored first. ■

## FALL WORKSHOP

### Concurrent Planning

CASCW's fall regional workshop was held Friday, December 12, at the University of Minnesota Cowles Auditorium. Approximately 175 people attended the half-day CEU-earning workshop entitled "Redrawing the Family Circle: Concurrent Planning—Permanency for Young Children in High-Risk Situations." The workshop focused on the principles behind concurrent planning, recent state and federal legislative developments, current experiments with concurrent planning, and local community responses to dual-track planning (the simultaneous pursuit of reunification and a backup foster-adoptive permanency plan).

The keynote presentation was provided by **Frances Munroe**, Program Manager with the Department of Family and Children's Services at Santa Clara County Social Service Agency in San Jose, CA who directs the implementation of Santa Clara County's concurrent planning project. Munroe is responsible for the coordination and supervision of adoption, foster home licensing, and recruitment programs.

**Erin Sullivan Sutton**, Director of Family and Children's Services with the Minnesota Department of Human Services, provided some observations on concurrent planning from a state perspective.

**Glenda Dewberry-Rooney**, Associate Professor and Chair of the Augsburg College Social Work Department; and **Joan Riebel**, Executive Director of Family Alternatives, proposed the discussion questions that provided the framework to the audience response sessions.

A panel response was provided by three local commentators: **Sarah Maxwell**, Division Manager with Hennepin County Children and Family Services; **Andrew Mitchell**, Senior Assistant County Attorney with the Hennepin County Attorney's Office; and **Michael Weber**, President and CEO of Volunteers of America-Minnesota. ■

**IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO RECEIVE PROCEEDINGS FROM "REDRAWING THE FAMILY CIRCLE" WHEN THEY BECOME AVAILABLE (SPRING), PLEASE SELECT THE "PROCEEDINGS" BOX ON THE ORDER FORM ON PAGE 11.**

### **Support of Public Undergraduate Education in Child Welfare**

Grants of \$4,500 each were made by CASCW to five State Universities to strengthen the child welfare content in their undergraduate social work programs.

The funds are used to offer a child welfare course during the 1997-98 academic year. A portion of the funds can be used to purchase teaching materials, host speakers for classes in the area of child welfare related to Title IV-E children and their families, or to support faculty attendance at related training workshops.

Bemidji State University, Mankato State University, Moorhead State University, St.

Cloud State University, and Winona State University received grants for 1997-98. ■

### **Permanency for Young Children in Foster Care**

During the fall quarter, Professor **Esther Wattenberg** (principal investigator), **Gail Walters** (project director), and Professor **Jane Gilgun** (project consultant) began work on "Developing Optimal Permanent Placements for Young Children in Foster Care," an 18-month proposal for which CASCW was awarded \$150,000 from The McKnight Foundation. Doctoral student **Hyungmo Kim** and MSW student **Meghan Kelley** are the project's primary research assistants.

### **A WELCOME TO NEW FIELD SUPERVISORS:**

SSW Field Department staff monitor the field experience of MSW students through field liaison agency site visits. Two new field supervisors have joined SSW. Through a subcontract with Ramsey County, **Marilyn Johnson**, has been hired to oversee placements within Ramsey County units and related contracted agencies. **Diane Sharper** has been hired to assume "Traveling Field Supervisor" duties for students placed with metropolitan agencies that lack an on-site MSW supervisor. ■

The project, which began October 1, is to develop a risk assessment protocol for identifying families with a poor prognosis for maintaining the safety and well-being of their children. Families of very young children, six years of age and younger, are the focus of attention for this project.

A consultative committee has been established. The first meeting was held December 10, at which representatives from the MN Department of Human Services, counties, and community agencies engaged in a vigorous discussion of Minnesota Statutes on egregious harm and the concepts and principles of concurrent planning. ■

## **WEB SITES OF INTEREST**

<http://www.gao.gov> -- US General Accounting Office: choose "GAO Reports and Testimony" for free reports and testimony, (most can be downloaded, but also can order printed copies via on-line form)

<http://thomas.loc.gov/home/thomas.html> -- US Congress on the Internet: congressional laws and bills, conduct searches for specific bills/laws and download text

<http://pages.nyu.edu/~holden/gh-w3-f.htm> -- World Wide Web Resources for Social Workers: links to a wide variety of sites of interest to social workers, maintained by Dr. Gary Holden, New York University Ehrenkranz School of Social Work

## Public Policy and Child Welfare: An International Opportunity

On November 6, 1997 CASCW and Augsburg College cosponsored a presentation by Professor **David Bull** (University of Bristol School of Policy Studies, Bristol, England) on a 1998 summer seminar opportunity.

