

*Sponsored by the Center for Advanced Studies in Child Welfare
with Bush Foundation and IV-E funds, through the Minnesota Department of Human Services.*

SAVE THIS DATE
Tuesday, June 03, 1997

**Rethinking Child Welfare: Can the System Be
Transformed through Community Partnerships?**

Featured Speaker: Patricia Schene, PhD

- ◆ **Patricia Schene** is a Consultant to the Edna McConnell Clark Foundation on community partnerships; a consultant to various federal, state, and local public welfare agencies; and a member of the Executive Session, New Paradigms for Child Protective Services, Kennedy School of Public Affairs, Harvard University.

We are pleased to announce a day-long conference honoring the Bush Foundation for their five years' support of the Center for Advanced Studies in Child Welfare. A detailed announcement including registration information will be sent to all recipients of this newsletter (to the address on this issue's mailing label) in the month of April. If the mailing label on this issue is incorrect, please contact Laura Baugh at (612) 626-8202.

**HIGHLIGHTS FROM A
REPORT ON CHILD
MALTREATMENT: THE
STATE OF MINNESOTA,
1991-1994**

This report of child maltreatment in the state of Minnesota from 1991 through 1994 is based on administrative data provided by 87 counties to the Minnesota Department of Human Services.

To learn more about child abuse and neglect in MN over four years, the data were organized to reveal trends in type of maltreatment, percentage of cases determined, and factors of race and age. In addition, a special study of the seven metropolitan counties and a comparison of MN to the United States is

also included. The following are highlights from the full report:

Type of Maltreatment: MN, 1991-1994

- ◆ From 1991 through 1994, out of 112,113 allegations of maltreatment, 42,420 were determined* (38 percent). The percentage of determinations for Minnesota held steady (37-39 percent) over the four years.
- ◆ In 1994, of those cases that were determined, 62 percent were children in neglecting families, a continuing rise from 1991; 34 percent in physical abuse, a steady decline from 1991; 10 percent in sexual abuse, holding steady; and 2 percent in emotional maltreatment, declining slightly.

Age & Race/Ethnicity: MN, 1991-1994

- ◆ Almost half of determined maltreatment victims in Minnesota were very young (six years of age and under). Even more re-

markable is the fact that infants and toddlers (three years of age and under) represented the majority of this percentage.

- ◆ Percentage of determined Caucasian victims decreased from 67 percent in 1991 to 61 percent in 1994. However, percentage of determined African American victims increased from 17 percent in 1991 to 23 percent in 1994. Percentage of determined Native American, Asian, and Hispanic heritage victims held somewhat steady over the four years.

7 Metropolitan Counties: 1991-1993

- ◆ The seven metropolitan counties represented 55 percent of the State's total maltreatment allegations and 58 percent of the State's total maltreatment determinations, over three years.
- ◆ Percentage of determinations of the seven metropolitan counties were higher

Since 1988, "determined" replaced the term "substantiated" to indicate that in the assessment or investigation of a maltreatment report, evidence was uncovered to confirm maltreatment. Once a report is investigated, three options guide the documentation for recordkeeping: "undetermined"; "determined, but no case opened," implying a level of low or moderate risk; and "determined and case opened," implying a high level of risk.

than percentage of determinations for the State as a whole. From 1991 through 1993, percentage of determinations varied among the seven metropolitan counties.

Comparison of MN Data & US Data

♦ From 1991 through 1994, the percentage of determinations in Minnesota (36-39 percent) was higher than the percentage of determinations in the U.S. (31-34 percent).

♦ In 1994, the percentage of determined victims by age in Minnesota was somewhat similar to the percentage of those in the United States. Both in Minnesota and the U.S., almost half of determined victims were very young (six years of age and under), and infants and toddler (three years of age and under) represented the majority of this percentage.

♦ For the full report, prepared by Professor **Esther Wattenberg** and doctoral student **Hyungmo Kim**, is now available. Please contact Mary Kaye LaPointe at (612) 625-6550 for a copy of "Minnesota's Children: Child Abuse and Neglect, 1991-1994."

COMMENTARY

by Esther Wattenberg

What do we learn from a report on child maltreatment based on trend data? Changes over time (in this case, four years of data) allows us to see changes in type of maltreatment, age, race, ethnicity of children, and the extend of determined (substantiated) cases following investigation.

