

## CalSWEC:

### A Decade of Collaboration on the Public Social Services

*The California Social Work Education Center (CalSWEC) is unique in the annals of both social work education and the public social services in the state. Never before had the entire social work academic community and the public social services joined forces to improve the education and training of social workers for all the publicly supported social services. When CalSWEC was created ten years ago, this pioneering partnership was recognized across the country for its innovation and foresight. Today, CalSWEC continues to serve as a national leadership model in school/agency partnership. Universities throughout the nation use the California Child Welfare Competencies, developed by CalSWEC, as a starting point for curriculum development.*

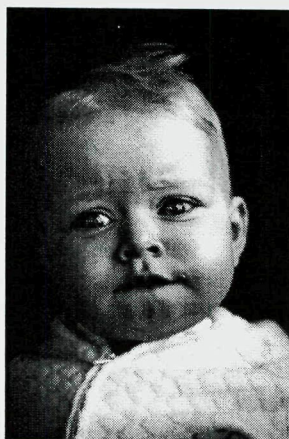
#### Compiled by

**Karen Ringuette,  
CalSWEC Media Specialist**

Here are highlights from CalSWEC's history:

#### 1980

The teaching staff at the School of Social Welfare at the University of California at Berkeley revises the school's mission to produce



professionals for careers in the publicly supported social services and to serve disadvantaged populations. With this assertion, the school directs its resources toward carrying out the new mission.

#### 1981-1984

In line with its new mission, the school works on building bridges to connect with area public social service agencies.

#### 1984

The UC Berkeley School of Social Welfare and the local public service agencies form the Bay Area Social Services Consortium (BASSC). Initially composed of seven county departments of social services, the school's Dean, Dr. Harry Specht, and the Executive Director of the Zellerbach Family Fund, Edward Nathan, BASSC within a year expands to include nine county departments and two additional Bay Area Deans of social work: San Francisco State Dean, Michael Reich, and San Jose State Dean, Ismael Dieppa. It provides a forum for the exchange and discussion of common and pressing policy and practice issues. This collaboration and other efforts in the state create a link between the deans and directors of the schools and county social service managers.

#### 1989

With BASSC's success, its member deans and the California Chapter of the National Association of Social Work (NASW), directed by Ellen Dunbar, involve the deans of the state's seven other graduate schools of social work in a discussion with the California Welfare Directors Association (CWDA), directed by Lee Kemper. Directors of the schools unanimously approve an MSW mission statement to "reprofessionalize public social services." A partnership is proposed among the 10 graduate schools of social work and the CWDA to redirect MSW education in California toward preparing graduates for work in the publicly supported social services. CWDA identifies Title IV-E of the Social Security Act as a possible source of stipend funding for the project.

#### 1989-1990

To reflect the common priorities of schools and agencies in curriculum development while allowing a suitable degree of autonomy, CalSWEC's Curriculum Committee, chaired by Dr. Ben



Cuellar of Fresno State University and staffed by Sherrill Clark, assembles an array of common practice competencies for which each school will prepare its child welfare students. An advisory committee of school and agency child welfare educators refines this to create a draft of core curriculum competencies.

### 1990

The Ford Foundation and the local foundation community provide the base of startup funding for the proposed partnership. The Ford Foundation offers to provide three years of support for the project with the possibility of an additional two-year extension. Eight California foundations agree to match the Ford Foundation grant. They are the Elise Haas Fund, the Walter S. Johnson Foundation, the Louis R. Lurie Foundation, the Community Foundation of Santa Clara, the San Francisco Foundation, the Stuart Foundation, the Von Löben Sels Foundation, and the Zellerbach Family Fund.

With the commitment of the 10 graduate schools of social work and CWDA, the help of the California Chapter of NASW, and funding from The Ford Foundation, the California Center for Graduate Social Work Education for the Public and Non-Profit Social Services is created. Dr. Specht, Dean of UC Berkeley's School of Social Welfare, becomes principal investigator. Soon after the center's birth, it is renamed the California Social Work Education Center

(CalSWEC).