The University of Minnesota School of Social Work (SSW) joins Augsburg College to cosponsor the University of Bristol's International Credit-Earning Program, providing a short-term learning experience in England for students interested in social welfare policy. Last summer's exchange, led by Augsburg College Professor **Anthony Bibus** under the direction of Professor **Rosemary Link**, initiated this opportunity for students and faculty to engage in a comparative policy analysis.

Professors **Esther Wattenberg**, SSW, and **Maria Dinis**, Augsburg College, are the faculty advisors for the program this year. For further information, contact **Meghan Kelley** at (612) 625-1085. ■

## WORK WITH RELUCTANT FAMILIES IN CHILD WELFARE

This day-long CASCW training workshop was offered in both Bemidji and St. Paul during September. The CEU-earning workshop was the first of many, we hope, in which our child welfare graduates will share their expertise. Participant evaluation responses indicated that additional training on the topic of work with reluctant clients, particularly work with adolescent males and more guidance with legal issues, was requested for future training workshops.

The workshop concentrated on issues for child welfare practitioners concerning reluctant or involuntary clients. Three questions provided the context for the program: • What are the legal and ethical guidelines for offering services to reluctant clients? • How can practitioners predict client response to involuntary contact and reduce opposition? and • What role does culture play in work with involuntary clients?

Professor **Ron Rooney**, Associate Director of CASCW, led the workshop at the Earle Brown Continuing Education Center on the University of Minnesota St. Paul Campus with the assistance of co-trainer **Elena Izaksonas**, SSW doctoral candidate and Senior Social Worker at Hennepin County Children and Family Services. The following IV-E Child Welfare alumni served as co-facilitators:

- **Beth Alvarez**, 1997 IV-E alumna, social worker with Hennepin County Children and Family Services;
- **Rebecca Anderson-Fly**, 1993 IV-E alumna, school social worker with Waite Park Elementary School;

PHOTO NOT  
AVAILABLE  
ON-LINE

*(From left) Top row: Carol Jud, Lynn Marrs, Rebecca Anderson-Fly, Christine Enking, Paula William-Sanders, Melissa Roberts. Middle row: Sue Gillham, Beth Alvarez, Suzanne Serbus. Bottom row: Ron Rooney, Elena Izaksonas.*

## WORK WITH RELUCTANT FAMILIES IN CHILD WELFARE

- **Christine Enking**, 1996 IV-E alumna, child protection social worker with Hennepin County Children and Family Services, assigned to the Rebound program;
  - **Sue Gillham**, 1994 IV-E alumna, child protection social worker with Hennepin County Children and Family Services Child Protection Investigations;
  - **Carol Jud**, 1993 IV-E alumna, child protection social worker with Hennepin County Children and Family Services;
  - **Lynn Marrs**, 1994 IV-E alumna, parent aide with Anoka County Human Services (providing intensive in-house services to parents who are developmentally delayed);
  - **Melissa Roberts**, 1997 IV-E alumna, social worker with Hennepin County Children and Family Services at “The Village”;
  - **Suzanne Serbus**, 1996 IV-E alumna, supervisor with Nicollet County Children and Family Services; and
  - **Paula Williams Sanders**, 1997 IV-E alumna, senior social worker with Integrated Services on the Hennepin County Crime Prevention Team (supporting positive long-term outcomes of delinquent children under age ten through a community-county collaboration).
- The training was also offered at the Hobson Memorial Union on the Bemidji State University Campus. Dr. Rooney again led the workshop but this time with the assistance of co-facilitator **Lila George**, Associate Professor of Social Work at Bemidji State University and the University of Minnesota-Duluth. The following IV-E Child Welfare alumni served as co-facilitators:
- **Sarah Baker**, 1995 IV-E alumna, family therapist for the Professional Association of Treatment Homes’ (PATH) family preservation services;
  - **Jeremy Carney**, 1997 IV-E alumnus, caseworker with Youth Works in Fargo, North Dakota;
  - **Christina Johnson**, 1996 IV-E alumna, child services social worker with Hennepin County Children and Family Services; and
  - **Bachyen Nguyen**, 1994 IV-E alumna, child protection social worker with Hennepin County Children and Family Services. ■

## University-Community Collaboration

SSW field instructors and students in the Phillips Neighborhood have been meeting regularly to learn more about the programs of individual agencies and to discuss issues around coordination of services and agency collaboration. The meetings—held at different agencies each month—have been lively, the discussions spirited, and the networking and support encouraging. The following Phillips Neighborhood agencies are participating in this endeavor:

- Phillips Neighborhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Project;
- Community University Health Care Center - STEEP Program;
- Southside Family Nurturing Center;
- Hennepin County Chemical Health; and
- Fraser Child and Family Center.