Valuable as this data is, the limitations are apparent. First, "administrative" data, i.e., information gathered at the county level from standardized forms checked off by frontline workers, may be somewhat flawed by a misinterpretation of how to record the data of the characteristically complex cases entering the child protection system. Further, "missing" data are not uncommon; moreover, a record of the reports of maltreatment

before they are "screened" is not available.

Nevertheless, the findings from this report should focus our attention on two crucial questions: why are we seeing a wave of very young children in the child protection system, despite an earnest effort to develop an early warning system through a network of prevention programs (ECEP, Headstart, crisis nurseries)? Is poverty the central issue? Secondly, in what ways should factors of race/ethnicity influence the way in which child welfare functions?

The data from this report should alert us to other issues in the child welfare crisis: more than 60% of allegations of maltreatment (reports that come from teachers, physicians, social workers, kin, and neighbors) were not substantiated. Why such a large proportion of allegations are unfounded is not well understood. Are we screening out children who merit a responses because our threshold for opening a case is too high (the "imminent risk of harm" standard)? Does the drop in physical abuse cases reflect the fact that in most counties, child protection reports which involve teenagers (often families seeking help with troubled adolescents) elicit a minimal response?

This report should raise questions about the referral system to community agencies that exist within each county. Further, the wide variations amongst counties in how they respond to reports of maltreatment surely exposes the wide disparity of resources available within our 87 county child protections systems.

The importance of grasping the scope, characteristics, and trends in child maltreatment underlines the persistent policy question: has child protection narrowed its responses to requests for protective intervention in order to adapt to its shrinking resources?

In conclusion, designing a continuum of services responsive to the diverse needs of families and children is a formidable

task. As these two studies demonstrate, for some young children caught in short-term immediate crises, the focus will be on stabilizing their families' situation, securing time for an astute assessment of the child's safety, parenting problems, and resources in kinship networks. For older children with behavioral problems and significant histories of prior placements, the urgency of permanency within a narrow set of options framed by brief time limits is a daunting challenge for social service and court systems.

CHANGES AT THE MN STATE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

♦ The Center for Advanced Studies in Child Welfare wishes **Denise Revels Robinson**, former Director of the Family and Children's Services Division at the Minnesota Department of Human Services, and Community Faculty Member in the School of Social Work, farewell. We wish her the best of luck in her new position with the State of Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services as Director of the Milwaukee County child welfare system.

♦ **Judith Wong** has assumed the position of Assistant Commissioner to the Children's Initiative at the Minnesota Department of Human Services after **Anne Damon's** departure.

NOTICE OF AVAILABLE MATERIALS

♦ The multi-phase Kinship Foster Care Project, which focused on Anoka, Blue Earth, and Hennepin Counties, has been completed. To request a copy of the Executive Summary, "Kinship Foster Care in Minnesota: A Study of Three Counties," contact Sharon Haas at (612) 624-1383. A limited number of copies of the full report are available.

♦ The text of the Presidential Directive on Adoption is also available through

CASCW. Please contact Laura Baugh at (612) 626-8202 to receive a copy.

- ♦ A Summary of the Provisions of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 (H.R. 3734; also known as the "Welfare Reform" Act) is available. Please contact Laura Baugh (612-626-8202) to request a copy.

1996-97 BUSH/IV-E CHILD WELFARE SCHOLARS

❖ The Center for Advanced Studies in Child Welfare remains committed to increasing diversity in child welfare staffing patterns. The actualization of that commitment, supported by Bush Foundation and IV-E funding, is evident in the 1996-97 cohort of Child Welfare Scholars, embodying a richness of experience and diversity.

- ♦ Recipients of color are represented at both Twin Cities and distance education sites and in both Day School and Weekend programs. Twenty-six applicants were selected as new Bush/IV-E Scholars for 1996-97, and twenty students were offered continued support. Many of the recipients are current county child welfare professionals—all have experience with at-risk children and families in diverse communities and are committed to culturally sensitive and culturally competent practice with vulnerable populations.

