

**BOISE STATE UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK
CHILD WELFARE CENTER**

DIVERSITY PROJECT NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1 OCTOBER 2007

Mission Statement

- **Provide educational opportunities for child welfare workers, foster parents, and the community at large about diversity in Idaho.**
- **Conduct research to identify disparate outcomes and disproportionality for diverse populations in Idaho**
- **Identify advocates in the community to increase access to services for all diverse groups**
- **Expand the diversity of the foster parent pool to reflect the community at large**

WHY A NEWSLETTER?

Members who care about this Project last met May 2, 2007 which seemed like a very long time ago to me. I was feeling a bit out of touch with all of you and wondered if you were feeling the same. I considered scheduling a Project meeting but decided to use this format for the purpose of reconnection and updating and to reserve face to face meeting time for when we need to make decisions or to take action together. If you have other thoughts or ideas regarding keeping us connected please let me know by emailing me at kathytidwell@boisestate.edu or calling at (208) 426-5937.

THIS ISSUE:

- **Program Updates**
- **New members introduced**
- **New Coalition formation**
- **Answers to your questions!**

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DIVERSITY PROJECT UPDATES

- A brief proposal was submitted to Robert Wood Johnson in May 2007 but was not accepted for development of a full proposal.
- The Health Science graduate students reported on the results of the Interpreter Needs Assessment in May, 2007. The report was very well done and we have copies of that report in the CWC office.
- Jesus Sandoval is now working full-time for the Center for Emerging Futures and is very excited about his new opportunities. He believes there may be some possibilities for collaboration between this Project and the Center for Emerging Futures. The down side of this is we no longer have a grant writer.
- Miro Barac is a student at the College of Business and Economics at Boise State University, majoring in Networking and Telecommunications. He will be doing his internship at the CWC working on the Web based project we all defined at the two Project meetings last spring.; aimed to improve quality of service to non-English speaking individuals and serve as a community connection resource for providers and interpreters. Miro is currently working on creating a site template that will be presented at the next Diversity Project meeting.
- The Idaho Child Welfare Partnership, which includes BSU-School of Social Work Child Welfare Center, Eastern Washington University School of Social Work ICWRTC, Department of Health and Welfare Children and Family Services, and Casey Family Programs Boise Office, adopted three primary goals for this year which may provide many partnering opportunities. The goals are recruitment (child welfare scholars, social workers, foster and adoptive parents, etc.), retention (for the same group), and addressing disparate outcomes for youth and families of color. Methods for addressing these goals through the Partnership include communication, collaboration and addressing disproportionality. The Idaho Child Welfare Partnership goals and the goals of the Diversity Project may align in ways that move both groups' goals forward.
- The Idaho Child Welfare Partnership received a consultation from funding guru Don Schmid, who provided very helpful suggestions regarding funding the Diversity Project.
- The BSU Child Welfare Scholars will be conducting research or working on projects that move the Partnership goals forward. Outcomes of their projects will be reported at the Student Institute in March 2008.

If you have updates of interest to the membership of the Diversity Project please send those to Margot at margotjtaylor@gmail.com by October 15, 2007.

Q & A

Some of you submitted questions and comments as we prepared to do this newsletter and here they are!

Funding:

Q-“I don’t know if there are any \$\$ for projects like yours, but John Tuskan sends e-mails about Federal grants all the time, so he might be a good one to ask.”

Q-“Maybe we should just approach the partners in this Project to see if they are willing to share the costs of maintaining this resource.”

A-The Web page will be built using existing resources through the Child Welfare Center and the generous donation of expertise and hours by the BSU College of Business and Economics and Miro Barac. Funding will be needed to contract with the Treasure Valley Interpreter Association to enable them to maintain the accuracy and quality of the site. If you have ideas or are willing to help in some way with obtaining funding, please let me know at kathytidwell@boisestate.edu.

Foster Parents

Q-“How will the Diversity Project work with IDHW and their current recruitment efforts including Peer to Peer recruitment for foster parents?”

A-As you can see, one of the goals of the project is to “...expand the diversity of the foster parent pool”.... We are beginning the work of the Project with the Web page to ensure that interpreter resources are identifiable by anyone in the community including foster parents and caseworkers. Additionally, we have one representative on the Peer to Peer recruitment planning group and hope to add one more member to represent issues related to diversity. We are working on funding for the child welfare related aspects of the Diversity Project, which will expand our capacity greatly.

General

Q-“How can I help?”

A-Wow! What a nice question. There may be any number of ways you can help. Learn about the diverse groups living in the Treasure Valley and advocate that those groups are represented on Boards, committees, the Keeping Kids Safe Panels, among child welfare staff and supervisors, and that there are foster parents that represent the community ethnically and linguistically. Also, the Web page will need to be kept current and correct by someone who has easy access to information about interpreters, new populations coming in to the community, etc. This will cost money. If you are already spending money on related issues/problems, consider diverting some of what you’re spending to help implement and maintain this community resource. You might have other ideas regarding how to advance our goals. Email or call us and let us know.

DIVERSITY COALITION UPDATE



In an effort to better serve our growing refugee community, we are beginning a diversity coalition that will aid in more effective service provision. If you are interested in being a formal member of this coalition, please contact Margot Taylor at

margotjtaylor@gmail.com who will add you to our growing list of participants.

A subsection of this coalition will focus on case staffing with the service providers working with specific refugee clients. The group will format a forum in which this case

staffing will be most helpful to providers and ultimately their refugee clients. If you are interested in participating in the case staffing aspect of this diversity coalition, please contact Cecelia Oxford, ceceliaoxford@mail.boisestate.edu.

SCHOLARS PROGRAM UPDATE



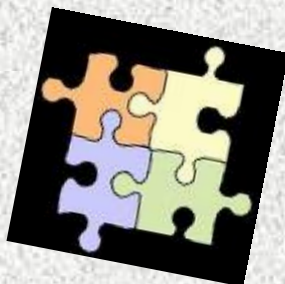
The Scholars Program aligns with the Department of Social Work's effort to increase the level of cultural diversity and cultural competency among the social work students that are identified as Title IV-E Stipend recipients. The child welfare internship they serve requires an in-

creased level of cultural competency based upon the increasing diverse populations involved in child welfare.

Additionally, they will have an added opportunity to learn about disparate outcomes for youth of color in the child welfare system through the change

lense of disproportionality at the spring 2008 Student Institute. Student topics will be formed around this theme and all will have an opportunity to advance culturally competent child welfare practice in Idaho by working on issues that are current challenges for child welfare in Idaho.

PRIDE PROGRAM UPDATE



The BSU Child Welfare Center coordinates PRIDE pre-service for foster / adoptive parents for Region 4. We are interested in increasing the diversity of the foster / adopt pool to reflect the diversity in the community.

The Resource Family Conference will be held on 9/28 & 9/29 in Nampa (serving both region 3 & 4). The BSU Child Welfare Center supported a "pre-conference" on Friday morning, which was requested by staff and families.

There were over 50 registered for this pre-conference and 118 for the regular conference. The pre-conference was not held last year, and we did not exceed 100 participants last year.