Efforts are underway to begin a similar effort on the Northside by bringing together field instructors and students in Northside agencies as well as inviting agencies who are interested in participating in SSW’s intern program. For more information contact **Maura Sullivan**, SSW Field Director, at (612) 624-0563. ■

I  
N  
C  
O  
R  
R  
E  
C  
T  
A  
D  
D  
R  
E  
S  
S  
?

D  
U  
P  
L  
I  
C  
A  
T  
E  
M  
A  
I  
L  
I  
N  
G  
S  
?

P  
L  
E  
A  
S  
E  
L  
E  
T  
U  
S  
K  
N  
O  
W

S  
E  
E  
F  
O  
R  
M  
O  
N  
P  
A  
G  
E  
11

## Scholar and Alumni News

• IV-E alumna **Christine Enking**, Child Protection Social Worker with Hennepin County, has been assigned to the Rebound program. This program is a collaborative effort among Hennepin County Children and Family Services, Hennepin County Adult Corrections, and the community to provide services to parents, primarily female, who are on supervised probation and who have been identified as chemically dependent and having at least one child at risk.

• IV-E alumna **Claudia Fercello** coauthored an article with Associate Professor **Mark Umbreit**, "Woodbury Police Family Group Conferencing Program: An Initial Assessment of Client Satisfaction," that has been accepted for publication in *Juvenile Justice Update*. Also, Fercello copresented "An Innovative Approach to Early Intervention with High-Risk Families: An Evaluation of the Minnesota Family Support Project" at the National Association of Family-Based Services

(NAFBS) 11th Annual Empowering Families Conference on November 21 in Minneapolis, MN.

• **Iris Heavy Runner**, IV-E alumna and faculty member of the University of Montana in Missoula, is project coordinator of a grant-winning effort aimed at developing a family-centered educational strategy to be used in communities and tribal colleges. The model focuses on child care, bilingual education, literacy, transportation, and welfare reform issues. The Kellogg Foundation is funding the effort through a three-year \$733,000 grant to four tribal colleges in Montana.

• **Sherry Holloway**, current IV-E Scholar, has been hired as a Senior Social Worker with the Hennepin County Children and Family Services Unit. Holloway will be working directly with children who are in foster care placements and will pursue the dual tracks of reunification and foster-adoptive permanency planning.

• IV-E alumna **Ruby Jones** has been hired as a Senior Social Worker with the

Hennepin County Children and Family Services division in the Community Outreach unit.

• **Candace Kragthorpe**, IV-E alumna, was promoted to Violence Prevention Coordinator with the Family Services Division of the Minnesota Department of Health.

• **Philip Larkins**, current IV-E Scholar and Hennepin County Parent Support Project intern, contributed to "Parents with Cognitive Limitations: Strategies and Tools for Success," a workshop held October 6-7 in St. Paul, MN.

• IV-E alumnus **Mark Toogood** was appointed to the Governor's Task Force on Fetal Alcohol Syndrome as chair of the Prevention Subcommittee. Also, Toogood was invited to join the Minnesota Supreme Court CHIPS Rules Committee which will review the Minnesota Rules of Juvenile Procedure regarding Child in Need of Protective Services (CHIPS) proceedings and make recommendations for their revision.

Continued on page 10

## CASCW-DULUTH IV-E PARTNERSHIP

As a 1997-98 initiative, CASCW has contracted with the University of Minnesota-Duluth (UMD) to offer a range of programs and scholarship opportunities on the Duluth campus through Title IV-E funds awarded by the Minnesota Department of Human Services. UMD Associate Professor **Kathleen Nuccio**, a research fellow, is the CASCW-UMD IV-E Coordinator who manages the program and serves as the faculty liaison between UMD and St. Louis County Social Services for child welfare research.