NEWS OF BUSH/IV-E SCHOLARS

- ♦ **Beth Alvarez**, Second-Year Bush/IV-E Scholar, was chosen as a New Student Member of the MN Chapter of the NASW.
- ♦ **Dana Mitchell**, Bush/IV-E alumna, was honored with the title NASW Student of the Year, 1996.
- ♦ CASCW alumna **Alexis Oberdorfer** was elected MSW Student Representative to the NASW Board, MN Chapter.
- ♦ **Paula Williams Sanders**, Bush/IV-E

Scholar, has been promoted to at Hennepin County, preparing petitions for

NOTABLE CONTRIBUTIONS FROM BUSH/IV-E SCHOLARS

❖ From time to time we will present a summary of selected research papers prepared by Bush/IV-E Child Welfare Scholars. **Claire Hill**, an Advanced Standing Bush/IV-E Scholar, undertook this study of brief, multiple, shelter placements of young children, as a partial fulfillment of the requirements of the graduate course "Contemporary Child Welfare: Policy, Programs, and Emerging Issues."

This paper captures a profile of children 0 through 11 who experienced short-term emergency placements three or more times in one year (1995).

The data were derived from a Metropolitan county. The sources included foster care administrative data; a sample of case files; interviews with social services workers familiar with the files, and scattered interviews with staff members of units and agencies familiar with emergency/shelter placements. Inasmuch as the interview data were derived from a "convenience" sample, caution is advised in generalizing from the findings of this report.

Excerpts from her paper "Repeated Emergency Placement of Young Children: Issues for Practice and Policy" follow:

Highlights from the Data

- ♦ Of the 943 children under 12 who were placed in emergency/shelter care in 1995, 43 children (4.5%) experienced three or more placements. Of these children, eight belonged to sibling groups.
- ♦ Of the 43 children, more than half were African American; almost a quarter were Caucasian; 14% were bi-racial. Very few children were Native American or Hispanic/Latino.

- ♦ Most children were placed in emergency facilities (a shelter or emergency foster homes) by police officers (45%) or social workers (50%), under a "72-hour police hold."

- ♦ The most frequent reasons for shelter placement were parent related. Hospitalization, substance abuse, abandonment, drug raids, and abuse and neglect were represented in various combinations as major reasons.

- ♦ A smaller portion of reasons for placement were related to child behaviors, problems which included adoptive placement disruptions and failed foster home placements.

- ♦ After emergency placement, 47% of the children returned home; 35% moved to another emergency shelter or to longer-term foster care.

- ♦ Of children leaving short-term emergency care, nine resulted in longer term placements with relatives.

- ♦ The case file review documented poverty as a crippling factor. More than half the mothers suffered from mental illness, most commonly described as "severe depression." In half of the cases reviewed, the parent a court record, including forgery, drug possession, and malicious punishment of children. Over half of the mothers were abused as children, and more than a quarter had suffered battering as adults.

Observations from Interviews with Social Service Providers

- ♦ Child protection workers viewed their resources as dwindling and the future outlook as grim. Frequently-placed children were seen as behind their age group educationally, depressed, and hostile. They seemed to perceive their environment as violent and aggressive, and to see themselves as deprived and experiencing loss.

- ♦ In interviews with the systems service providers, respondents noted that extended child placement beyond the initial crisis was avoided, due primarily to cost. One

interviewee commented, "We are budget protection workers, not child protection workers."

- ◆ There is a pressure to close cases quickly. Current priority is responding to budget constraint considerations.

- ◆ Respondents commented on society's indifference: troubled, neglected, abused children and their parents seen as "too expensive" and "too hard": they are "throw-away" families, abandoned by the system. Interviewees identified this population as politically powerless and without advocates on their behalf.

Practice Recommendations

Social service providers interviewed made the following recommendations:

- ◆ Intervention should occur with a high-risk family's first child at an early age.
- ◆ Fund programs for home visitors who may be paraprofessional workers to focus on practical parenting skills.
- ◆ Mental health services for children and caretakers should be provided.
- ◆ Transportation and child care must accompany all services to mothers.
- ◆ Families without telephones need a message center.

Policy Recommendations

- ◆ A case review of all children placed three times in one year is necessary.
- ◆ Consider termination of parental rights "more aggressively."