Dr. Bart Grossman, field director at UC Berkeley's School of Social Welfare, is named CalSWEC's executive director. The CalSWEC Acting Board of Directors (original members listed below) meet for the first time in San Diego.

The deans of the three Los Angeles area schools of social work, Leonard Schneiderman of UCLA, Rino Patti of USC, and Jim Kelly of California State University, Long Beach, establish a partnership with the L.A. County Department of Child and Family Services directed by Peter Digre to provide pre-service and in-service training for L.A. county employees. This partnership, opens the door for Title IV-E funding of university-based child welfare training in California.

### 1991

CalSWEC receives a five-year Interdisciplinary Child Welfare Education Grant from the Administration for Children, Families, and Youth, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the largest of eleven capacity-building grants funded that year to help reprofessionalize child welfare services in the states.

At the CalSWEC state conference in December, the draft of the core curriculum competencies is presented to a group of about 80 agency directors, deans, faculty, and staff. The group provides input for the creation of a final list of competencies and identifies regional priorities for implementation.

At the conference, the California Child Welfare Education Partnership Agreement is

signed by Dr. Anita Harbert, president of the CalSWEC Board of Directors and director of the social work program at San Diego State University; Marsena Buck, president of the California Chapter of NASW and CWDA; Loren Suter, deputy director for Children and Families of the California Department of Social Services (CDSS); and Dr. Grossman. The agreement promotes a partnership among the CDSS, NASW, CalSWEC, CWDA, and Office of State Programs of the Administration for Children, Youth, and Families of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to professionalize California's child welfare services by creating a state financial aid program for social work education based on Title IV-E of the Adoption Assistance and Child Welfare Act (P.L. 96-272) and incorporating the competency-based child welfare curriculum. The collaborative partners begin to talk about how practice-based research can inform social work education and improve curriculum development.

### 1992

CalSWEC and the state of California sign the first Title IV-E contract with the active involvement and support of Region IX of the Administration for Children and Families under the leadership of Dr. Sharon Fujii.

At the request of the California County Mental Health Directors Association, CalSWEC helps create a program in public mental health to parallel CalSWEC's child welfare project. Funding from the San Francisco Foundation and the Kaiser Foun-



dation supports a curriculum competency development process led by Dr. Norita Vlach of California State University, San Jose.

### 1993

Beginning in January, each of the 10 California MSW programs provides up to 16 stipends a year, with students receiving two years of support in exchange for a two-year work commitment. Priority for stipends is given to current county employees on educational leave and applicants who reflect the diverse client populations currently served by child welfare.

The state Department of Mental Health sponsors a Social Work Mental Health Education Conference, which CalSWEC helps design with the Western Interstate Consortium for Higher Education.

### 1994

A part-time program (three or four years) for employees of child welfare agencies is developed at eight CalSWEC schools. Under the program, for three years of support the employees who complete the MSW agree to serve the county for one additional year.

The state Mental Health Directors Association signs a partnership with CalSWEC based on the core Mental Health Competencies.

The first Title IV-E MSW program stipend recipients—a total of 98 students—graduate.

CalSWEC establishes a unique program of empirical research directed toward improvement of education and practice with priorities established by the

agencies.

The CalSWEC grant becomes the single largest sponsored project at the University of California at Berkeley.

Loma Linda University and Stanislaus State become the 11th and 12th graduate schools of social work to participate in the Title IV-E MSW program.

The first empirically based curriculum is completed.

CalSWEC coordinates the Region IX conference on implementing the federal Family Support Act, hosting the gathering of over 300 participants at the Cathedral Hill Hotel in San Francisco.

### 1995

Distance education programs, coordinated by California State University at Long Beach, (CSULB), are initiated at California State University campuses at Humboldt and Chico to accommodate counties that are beyond the reach of existing MSW programs.

The CalSWEC-funded Child Welfare Resource Library is established at CSULB under the leadership of Janet Black.

