



 CENTER FOR SOCIAL SERVICES RESEARCH



Department of
SOCIAL SERVICES

CDSS

CalSWEC/CSSR Collaboration Developing Research Coursework for Title IV-E Students

CalSWEC is the nation's largest coalition of its kind working to provide professional education, student financial aid, in-service training, and workforce research--all directed toward developing effective, culturally competent public service delivery to the people of California.

For over 20 years CalSWEC's child welfare programs have supported the development and professionalization of the child welfare workforce through, stipends, student support and delivering a specialized curriculum that prepares the student for a career in public child welfare. To date CalSWEC's Title IV-E program has graduated over 5,000 students and with a retention rate of over 80%.

The specialized curriculum is delivered in several ways, primarily through the infusion of curriculum competencies that are mapped to the MSW curriculum. Over the years, CalSWEC has sought to enhance the curriculum by funding research based curriculum development projects that are aligned with California's Statewide Research agenda.

This collaboration between CalSWEC and CSSR's Performance Indicators Project is a new way in which we are seeking to enhance the Title IV-E MSW curriculum. The Child Welfare Performance indicators project houses all outcomes data in child welfare in California and is built upon the federal outcomes in the Child and Family Services Reviews and California's Outcomes and Accountability System. This dynamic data base tracks all children in foster care and the related outcomes in California and also serves as a model for the entire nation.

The goal of this collaboration is to develop a year-long MSW research curriculum designed to prepare graduating cohorts of Title IV-E MSW students to be:

- experienced users of the publicly available administrative child welfare data
- well-versed in their county field placement's performance goals
- consumers of research
- able to use data to track outcomes in order to improve practice
- well-prepared for leadership roles in county child welfare agencies

This project aligns with CalSWEC's mission is "to facilitate the integration of education and practice", with the ultimate goal of improving the lives of children and families who use public child welfare services.

On March 16, 2011 a symposium was held to present the curriculum that is currently being piloted to a group of research faculty across the state of California. The goal of the symposium was to solicit feedback, to open a dialogue about the course and to discuss ways in which other

faculty might use the coursework in in other social work programs in California. Another goal of the symposium was to develop strategies to enhance engagement between county child welfare agencies, research faculty and students to better meet the research needs of the counties.

The materials in this packet provide you with a summary of the meeting discussion along with the some of the course materials that have been developed to date.

In the Summer of 2011, more materials will be released and the next steps identified in the Symposium report (document #2) will be developed and publicized.

This is an exciting new curriculum enhancement for Title IV-E students and we are looking forward to further forums of this type to generate a transformation in the way research is taught to Title IV-E student across the state.