The award made to the UMD Department of Social Work is used to support the preparation of MSW students for practice in public county, state, and tribal child welfare settings. The program is being developed and implemented in collaboration with St. Louis County Social Services and the Fond du Lac Reservation. As such, this arrangement makes it a Minnesota model for the collaboration of a university school of social work, a county social service department, and a tribal reservation.

As with CASCW's program in the Twin Cities, Child Welfare Scholarships are at the heart of the Duluth project. Sixteen scholarships have been awarded (see box and photo below). Each scholarship recipient completes courses that have a child welfare focus, at least one field placement with a county or tribal child welfare agency, and a major research project on a topic related to public/tribal child welfare.

Another key goal for the project is to support community outreach efforts. **Candi Gile-Aubid** has been hired as Community Outreach Specialist to achieve this objective. Gile-Aubid will develop collaborations with other counties and reservations in the region and identify the potential for, and barriers to, distance education. Minority recruitment and identifying and reducing barriers to field placements for Native Americans will receive her concentrated attention. ■

PHOTO NOT  
AVAILABLE  
ON-LINE

*(From left) Back row: Sue Cebelinski, Karen Merila, Lisa Pollak, Dave Glesener, Tom Chartier, Linda Bradley, John Nachtsheim, and Laurie Orbeck. Front row: Angelique Coffey, Alison Suominen, LaWaine Longen, and Stacy Hagen. (Not pictured: Terra Bishop Lind, Janet Eicholtz, Julia Jaakola, and Susanna Miller.)*

### UMD IV-E CHILD WELFARE SCHOLARS

- Six full-time UMD students pursuing their MSW degrees;
- Six full-time St. Louis County Social Services Department staff members pursuing their MSW degrees; and
- Four employees of Fond du Lac Reservation preparing to enter the UMD MSW program.

## PATTERNS OF FOSTER CARE FUNDING AND THE CURRENT CRISIS IN OUT-OF-HOME PLACEMENT

A new report "Funding Issues in Children's Out-of-Home Placements" has been prepared by **Marcie Jefferys**, Fiscal Policy Director for Children's Defense Fund of Minnesota (CDF-MN) and SSW doctoral student, with support from CASCW in conjunction with CDF-MN. The report analyzes state and county spending and revenue patterns for foster care. Among the findings in the report:

- Foster care is the largest component of the out-of-home placement system, accounting for 45% of total spending in 1995. However, the fastest growing segments in terms of expenditures over the last ten years are the residential treatment programs: Rule 5 (mental health) and Rule 8 (child group home) and correctional facilities for children.
- Unlike most other states, Minnesota's foster care system is highly dependent on local resources: only 7% of the funds spent in 1996 came from the state, nearly 75% came from counties. County governments, in turn, rely heavily on property tax revenues, which vary considerably across the state.
- The child welfare system is tilted heavily toward crises. For every \$5 spent on taking care of children removed from their homes, less than \$1 is spent working with families to keep that from occurring.
- The amount of money spent per poor child on foster care and children's services, in general, varies considerably across the state. There appears to be little relationship between a county's revenue-raising capacity and its level of out-of-home spending per poor child. However, counties with a higher rate of child poverty tend to spend less per poor child than do counties with lower child poverty rates.

"While not all of the recommendations require additional money, without additional state resources it is unlikely that any significant improvements in the foster care system will occur," says Marcie Jefferys. ■

TO RECEIVE THE EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF "FUNDING ISSUES IN CHILDREN'S OUT-OF-HOME PLACEMENTS," PLEASE SELECT THE APPROPRIATE BOX(ES) ON THE ORDER FORM ON PAGE 11.

• **Helen Washington**, IV-E alumna, recently was promoted to Children's Services Social Work Unit Supervisor with Hennepin County Children and

Family Services. Washington supervises nine staff members in a unit that provides concurrent planning for a foster-adoptive permanency goal.

• Recently graduated IV-E Scholar **Vang Yang** has been hired as Senior Social Worker with Hennepin County Child Services. ■

### **Minnesota Center Against Violence & Abuse (MINCAVA)**

The name of the Higher Education Center Against Violence and Abuse (HECAVA) has been changed to the Minnesota Center Against Violence and Abuse (MINCAVA).

