

CWTAP Quarterly

*Child Welfare Training and Advancement Program
Eastern Washington University*

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Director's Letter

Dear CWTAP community,

As we near a year into the pandemic we are grateful to continue our program with the support and cooperation of our CWTAP community, most notably from our partners at DCYF. We have quickly developed new ways of working together and keeping students engaged during this challenging time. We acknowledge those grieving and the unique and difficult challenges everyone faces in this unprecedented time. May grace and compassion move us into the year as we keep our eyes on brighter days ahead.

CWTAP will not host a Student Institute this year. We hope by next winter we can safely resume the Institute with our colleagues at UW-Tacoma slated to host. I'm sure with the extra time they have to develop plans for the next Institute, they will bring even more great ideas to enhance student learning and networking (no pressure, Tacoma!)

Please see inside for more about our alumni and students. Thank you for your support of CWTAP.

Sincerely,
Diana Patterson LeBlanc

CWTAP Welcomes Sherita Parratt, MSW

Sherita has joined the CWTAP team on a part-time basis this quarter and next to provide faculty field instruction to our students. Sherita will work directly with a group of full-time students in their foundation practicum. Sherita was with CWTAP through last June in a full-time capacity before returning to the Department. In her day job with the Department, Sherita supervises FAR social workers in the Spokane Central office. We are grateful for Sherita's continued support to our students and program, and Sherita is glad to be back on the team sharing her exceptional talent developing the next generation of social workers. Please join us in welcoming Sherita!



Alumni Spotlight

Carlee Johnson, MSW - Social and Health Program Consultant By Kara Rozeboom

Carlee Johnson is a CWTAP alumni who graduated from EWU's Everett part-time MSW program in June 2020. Carlee is originally from Vancouver, British Columbia. From 2005 to 2011 Carlee earned a BA in International Relations and MA in history. Initially, Carlee thought she wanted to teach. After deciding she did not want to pursue a PhD or career in academia, Carlee was working in a university financial aid office and realized she had a gift for helping people through difficult situations. She wanted to do this more, and going back to study social work was appealing because of how broad the fields of study and practice are. Carlee pursued a social work path and in 2015 received a bachelor's degree in social work from the University of Victoria. After graduation, Carlee moved back to the U.S. and worked for a short time at the Community Service Office/CSO. While there, one of her colleagues told her about CWTAP. Carlee had worked at youth group homes in the Vancouver, B.C. area and missed working with youth in a social work setting. It was then Carlee decided she was going to "go for it" in public child welfare. Carlee quickly applied for 11 jobs in different child welfare field offices and was soon hired. Next Carlee was admitted into the Everett part time MSW program as an Advanced Standing student and then admitted into the CWTAP. Carlee saw CWTAP as an incredible opportunity to further her education and enhance her practice skills. Further, the opportunity to pursue an MSW while remaining employed at DCYF created an optimal learning environment. Carlee feels so fortunate to have been accepted into CWTAP.



Carlee is currently employed at the Everett DCYF office as a Social and Health Program Consultant facilitating shared planning meetings. Carlee stated she was lucky to land in the Everett office. Her specialized CWTAP training exposed her to the laws and policies surrounding child welfare. Carlee said the demands of the public child welfare jobs don't always allow social workers a lot of time to think deeply or critically about what they are doing and where, as a larger system, social workers could be headed in terms of reform and improvement. Beyond the learning that came with the regular coursework, CWTAP allowed Carlee to learn so much more of the 'big picture' relating to her actual workplace, public child welfare, ethics, policy, social justice, and all of the other competencies that come along with practicum. Carlee stated it really shifted and expanded her thinking. Perhaps most importantly, Carlee developed bonds she never knew she was going to make with colleagues and classmates, particularly the "CWTAPers."

Carlee is passionate about child welfare and advises those entering the CWTAP program to remember to carve out time for the other aspects of life outside of work or school because it will help make it all more bearable. Carlee reminds CWTAP students to remember you have your current and former "CWTAPers" who know what it's like and who can always lend an ear or some encouragement whenever you need it. Carlee enjoys a good cup of coffee, going on walks and smelling the flowers, traveling, and spending time with her spouse and friends. She enjoys drinking Mai Tai's when she is not pregnant.