COMMENTARY

by Esther Wattenberg

What do fragmentary studies tell us? From Claire Hill's study of 43 children in repetitive emergency/shelter placements, we learn that while this is a small percentage of the total number of children brought to the attention of the child protection system, these children are in conditions of "imminent harm." The study, while limited by a "snapshot" approach, provides a

glimpse of the brutal conditions of life for children who appear and reappear in shelter/emergency placements. We observe, through a small window, the environment for this group of young children: acute life stresses, extreme chaos, and poverty. We observe their caretakers: single mothers suffering from the lethal mix of deep depression and chemical dependency. The data disclose that almost half of these children are reunited with their parents after a brief shelter placement.

Removal and placement of children is a devastating event for a child at every age. High levels of anguish over loss of the parent is apparent, unless the child has retreated behind a hardened shell. The children, as a group, are "behind" educationally. Some are severely depressed. Others are violent and aggressive. Despite neglect, severe deprivation, and physical abuse, most children idealize parental figures. School-age children are protective of their parents. A sensitive case plan that recognized their emotional need for attachment to birth parents and at the same time placement for their safety and development requires skills and intensive support.

Why do these children remain in unstable and high-risk environments, careening from home to shelter and back again? Are decisions fiscally driven? Foster care placements are costly, but so are repetitive short-term placements. In 1995, \$16,434,519 was spent, statewide, on Emergency/Shelter arrangements for children in short-term care, representing approximately 10% of out-of-home costs—a small but not insignificant cost.

Are these cases of faulty assessments of the families' coping abilities? Are caseloads overloaded, so little time is available for a sensible case plan? These are the questions which should guide a major study. Fragmentary studies such as those piloted by Claire Hill lead the way.

NEW GRANT AWARDS

- ◆ Funding for the Center's scholarship program for child welfare staff members in rural counties and on tribal reservations who serve vulnerable children was renewed. "Extending Continuing Education to Rural County Staff" Principal Investigator **Esther Wattenberg** received the second \$75,000 grant award from the Administration on Children, Youth, and Families; Children's Bureau; Department of Health and Human Services to continue this two-year project. Nine counties/tribal reservations and nine staff members have received support through this program. Three more applicants have been offered short-term tuition assistance.

- ◆ In October 1996 **Ann Ahlquist** and the Child Abuse Prevention Studies program received a \$3,000 grant from Olmsted County Social Services to complete a "best practices" evaluation of their child protection services. **Rob Sawyer**, Olmsted County Social Services Director, initiated the request. Interviews with Olmsted County Child Protection staff, clients, and collaborating professionals have been conducted. The final report is expected in March. **Jessica Toft**, CAPS Faculty Instructor and CASCW Faculty Associate, assisted in the evaluation. Dr. **Jane Gilgun** served as a consultant.

- ◆ Professor **Geraldine Kearse Brookins**, CASCW Faculty Associate, in partnership with **Laura Lederer**, Director of the Center on Speech, Equality and Harm, Law School, received two grants, \$10,000 each, from the General Mills Foundation and the Otto Bremer Foundation to support their study "The Impact of Harmful Speech on Adolescents."

NEW FACULTY ASSOCIATES

- ❖ Two new faculty joined the roster of CASCW Faculty Associates.

- ◆ **William Bradshaw**, PhD, comes to the School of Social Work (SSW) from the College of St. Catherine/University of St.

Thomas where he taught in the MSW program for four years. In his role as CASCW Faculty Associate, Dr. Bradshaw directs the Advanced Clinical Studies Program, designed for clinical social workers and graduate clinicians from other related disciplines. This CEU-earning program provides a base for advanced child/adolescent and adult clinical practice, and focuses on specific assessment and intervention methods and techniques.

♦ **Jessica Toft**, MSW, LGSW, is a new faculty instructor with the Child Abuse Prevention Studies (CAPS) program at SSW. This certificate program offers distance education participation through a variety of sites across the state of Minnesota. Previously, Instructor Toft was a Policy Advocate for Child Abuse Prevention issues at Family and Children's Service, and, most recently, a Research Assistant with the National Resource Center on Family-Centered Practice.

FACULTY PRESENTATIONS

♦ Dr. **Sandra Beeman** and doctoral candidate **Laura Boisen** will present "Child Welfare Professionals' Attitudes toward Kinship Foster Care" at CSWE's 43rd Annual Program Meeting "Navigating the Winds of Change" March 6-9, 1997 in Chicago, IL. The results of the Kinship Foster Care Project's survey of child welfare professionals' attitudes toward kinship foster care will be described and recommendations made for improving curricula. Also at this conference, CASCW Field Liaison **Gloria McGee** and Professor **David Hollister**, Center Faculty Associate, will present "Issues in Substance Abuse and Child Welfare." **Esther Wattenberg** will serve as a Millennium Project Liaison at the conference.