MINCAVA, directed by Professor **Jeff Edleson**, CASCW Faculty Associate, now has four separate but related projects:

- a violence education project to prepare college undergraduate and graduate students and working professionals to effectively respond to issues of violence;
- a research study examining the link between child maltreatment and woman battering;
- a national electronic network bringing resources and support to domestic violence coalitions throughout the country; and

- two Electronic Clearinghouse sites of violence-related educational resources on the World Wide Web: one that provides law, criminal justice, and social service professionals with up-to-date information on intervention to stop violence against women (<http://www.vaw.umn.edu>); and one that provides general educational resources about all types of violence (<http://www.mincava.umn.edu>).

**DHS-SSW Collaboration: Graduate Child Welfare Course**

The syllabus for the graduate policy course “Contemporary Child Welfare: Policy, Programs, Research, and Emerging Issues” has been selected as one of fifteen syllabi to be included in a child welfare compendium of syllabi published by CSWE. The syllabus will appear in the MSW policy section of *Educating for Child Welfare Practice: A Compendium of Exemplary Syllabi*.

The course, co-taught by Professor **Esther Wattenberg** and **Inta Sellars**, MN DHS Appeals and Regulations Division, was offered during the fall quarter to day school and weekend MSW students at both the Minneapolis and Moorhead sites.

The following community practitioners contributed guest presentations during the quarter:

- **Inez Hammond**, Program Manager, St. Joseph’s Home for Children;
- **Marcie Jefferys**, SSW doctoral student and Fiscal Policy

Director, Children’s Defense Fund of Minnesota;

- **Mary Mabry**, Therapist, Family and Children’s Services;
- **Kevin McTigue**, Supervisor, Permanency Unit, Hennepin County Children and Family Services;
- **Felicia Miller**, Division Director, Youth Programs, Employment Action Center;
- **Kaycie Rush**, Director, New Chance Program, Employment Action Center; and
- **Jim Sisson**, Director, Lake Street Branch, Family and Children’s Services.

**PUBLICATION ORDER FORM/ADDRESS CORRECTION FORM**

- Executive summary of “Funding Issues in Children’s Out-of-Home Placements”
- Proceedings from “Redrawing the Family Circle: Concurrent Planning” (forthcoming -- spring)
- Addition to mailing list for “CASCW Practice Notes”
  - Also send back issue(s):
  - Issue #1 (visitation)
  - Issue #2 (reunification)

- Name: \_\_\_\_\_
- Agency/unit: \_\_\_\_\_
- Street address: \_\_\_\_\_
- City/state/zip code: \_\_\_\_\_
- **Check box to:**     add address     revise address     delete address
- Please check off the materials that you would like to order and send or fax this form to: Laura Baugh, CASCW, School of Social Work, University of Minnesota, 425 Ford, 224 Church Street SE, Minneapolis, MN 55455-0493 (fax: 612-626-0395).
- There is no charge to order any of the materials on this form.

## **New Center on the Study of Domestic Violence**

Associate Professor **Oliver Williams**, CASCW Faculty Associate, has opened a new center, the Institute on Domestic Violence in the African American Community, housed on the St. Paul campus. The Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services,

has awarded Williams \$189,984 in support of the Institute.

The Institute's purpose is to provide an interdisciplinary forum by which perspectives on family violence will be articulated through research findings, the examination of service delivery, and the identification of effective responses to reduce and prevent family violence in the African American community.

The Institute's web page (located at <http://www.dvinstitute.org/dvinstitute/frmain01.htm>) provides an on-line resource guide with national information and hotline phone numbers and several publications including bibliographies on a number of subjects related to family violence. ■

## **CASCW**

*The University of Minnesota is committed to the policy that all persons shall have equal access to its programs, facilities, and employment without regard to race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, marital status, disability, public assistance status, veteran status, or sexual orientation. This newsletter is the newsletter of the University of Minnesota Center for Advanced Studies in Child Welfare. Comments and news items may be sent to the address listed below.*

■  
*This publication is available in alternative formats upon request. Please contact the Center for Advanced Studies in Child Welfare, 425 Ford Hall, 224 Church Street SE, Minneapolis, MN 55455-0493 (612) 626-8202.*

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

# **CASCW News**

**Center for Advanced Studies in Child Welfare  
School of Social Work  
University of Minnesota  
425 Ford Hall  
224 Church Street SE  
Minneapolis, MN 55455-0493  
(612) 626-8202**

### ***Center Staff***

*Esther Wattenberg, Director  
Jean Quam, Ex-Officio  
Ronald Rooney, Associate Director  
Nancy Johnston, Assistant Director  
Maura Sullivan, Field Director  
Laura Baugh, Administrative Assistant*

CAMPUS MAIL