Student Spotlight

Deandra Cloy – Cheney Full-time By Gerry Charvat

Deandra (D.D.) Cloy is a 2nd year CWTAP student in the Cheney full-time MSW program. D.D. would like to get hired in Spokane but is open to a new adventure anywhere in the state of Washington. D.D. is particularly interested in a Child and Family Welfare Services (CFWS) position.

D.D. obtained a BS in Applied Developmental Psychology with minors in Africana Studies, Criminal Justice, and Sociology from Eastern Washington University in 2019. In high school and early on in her college education, D.D. had wanted to be a child psychologist. However, an internship at juvenile court opened her up to new possibilities. She was placed with a probation counselor serving high risk youth and observed many of the youth were either part of the foster care system or had exited the foster care system. She found that her passion for serving children and youth could go beyond a therapeutic relationship and that she could actually intervene on behalf of youth. This led D.D. to explore social work and ultimately, she decided to obtain her MSW at EWU.

At that point, CWTAP was an easy choice because the specialized training would help her develop into a highly skilled child welfare professional. D.D. particularly appreciates the small cohort size and the group support she receives from her fellow CWTAP students as they all have a shared experience preparing for this challenging field.



D.D.'s advice for any student considering CWTAP is that this program is not for everyone. It requires a student to be extremely organized and have excellent planning and prioritization skills. Furthermore, self-care is essential to being successful in CWTAP as the work can be very overwhelming, particularly for those who may have experienced their own trauma.

D.D. has a strong passion for engaging at-risk youth as they transition into adulthood. In her free time, D.D. enjoys reading, playing soccer, and eating good food!


Teaching During a Pandemic

*Teaching during a pandemic: How EWU's CWTAP is meeting the challenge
By Gerry Charvat (Revised January 2021)*

During a time of unprecedented educational challenges, Eastern Washington University's Child Welfare Training & Advancement Program (CWTAP) remains committed to developing exceptional public child welfare social workers. Interest in CWTAP is high, and enrollment numbers are strong. As we continue our long-standing partnership with the Department of Children, Youth and Families (DCYF), CWTAP is committed to promoting a safe practicum experience not only for students but for DCYF staff and clients. EWU CWTAP students have received personal protective equipment and self-screening materials from DCYF. We continue to adapt our teaching methods to meet changing safety demands. Students interact with field instructors and clients via Zoom and WebEx. They participate in remote learning opportunities such as court, Family Team Decision Making meetings, unit meetings, and supervision. Some students have recently been approved to accompany agency field instructors during non-office field work to include health and safety visits, parent visits, and visitation. Additionally, faculty field instructors meet virtually with students in small groups and individually to discuss the Safety Framework and DCYF policy among other topics. Recently, students have begun to analyze the Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA) and DCYF's implementation proposal to the Federal Children's Bureau; the FFPSA prevention plan (July, 2020). The FFPSA and DCYF implementation proposal provide students a launch pad to explore evidence-based services and trauma-informed care practices. EWU CWTAP takes the safety of our students, DCYF partners, and clients seriously as we seek methods to enhance student learning, connection and engagement during this difficult time.

If you have suggestions for innovative ways to engage students in learning, please feel free to connect with our director, Diana LeBlanc at dpatterson@ewu.edu.



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 <p>EASTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY start something big</p>	<p>Please submit suggestions to: dpatterson@ewu.edu</p>	<p>Contributors to this issue: Nancy Fagan, Kara Rozeboom, Gerry Charvat, Diana Patterson LeBlanc.</p>

Helpful Links

Children's Bureau COVID-19 Resources: www.acf.hhs.gov/cb/resource/covid-19-resources

National Indian Child Welfare Association COVID-19 Resources: www.nicwa.org/coronavirus/

Alliance for Child Welfare Excellence: www.allianceforchildwelfare.org

National Association of Social Workers – Washington Chapter: <https://www.socialworkers.org>

Child Welfare League of America: www.cwla.org

Children's Defense Fund: www.childrensdefense.org

Child Welfare Information Gateway: www.childwelfare.gov

Casey Family Programs: www.casey.org

Administration for Children and Families: www.acf.hhs.gov