♦ In January 1997 **Ann Ahlquist** collaborated with Minnesota Chippewa Tribal Social Services in teaching a seminar on Cognitive Graphic Interviewing of Native American Children. The seminar was the

first held at "Minniiwijiwin," the new Fond du Lac Indian Children and Family Advocacy Center in Cloquet, Minnesota. Twelve tribal social workers and tribal law enforcement personnel representing tribes throughout Minnesota attended. ♦ **Ann Ahlquist** has been invited to present the plenary program at the Alaskan Third Annual Child Abuse and Neglect Conference in Anchorage, Alaska on April 5, 1997. Her seminar is entitled "The Fragile Relationship of Children and Their Perpetrators: How Do We Ask? How Do We Listen?" ♦ Instructor **Ann Ahlquist**, CASCW Faculty Associate, presented two keynote addresses on child abuse prevention, the first at the Great Lakes Native American Conference, "Violence to Children Can Be Prevented," and the second, "Abuse Is Not Traditional," at the Four Corners Native American Conference in Durango, CO. ♦ On March 20, 1997 **Ann Ahlquist**, Director of the Child Abuse Prevention Studies (CAPS) program and CASCW Faculty Associate, will present "Stopping the Violence and Abuse Against Children: What Will It Take?" at the 104th Annual Training Conference and Expo, "Celebrating Everyday Heroes," sponsored by the Minnesota Social Service Association, March 19-21, 1997 at the Radisson South Hotel, Bloomington, MN. A CAPS simulated Interactive Television class will be conducted with the following objectives for the limited-enrollment participants: Understand Dynamics of Violence and Abuse of Children; Understand Risk and Resilience Factors of Violence and Abuse of Children; and Understand Strategies for Changing Violence and Abuse of Children.

♦ During the Summer Quarter, **Jane Gilgun** presented her study "Classifying Children Who Have Sexually Inappropriate Behaviors" at the Eleventh International Congress, sponsored by the International Society for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect in Dublin, Ireland. ♦ **Jane Gilgun** presented a paper entitled "The Phenomenology of Family Violence" at the Pre-Conference Workshop on Theory Construction and Research Methodology, sponsored by the National Council on Family

Relations, held in Kansas City, MO on November 5, 1996.

♦ Professor **Jean Quam** gave the keynote address "The Future of Social Work Education" at the Minnesota CSWE Fall Conference, "What's in the Field of Social Work Education," October 17-18, 1996.

♦ Professor **Ron Rooney**, Associate Director of the Center, presented "Working with Families Who Are Reluctant to Receive Services" during the Training and Education/Practice section of the Tenth Annual Empowering Families Conference "Pulling Together in a River of Change." This annual meeting, sponsored by the National Association of Family Based Services, was held in San Antonio, TX, December 11-14, 1996.

♦ **Esther Wattenberg** and **Denise Revells Robinson** co-presented a paper entitled "The Minnesota Model for Strengthening Policy and Practice for IV-E Children: Forging a Multi-Purpose Partnership with the State, a Foundation, and a School of Social Work" at the National Conference on Child Welfare held in Memphis, TN, September 26-29, 1996. ♦ On October 3rd Professor **Esther Wattenberg** taped an interview on issues related to child welfare with **John Biewin** of Minnesota Public Radio for the "Voices of Minnesota" series. The show aired October 28, 1996, and an excerpt of the interview is available on the internet via the MPR web page for those whose computers have audio capability. The URL for the interview is http://news.mpr.org/programs/voicesmn/docs/vm9610_wattenberg.htm ♦ On November 7, 1996 **Esther Wattenberg** provided the summary and closing "Balancing Needs and Focusing Attention" at the Minnesota Social Service Association's Education Forum, "Stuck in the Middle with You: Protective Services and Liability Issues," held in St. Cloud, MN. ♦ **Esther Wattenberg** served on the panel "Key Issues in Conducting Foundation-Sponsored Evaluations of Child Welfare Services" with **Greg Owen** and **Lynn Usher** at the American

Evaluation Association's Annual Meeting "Evaluation '96" held in Atlanta, GA, November 8-9, 1996.