In partnership with UC Berkeley's School of Social Welfare and the federal Children's Bureau, CalSWEC receives funding for a three-year Child Welfare Fellows Project to provide faculty development awards to two groups of tenured faculty across the county. The fellows conduct research in public child welfare agencies and improve their curriculum instruction

With the support of the federal Children's Bureau, CalSWEC hosts a national invitational conference on Title IV-E

child welfare partnerships.

Dr. Nancy Dickinson of the Northern Child Welfare Training Academy of the UC Davis Extension succeeds Dr. Grossman as executive director of CalSWEC.

The Partnership Newsletter, a Children's Bureau funded publication, is contracted to CalSWEC.

### 1996

CalSWEC contracts with CDSS to help develop, implement, and support five regional child welfare training academies throughout the state to provide inservice training and education for public child welfare agency staff, as well as to support and increase staff retention in California's 58 counties. The first regional academy that CalSWEC subcontracts with, the Public Child Welfare Training Academy, Southern Region, begins operation. It is a joint venture of San Diego State University, CSU San Bernardino, and Imperial, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, and San Diego Counties.

CalSWEC hosts the first faculty development institute in partnership with the UC Berkeley School of Social Welfare and the federal Children's Bureau. The three-year Child Welfare Fellows Project provides faculty development awards to tenured faculty across the country so they can conduct research at their local public social services agencies and use this to improve their schools' curriculum and instruction. The first cohort involves 10 fellows.



**1997**

The Central California Public Social Services Training Academy begins operation. With its main office at California State University, Fresno, the academy serves Fresno, Kern, Kings, Madera, Mariposa, Merced, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Stanislaus, Tulare, and Ventura Counties.

CalSWEC hosts the second faculty development institute involving 14 Child Welfare Fellows.

With funding from the federal Children's Bureau, CalSWEC begins a three-year project to develop and evaluate curriculum to train professionals in domestic violence, substance abuse, foster care, mental health programs, and the legal system to develop collaborative skills in concurrent planning (a California legislative mandate to improve the stability and legal permanence of children) for children and families in the child welfare system.

**1998**

The first cohort of the distance education students graduates.

CSU, Los Angeles, becomes the 13th graduate school of social work during academic year 1998-1999.

Under the leadership of CSU, Long Beach, new distance education programs are implemented to serve the Bakersfield and mid-Southern coastal (California State University-Channel Islands) areas.

The Bay Area Academy begins operation. It serves Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Monterey, Napa, San Benito, San Francisco, San Joaquin, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Solano, and Sonoma Counties.

The First National Human

Services Training Evaluation Symposium is held to discuss issues related to training evaluation in the human services. It is co-sponsored by CalSWEC, the National Staff Development and Training Association of American Public Human Services Association, and the American Humane Association.

CalSWEC hosts the third faculty development institute involving all 24 Child Welfare Fellows.

Dr. Sherrill Clark succeeds Dr. Dickinson as executive director of CalSWEC.

**1999**

CalSWEC receives a grant from the CDSS to develop a plan for the implementation of a standardized curriculum that all child welfare workers would have to complete successfully before assuming an independent caseload.

New space is allocated for CalSWEC, allowing for expansion of its quarters at UC Berkeley's School of Social Welfare.

The American Indian Graduate Recruitment Project for Title IV-E students moves to CSU, Stanislaus.

CalSWEC co-sponsors the Second National Human Services Training Evaluation Symposium.

CalSWEC's Board of Directors meets to revise its mission statement so it reflects a reaffirmation of the organization's original commitment to education for the public human services in California.

**2000**

CalSWEC celebrates its 10-year anniversary.

CSU Bakersfield becomes the 14th graduate school of social work during academic year 1998-1999.

