

## Title IV-E Academic Partnership in Public Child Welfare

Fall 2019

Spring and summer have been a very busy time for the staff of the Title IV-E Child Welfare Program at ASTATE. Northeast Arkansas (NEA) continues to experience high turnover rates in Child Protection Worker and Supervisor Positions at the Division of Children and Family Services (DCFS). The current workloads of ASTATE Field Trainers are maintaining steadily at 13 each. Field Trainers continue to work weekly with new DCFS workers and supervisors in the DCFS staff local offices. Field Training is being offered to DCFS staff in all 9 counties in Northeast Arkansas. In addition, there has been turnover in half of the supervisor positions in the 9 county area. From January 1, 2019 to June 30, 2019, Field Trainers completed **795** face to face training sessions with DCFS staff in their county offices, driving to all 9 counties. In addition, the following professional development trainings were presented or sponsored by IV-E:

1/31-Brooke Carr: Initial Casework Assessment Connected to the Child Assessment of Needs/Strengths

2/28-Brooke Carr: Case Plan Development using Information from CANS/FAST

3/28-Bessie Hatchett: Preparation and Presentation in Judicial Proceedings

4/25-Natalie Gatlin: Collaborating with Community Services

5/16-Natalie Gatlin: Connections between Substance Abuse and Child Maltreatment

6/20-Bessie Hatchett: Preserving and Unifying Families and Strengthening Families

7/18-Karen Fullen: Ethical Child Welfare Practice

TRAUMA Training: In June, approximately 130 DCFS workers and supervisors were provided intensive Trauma Training by Natalie Gatlin

ACADEMIC PRESENTATIONS: Karen Fullen, Bessie Hatchett and Natalie Gatlin conducted presentations in four courses.

CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT/FOSTER CARE MONTH ACTIVITIES AND AWARENESS: Blue Pinwheels were placed on Heritage lawn; Dr. Damphousse presented a statement of observance of both April and May awareness on the A-State campus; Information tables were set up in the student center; and Blue Child Abuse Neglect and Abuse/Foster Care t-shirts were designed by Social Work students. Approximately 60 Faculty, Administrative staff, Social Work and Child Advocacy students and A-State Child Welfare Interdisciplinary Faculty participated.

SPRING SOCIAL WORK CONFERENCE: IV-E Staff assisted with the planning and preparation for the conference and provided 3 Child Welfare speakers for the conference.

STUDENT /INTERN ACTIVITY: Natalie Gatlin supervised the 6 DCFS interns who graduated in May. There were 2 stipend students, both of whom have been hired by DCFS. One non-stipend intern has also been hired by DCFS. Natalie is supervising 4 interns for this fall. Karen Fullen provided weekly supervision for an intern from January to May.

In the spring semester, Dean Hanrahan, Karen Fullen, Dr. Joanna Grymes and Dr. Patricia Walls met with the Arkansas's First Lady, Susan Hutchinson, regarding Child Welfare training and education; community collaborative activities; campus collaborative activities; and inter-disciplinary resources and activities.

NEW ADDITIONS: Pam McAllister (Fiscal Support Specialist), Natalie Gatlin (Field Training Coordinator).

RETIRED: Sandy Tate (Fiscal Support Specialist)