FACULTY CONTRIBUTIONS

◆ Instructor **Ann Ahlquist** received a Distinguished Service Award from the MN Chapter of the American Professional Society on Abuse of Children.

◆ CASCW Field Liaison **Sonia Davila-Williams** has been elected to the Board for Chicanos Latinos Unido en Servicio (CLUES). In addition, she has been selected to serve as a committee member to two prominent committees concerned with issues in the Latino Community: the Centro Legal Child Abuse Prevention Campaign, and the Department of Health and Human Services Steering Committee for the "Domestic Violence in the Latino Community" symposium.

◆ Associate Professor **Jane Gilgun** has been appointed to the National Nominating Committee of the National Council on Family Relations.

◆ Professor **Jean Quam** has been elected President of the MN Chapter of NASW.

◆ Center Director **Esther Wattenberg** was elected to a second term on the Board of Directors of the Children's Law Center of Minnesota.

◆ Associate Professor **Oliver Williams**, CASCW Faculty Associate, was named to the board of the Washburn Child Guidance Center in Minneapolis.

◆ Several faculty members associated with CASCW were part of the team of educators who received the 1996 University College Outstanding Team Award: **Kevin Burke**, **Jarilyn Gess**, **Nancy Johnston**, **Nan Kalke**, **Megan Morrissey**, **Jean Quam**, and **Ronald Rooney**.

ALLINA FOUNDATION SERIES ON VIOLENCE PREVENTION RESEARCH

❖ The Allina Foundation Series on Violence

Prevention Research examines six research efforts on violence and associated risk factors. Professor **Jeffrey Edleson**, CASCW Faculty Associate, and Assistant Professor **Sandra Beeman**, CASCW Research Associate, were chosen to present the first topic in the series. They gave their presentation, "The Link between Child Maltreatment and Woman Battering," on Tuesday, October 29, 1996. Associate Professor **Jane Gilgun**, CASCW Faculty Associate, was selected as the second featured speaker in the series. Professor Gilgun presented "The Significance of Assets in Models of Risk" on Thursday, November 21, 1996. Her in-depth research focuses on the importance of building assets when children are at risk.

LINKAGE WITH STATE UNIVERSITIES

❖ Grants to State Universities: CASCW made five grants of \$4,000 each to the following State Universities to strengthen the child welfare content in their undergraduate curricula: Bemidji State University, Mankato State University, Moorhead State University, St. Cloud State University, and Winona State University. These funds are used to offer a child welfare course as part of the curriculum during the 1996-97 academic year and for related expenses such as teaching materials and honoraria for community practitioners speaking in the courses on issues related to Title IV-E children and families.

❖ State Universities Forum: A Fall Quarter forum with representatives from six social work departments took place December 6, 1996 in Room 402, Campus Club, Coffman Memorial Union, Minneapolis. The following participated in the exchange: **Anthony Bibus**, Augsburg College; **John Collins**, Winona State University; **Tammy Faux**, Mankato State University; **Sandy Robin**, St. Cloud State University; and **Mary Thrash**, Bemidji State University. University of Minnesota School of Social Work contributors included **David Hollister**, **Nancy Johnston**, **Ronald Rooney**, and **Esther Wattenberg**.

◆ Discussion focused on child welfare field placement/practicum issues; a review of county concerns and emerging child welfare issues, including fiscal disparities among the counties for child welfare; and recommendations and shared observations on teaching materials for strengthening undergraduate child welfare curricula.

FALL QUARTER SEMINAR FOR NEW SCHOLARS

On Wednesday, October 9, 1996 a seminar for new recipients of Bush/IV-E Child Welfare Scholars was held to provide an overview of the child welfare system and emerging issues. This seminar, "Practicing Child Welfare Social Work in a Neighborhood Setting," featured **Richard Spratt**, Social Worker, Hennepin County Village Social Services; and **David Thompson**, Program Manager, Ramsey County Child Protection. Center Director **Esther Wattenberg** facilitated the forum, which was held in the Dale Shephard Room, Coffman Memorial Union, Minneapolis.

