

# CWTAP Quarterly

*Child Welfare Training and Advancement Program  
Eastern Washington University*

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## Director's Corner

Dear CWTAP Community,

With the start of a new school year, not surprisingly we find ourselves experiencing a lot of exciting change. In June, we welcomed our new School of Social Work Director and Chair, Andrew Israel. Please see below for introduction.

As most of you know, we are in the midst of significant change with the Children's Administration moving away from DSHS to form a new agency, the Division of Children, Youth & Families. The three agencies moving to the new DCYF include Children's Administration, Juvenile Rehabilitation Administration, and Department of Early Learning. This is expected to happen by July 2018. We look forward to continuing our long-standing partnership with public child welfare in Washington State and working with DCYF.

In June, our Everett MSW program moved into a new building with other Everett University Center partners. Our new building is across the street from the main Everett Community College campus where we were most recently located. Our new building offers an innovative learning environment and state-of-the-art technology. We are delighted to be part of this partnership led by Washington State University.



Please see inside for more information and updates. As always, thank you for your support.

Sincerely,  
Diana Patterson LeBlanc

## Introducing Andrew Israel, MSW, JD

In June, Andrew Israel joined Eastern as Director and Chair of the School of Social Work. As a licensed attorney, he received his Juris Doctor degree from Syracuse University in 1982, where he served as Lead Articles Editor of the Syracuse Law Review, and subsequently his Master of Social Work degree from New Mexico Highlands University. He is the author of *Applied Law in the Behavioral Health Professions* (Lang, 2002) and *Using the Law: Practice Decision Making in Mental Health* (Lyceum, 2011). Dr. Israel formerly served as Associate Dean and Interim Dean of the New Mexico Highlands School of Social Work. His primary interests lie in legal and ethical decision-making, social policy analysis, community organizing, and grant writing. Please join us in welcoming Andrew Israel to our team.



## Alumni Spotlight

### Patty Turner, Deputy Regional Administrator, Region 2 North

By Shawnti Johnson



As Children's Administration moves into a new phase under the developing DCYF, Patty Turner, Deputy Regional Administrator for Region 2 North, is one who is ready for the task. Patty was primed at an early age for a job where change is the constant. She grew up in a military family who moved frequently until making their way to Washington. She attributes her childhood with why change is easier for her and has helped her embrace the many changes that come within Children's Administration.

Patty started her social work career at Children's Administration 29 years ago and has experienced firsthand many iterations of the work required of social workers and staff. Beginning as an intern at the Bellingham office while working on her undergraduate degree in Human Services at WWU, she has worked her way up to her current position as the Deputy Regional Administrator. Patty remarks of her appreciation for the diversity, skill, ability

and dedication of social workers and staff who are working with families to maintain the safety, permanency and well-being of children.

Patty graduated from Eastern's MSW program in 2010. She went back to school well into her career not to change jobs or for higher pay. She sees herself as a lifelong learner and understood that getting an MSW would help her be a better social worker. Patty believes child safety and permanency is done through collaborative, respectful assessments completed with families. This work is hard, and an honor.

Alongside her career of supporting the safety and wellbeing of children and their families, Patty has also raised a family of her own with her husband John. She and John have lived in Snohomish County for many years raising a daughter and son. Patty and her family enjoy the outdoors and spend much of their time hiking, gardening, and camping each summer.

For Patty, family is everything. The need for connection doesn't end at age 18 as children and youth need ongoing support throughout their lives, through good times and bad. She believes that following up with the relative search is truly important as extended family can provide for the lifelong connections that are so necessary for kids in care. She reflects on the enrichment of having her adult children as a regular part of her life. She knows they could spend their time elsewhere, so she is grateful they choose to spend some of it with her and her husband. Patty believes the families served by CA are no different.

## Site Updates

- Vancouver: Our Vancouver part-time program currently has ten CWTAP students, five are non-employees. These students are completing their final year and will graduate June 2018.
- Spokane: The Spokane part-time program started a new hybrid cohort summer quarter, 15 students from the cohort are in CWTAP, all but two are CA employees. The Spokane part-time hybrid program, aka Eastern Washington part-time hybrid program, serves students throughout Region 1.
- Everett: Our Everett part-time program also started a new hybrid cohort summer quarter, 16 from this group of students are in CWTAP, eight CWTAP students are CA employees.
- Cheney: We currently have 15 non-employee students in our full-time day program; nine are first year students, and 6 are in their second year. As is common in our full-time program, none of these students are CA employees.

## Student Spotlight

By Kendall Soto – Vancouver

It is not uncommon for people to not know how to correctly install car seats or identify which car seats are needed for what age/size of kids. There are numerous studies available that identify car accidents as a leading cause of death in young children. The CDC has compared motor related deaths every 10 years from 1950. This table demonstrates that 11.5% of children ages 1-4 died from motor related vehicles, compared to only 2.8% in the same age group in 2010 (<https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/hus/2012/029.pdf>). These statistics alone show why it is important to continually study car seat safety and update our laws and recommendations accordingly.



This information along with the questions I was hearing in the office led me to do a car seat training. After all, if our main objective is to keep children safe, we need to make sure we are doing so every time we put vulnerable children in our vehicles. I reached into my professional network and asked around to find someone who knows how to fulfill this need. My Faculty Field Instructor, Erinn Havig, pointed me in the right direction. I reached out to a retired police officer who is a certified car seat safety technician. We held a 1 ½ hour all-staff meeting to do this training and reserved several state vehicles so employees could practice installing car seats.

Car seat and child safety is a continuously evolving practice that we as workers must keep up-to-date on. In the future, I would like to see a certified car seat safety technician on staff in every office. This would ensure there is someone in the office that can provide assistance in car seat installation and answer questions. This person could also organize periodic car seat safety trainings as refresher courses, or when new studies have been released that have prompted a change in our laws or recommendations. Certification courses are held all over Washington and are usually only a few days long. I am planning on becoming certified because I believe it will be a benefit to child welfare offices. If you would like to join my cause in promoting car seat safety in our workplace, please consider organizing a car seat safety training in your office or becoming certified yourself. Let's work together to keep children safe and our staff informed. Anyone interested in more information, who would like more resources, or who have questions, please feel free to reach out to me. Thank you.

*Kendall Soto is a Student in the Vancouver MSW Cohort and will graduate in June 2018. She can be reached at [kendallsoto@gmail.com](mailto:kendallsoto@gmail.com)*

### Important Dates

**November 10**  
Veteran's Day

**November 22 - 24**  
Thanksgiving Break

**December 4 - 8**  
Finals Week

**December 9 – January 8**  
Break



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### Helpful Links

Alliance for Child Welfare Excellence: [www.allianceforchildwelfare.org](http://www.allianceforchildwelfare.org)

National Association of Social Workers: [www.naswdc.org](http://www.naswdc.org)

Child Welfare League of America: [www.cwla.org](http://www.cwla.org)

Children's Defense Fund: [www.childrensdefense.org](http://www.childrensdefense.org)

Child Welfare Information Gateway: [www.childwelfare.gov](http://www.childwelfare.gov)

Casey Family Programs: [www.casey.org](http://www.casey.org)

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Administration for Children and Families: [www.acf.hhs.gov](http://www.acf.hhs.gov)

National Resource Center for Child Protective Services: [www.nrccps.org](http://www.nrccps.org)