



July - December 2012

Biannual Report



Child Welfare Academy
UNIVERSITY of ALASKA ANCHORAGE

Submitted to:

State of Alaska
Office of Children's Services
Biannual Report
July - December 2012





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About Us

MISSION STATEMENT

The Child Welfare Academy trains and develops professional workers who work with Alaska children and families to assure children are safe and families are strong.

To accomplish our mission, we:

- ◇ Provide state of the art training guided by the OCS Practice Model
- ◇ Develop and evaluate curriculum
- ◇ Work in collaboration with related disciplines and community partners
- ◇ Support positive outcomes for children and families

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Training

In summary, during July - December 2012 the Child Welfare Academy offered the following:

331 Workers in Attendance

214 OCS Workers

68 Tribal Partners

49 Other Community Partners

85 Completed Training Days

7 Weeks of SKILS Training

3 Motivational Interview Trainings

2 Child Forensic Interview Trainings

8 Knowing Who You Are Trainings

1 Specialized ICWA Trainings

2 Basic ICWA Trainings

1 two-part Supervisor's Training

1 SSA Training

1 Staff Development Training



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Highlights

Changes to SKILS

The Child Welfare Academy (CWA) has worked hard to meet the request to make radical changes necessary so that SKILS (Standards, Knowledge & Insight Leading to Success) be delivered in August 2012. The reduction in face to face time with learners challenged CWA to make frequent and varied adjustments to focus the content and the methods required to deliver the necessary materials for new workers. Given the critical review and feedback from trainees, the new curriculum was reviewed by CWA several times and revised as needed. Four cohorts of new workers have received and benefited from the new SKILS through December 2012.

Learning Collaboration Calls

The monthly Learning Collaboration Calls continue to be a success and a viable option to increase learning opportunities for staff development. While the number of the participants during the live seminar ebbs and flows each month, OCS is reminded that the webinars are recorded and available to listen to at any time. Due to rural office staff having limited broadband, making it impossible to participate in the webinars, CWA is in the process of downloading all the recorded webinars onto a DVD so that they can be sent and watched from their computers without having to go through the internet. In October 2012, a 5-part series on *Understanding Foster Care and Working with Resource Families* was conducted in collaboration with the Alaska Center for Resource Families. Other webinar topics included: *Safety Threats; Youth Led Webinar; In-Home Safety Plans to Support Reunification; APPLA: Making Sense of this Alphabet; Domestic Violence; Case Plan Goal Writing - Parts 1 & 2; Foster Youth Find Success; and New Year, New You - Self Care*. The CWA will be working with the Department of Law to add webinars on particular Child in Need of Aid topics, such as writing court reports and testifying tips.

Social Services Associates Training

During December 2012, CWA was pleased to offer a new Social Services Associate (SSA) training. This collaborative effort specifically targeted the functional needs of the SSA. The CWA met with SSA's, OCS managers, and parents involved with OCS to obtain feedback on how to shape the training. The training was very "hands on," with many opportunities for discussion, activity, and practice. Each day ended with a panel discussion featuring parents who have been reunified with their children; foster parents; and experienced SSA's who shared wisdom from the field.

Some of the topics specific for SSA training were:

- * Family contact: tips, tools, and techniques
- * The impact of trauma on child development and child functioning during visits
- * Vicarious trauma and self-care

The first training was held on December 12-14, 2012. This training was reserved for new hires that had attended neither SKILS nor TONE training. Future trainings will be open to all SSA's. The goal is for all SSA's to eventually receive the training.





Highlights *(continued)*

Critical Thinking Seminars

In May and June 2012, ACTION for Child Protection delivered critical thinking training of the trainers to the CWA and a number of OCS staff. The CWA facilitated the first Critical Thinking Seminars in October and November 2012 as an add-on to Core Supervisor's Training. The seminars were well received and received positive evaluations. In December 2012, a two-day Critical Thinking Seminar was provided in Fairbanks, Alaska, for all Northern Region supervisors and managers. Feedback from those who have gone through the seminars indicated the critical thinking techniques that were learned have been helpful in case reviews and staffing of current cases in keeping staff focused on gathered and missing information in order to make good case decisions.

ChildFirst

The CWA has been collaborating with the Alaska Children's Alliance, OCS, Child Advocacy Centers, law enforcement, and others to implement ChildFirst Alaska, an intensive child forensic training within the State of Alaska. The model comes from The National Child Protection Training Center and will train multidisciplinary professionals beginning February 2013.

Cook Inlet Tribal Council (CITC)

CWA developed and delivered a three-day training to Tribal TANF and Tribal Family Services staff at CITC. The training focused on child welfare practice, engaging families through motivational interviewing and how to screen families for risk of child maltreatment.