FALL WORKSHOP ON CULTURALLY SENSITIVE RISK ASSESSMENT

❖ The Fall Workshop, "Culturally Sensitive Risk Assessment: An Ethnographic Approach," was held September 30 and October 1, 1996 at the Radisson Hotel Metrodome, Minneapolis. The two-day training workshop featured two experts from California: **Wynn Tabbert**, DSW, Director, Child Welfare Training Project, California State University at Fresno; and **Pamela Walker**, MA, MFCC, Trainer/Consultant, California State University at Long Beach. The workshop focused on the process of applying a systematic model of assessing risk to children in a culturally sensitive way. The model was designed to drive the development of the case plan, and participants were provided with opportunities to apply the training topics.

COMPETENCY

WORKSHOP

♦ The first in a series of Competency Workshops to be offered this year, "Skills and Competencies in Developing a Case Plan," took place on Wednesday, November 20, 1996 at the Campus Club, Coffman Memorial Union, Minneapolis. Two community professionals gave presentations at this workshop for second year and Advanced Standing Bush/IV-E Scholars: **Nan Beman**, Supervisor, Hennepin County Children and Family Services; and **Sue Stoterau**, Social Services Program Consultant and Trainer, Family and Children's Services, Minnesota Department of Human Services. Center Director **Esther Wattenberg** and CASCW Field Liaison **Gloria McGee** facilitated the workshop. The requirements of a permanency goal with "time limits" as mandated by both federal and state law were reviewed. The practice issues in constructing a case plan with multi-problem, chronically neglecting parents became manifest in a case presentation. "Reasonable Efforts" was a focus of attention.

TRAINING THE TRAINERS: DIVERSITY WORKSHOP

♦ CASCW Traveling Field Instructor **Gail Walters**, who attended the National Diversity and Public Problem-Solving Summer School at Radcliffe College last July, facilitated the Fall Quarter Diversity Workshop on Friday, October 25, 1996 for Field Practice Seminar Facilitators. Based on feedback from last year's training series, one diversity workshop will be held per quarter and each will be structured around selected articles and topics allowing for group and small-group discussion. The purpose of these workshops is to help the Seminar Facilitators incorporate diversity issues into the Field Practice Seminars for students.

WINTER QUARTER JOB SEARCH WORKSHOP

❖ MSW student and CASCW Graduate Assistant **Jeff Fisher** is coordinating a

February 18th Job Search Workshop for Bush/IV-E Scholars and other interested Social Work students. Topics such as county hiring procedures, written and oral exams, and the Minnesota Merit System will be covered. Scheduled guest speakers include:

♦ **Keith Gray**, Director, Ramsey County Personnel; ♦ **Lucy Hayes**, Bush/IV-E Alumna, employed with Olmsted County Community Services; ♦ **Curt Peterson**, Supervisor, Hennepin County Child Protection; ♦ **Connie Price**, Hennepin County Human Resources; and ♦ **Sue Serbus**, Bush/IV-E Alumna, employed with Nicollet County.

THE CENTER SPONSORS A FORUM ON SCHOOL LINKED SERVICES

♦ The Winter Workshop, "The Cutting Edge in School-Linked Services: Knowing What Works Best for Students & Their Families," was held Friday, January 17, 1997. **Cynthia Bailey-Dempsey**, PhD, ACSW, was the featured speaker at this workshop. Dr. Bailey-Dempsey is an Assistant Professor in Columbia University's School of Social Work where she directs the graduate curriculum sequence in School-Based and School-Linked Services and coordinates Columbia's Dual Degree Graduate Program in Social Work and Special Education. A paper summarizing Dr. Bailey-Dempsey's approach is forthcoming. An announcement will be made when it becomes available.

♦ Following Dr. Bailey-Dempsey's address, a panel presentation, "A Commentary on Minnesota's Demonstration Projects," was provided. The following served as panelists: **German Carmona**, Social Worker, Hennepin County Children and Family Services, Sabathani Community Center, Minneapolis; **Elaine Kirk**, School Social Worker, Alice Smith School, Hopkins; **Jeffrey Phillips**, Cultural Liaison and Youth Advocate, Fairview Hospital, Minneapolis; and **Marissa Somers-DeHaney**, School Social Worker, Andersen Elementary, Minneapolis.

♦ Prior to the workshop, a breakfast consul-

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