**CalSWEC's Acting Board of Directors, 1990**

Dr. Ronald P. Boltz, Director  
Division of Social Work  
California State University, Sacramento

Ms. Marsena Buck, President  
National Association of Social Workers, California Chapter

Dr. Benjamin Cuellar, Director  
Department of Social Work Education  
California State University, Fresno

Mr. John Cullen (Alternate), Director  
Merced City Human Services Agency

Ms. Fritzie Davis, Director  
El Nido Family Services

Dr. Ismael Dieppa, Dean  
School of Social Work  
San Jose State University

Dr. Anita Harbert, Director  
School of Social Work  
San Diego State University

Mr. Dennis Hart, Director  
Sacramento County Social Welfare Department

Dr. Melvin Hawkins, Interim Director  
Department of Social Work  
California State University, San Bernardino

Dr. Jim Kelly, Director  
Department of Social Work  
California State University, Long Beach

Ms. Ruth Massinga, President  
Casey Family Fund  
American Public Welfare Association

Ms. Linda McMahon, Director  
California Department of Social  
Services

Mr. Edward Nathan, Executive  
Director  
Zellerbach Family Fund

Mr. Richard O'Neil, Director  
Santa Clara County Social Ser-  
vices Agency

Dr. Rino Patti, Dean  
School of Social Work  
University of Southern California

Dr. Michael Reisch, Director  
Department of Social Work Edu-  
cation  
San Francisco State University

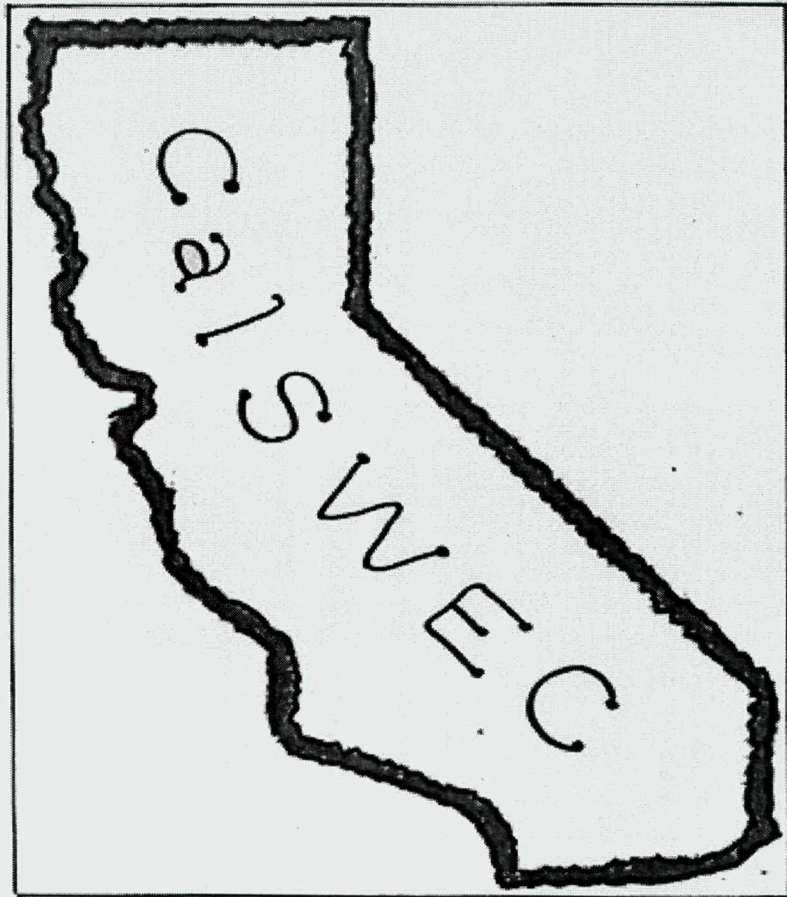
Ms. Yolanda Rinaldo, Director  
Sonoma County Social Services  
Department

Ms. Cheryl Rutherford-Kelly, Di-  
rector  
Lassen County Department of  
Health and Human Services

Mr. Jim Rydingsword, Director  
Contra Costa County Social Ser-  
vices Department

Dr. Leonard Schneiderman, Dean  
School of Social Welfare  
University of California, Los An-  
geles

Dr. Harry Specht, Dean  
School of Social Welfare  
University of California, Berkeley



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