Conference Presentations

The CWA staff presented at the 22nd Annual West Coast Child Welfare Trainers' Conference in August 2012 in Seattle, WA and the Child Maltreatment and CINA Conferences in Anchorage, AK in October 2012.

On the Horizon

- ◆ Four-part webinar series on adoption topics. The webinars will be created and conducted in collaboration with Alaska Center for Resource Families
- ◆ Using the 2-day NCTSN Curriculum, Trauma Informed Child Welfare Practice training will begin with field office staff in the upcoming six months
- ◆ Follow-up work with the Infant Learning Program staff to continue to enhance the CAPTA Integration Project



Education and Training Voucher (ETV) Program

Transition-aged foster youth are a population at risk of economic hardship, often experience gaps in their education, and have low rates of post-secondary educational attainment. CWA has joined in the effort to increase support for foster youth across the state pursuing post-secondary education and training, in hopes by providing intense case management, community outreach, and early planning for foster youth, we will see more foster youth completing college degree and certificate programs, and successfully transitioning to independence with a solid foundation.

Education and Training Vouchers (ETV)

Eligible youth receive up to \$5,000 per academic year to be used toward their cost of attendance. ETV funding can be used for tuition, fees, books, supplies, housing, food, transportation, child care, and miscellaneous items as outlined in the cost of attendance by the institution a student attends.

The Child Welfare Academy (CWA) administers the ETV Program to youth eligible for the Chafee Foster Care Independence Program. Eligible youth are those who were in foster care and out of home placement on or after their 16th birthday. They can remain eligible for the ETV Program until they reach age 23, as long as they are enrolled in post-secondary education on their 21st birthday.

The Youth Education Coordinator provides case management services to youth receiving ETV, Presidential Tuition Waivers, and the OCS Scholarship funding. Additionally, the Youth Education Coordinator works with incoming students on the enrollment / admissions process, plan and coordinate the Annual Foster Youth Education Conference, and participates in outreach within the University and community to expand supports and resources to foster youth.

The youth in the program have already found success this semester. With the help of the Youth Educational Coordinator, the youth are learning skills to be successful on their own, connect with each other, and develop toward healthy adulthood and careers. With the exception of just a few, most will continue the program next semester while the number of youth served continues to grow. Larger numbers of youth are accessing needed resources and support.



Education and Training Voucher (ETV) Program

Highlights

Youth Served

41 eligible students enrolled at the beginning of the Fall 2012 semester. 3 students did not receive funding as they dropped all classes prior to the add/drop deadline.

Student population breakdown by school:

- * 23 students at the UAA Main Campus
- * 7 students at the UAA Matsu Campus
- * 1 student at the UAA Katchemak Bay Campus
- * 4 students at the UAF Main Campus
- * 3 students at the UAS Main Campus
- * 1 student at the UAS Ketchikan Campus

19 students who attended the Fall semester were new and 19 were returning students.

Office of Children's Services Tuition Waiver / Scholarship

Youth who do not receive the Presidential Tuition Waiver, are eligible to receive the OCS Tuition Scholarship, as funding permits.

17 students received the OCS Tuition Scholarship during the Fall 2012 semester.



Foster Youth Presidential Tuition Waivers (PTW)

The University of Alaska awards a limited number of Presidential Tuition Waivers to current and former foster youth each year. Presidential waivers can be used to cover undergraduate tuition each semester up to a maximum of 144 undergraduate credit hours for 10 semesters within six years.

19 students received the Presidential Tuition Waiver during the Fall 2012 semester.

12 new PTW's were awarded to students For the 2012-2013 academic year. A breakdown of awards by region is outlined below:

- * 2 NRO
- * 2 SERO
- * 3 ARO
- * 5 SCRO

7 students returned during the 2012 semester continuing on the Presidential Waiver from years past:

- * 3 students from 2011
- * 2 students from 2010
- * 2 students from 2009

Retention and Academic Progress of Students

- * The average GPA among ETV students overall was 2.0 for the fall 2012 semester
- * 14 youth failed to meet satisfactory academic progress at the end of the 2012 semester (these students will be required to check in bi-monthly with the CWA Youth Education Coordinator during the spring 2013 semester)
- * 24 students completed the semester with a GPA of 2.0 or higher



Education and Training Voucher (ETV) Program

Highlights

Outreach

Throughout the Fall 2012 semester, the CWA Youth Education Coordinator met with Advising and Testing, the Student Services Council (UA Statewide Chancellors), the Alaska Commission on Post-Secondary Education, Financial Aid, Admissions, Enrollment, and the Office Scholarships to educate University staff and community about the academic needs of foster youth and the ETV Program.

UAA Office of Grants and Contracts, located in the UAA Diplomacy Building, sponsored a holiday gift drive gathering presents from the community for 23 students on the UAA Main Campus. Several Faith Based groups gathered dorm supplies and care package materials for youth living in dorm housing during the course of the semester.

The spring 2013 semester will bring an estimated total of 46 students statewide, increasing the number of students from the fall semester.



Youth Education Summit

The Youth Education Summit was held October 26-28, 2012 in Anchorage as an opportunity for youth to gain knowledge of various degree and career opportunities as well as experience college life. 25 spots were available for youth to attend the conference. 20 IL eligible youth attended the conference from across the state. Youth were introduced to campus life, college degree programs, vocational / technical and training programs, as well as scholarships, financial aid, and applying for admissions. A breakdown of participants by region is outlined below:

- * SERO 5
- * SCRO 7
- * ARO 4
- * NRO 3
- * WRO 1





July 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3 	4 <i>Independence Day</i>	5 <i>University Closed</i>	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17 263 Motivational Interview Room 303	18 263 Motivational Interview Room 303	19 263 Motivational Interview Room 303	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				



August 2012



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
5	6 181 SKILS: IA Room 303	7 181 SKILS: IA Room 303	8 181 SKILS: IA Room 303	9 181 SKILS: IA Room 303	10 181 SKILS: IA Room 303	11
12	13 182 SKILS: FS Room 303	14 182 SKILS: FS Room 303	15 182 SKILS: FS Room 303	16 182 SKILS: FS Room 303	17 182 SKILS: FS Room 303	18
19	20	21 235 KWYA Room 303	22 235 KWYA Room 303	23 229 ICWA Room 303	24 229 ICWA Room 303	25
26	27	28	29 239 Child Forensic Interview - Fairbanks	30 239 Child Forensic Interview - Fairbanks	31 239 Child Forensic Interview - Fairbanks	



September 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	University Labor Day					
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
			KWYA - Dillingham	KWYA - Dillingham		
30						



October 2012



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 181 SKILS: IA Room 303	2 181 SKILS: IA Room 303	3 181 SKILS: IA Room 303	4 181 SKILS: IA Room 303	5 181 SKILS: IA Room 303	6
	← MEPA →		← Basic ICWA Training →			
7	8 182 SKILS: FS Room 303	9 182 SKILS: FS Room 303	10 182 SKILS: FS Room 303 CINA Conf	11 182 SKILS: FS Room 303	12 182 SKILS: FS Room 303	13
14	15	16 235 KWYA Room 303	17 235 KWYA Room 303	18 State Holiday Alaska Day	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
	← Alaska Child Maltreatment Conference →					
28	29 554 Supervisor Training Room 303L	30 554 Supervisor Training Room 303L	31 554 Supervisor Training Room 303L			



November 2012



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 554 Supervisor Training Room 303L	2 235 KWYA - Fairbanks	3 235 KWYA - Fairbanks
4 Daylight Savings Ends	5 181 SKILS: IA Room 303	6 181 SKILS: IA Room 303	7 181 SKILS: IA Room 303	8 181 SKILS: IA Room 303	9 181 SKILS: IA Room 303	10
11	12 182 SKILS: FS Room 303 Veterans Day (observed)	13 182 SKILS: FS Room 303	14 182 SKILS: FS Room 303	15 182 SKILS: FS Room 303 235 KWYA - Nome	16 182 SKILS: FS Room 303 235 KWYA - Nome	17
18	19	20	21	22  Thanksgiving Day	23 University Closed	24
25	26 183 SKILS: ADV Room 303 555 Supervisor Training Room 303L	27 183 SKILS: ADV Room 303 555 Supervisor Training Room 303L	28 183 SKILS: ADV Room 303 555 Supervisor Training Room 303L	29 183 SKILS: ADV Room 303 555 Supervisor Training Room 303L	30 183 SKILS: ADV Room 303	

← Basic ICWA Training →



December 2012						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3	4 263 Motivational Interview Room 303	5 263 Motivational Interview Room 303	6 263 Motivational Interview Room 303	7	8
		 Staff Development - Fairbanks				
9	10	11 239 Child Forensic Interview Room 303 140 SSA Training Room 301	12 239 Child Forensic Interview Room 303 140 SSA Training Room 301	13 239 Child Forensic Interview Room 303 140 SSA Training Room 301	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24 University Closed	25 University Closed	26	27	28	29
30	31 University Closed New Years Eve	Christmas Day				



Contact Us

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