a monthly newsletter from
the Pennsylvania Child Welfare Resource Center

COUNTY CONNECTION

Child Welfare Education for Leadership Updates

Submitted by: Laura Borish

Slippery Rock University

Slippery Rock University is anticipating accreditation status in the summer of 2023. Applicants are welcome to apply for CWEL sponsorship at Slippery Rock University beginning with the fall 2023 semester with the understanding that full accreditation must be received prior to final CWEL approval.

PennWest California and PennWest Edinboro

Beginning with students **admitted for the 2023-2024 academic year**, all full-time students with advanced standing will complete the MSW Program in one calendar year by attending classes full-time in consecutive Fall, Spring, and Summer semesters. These students will not take a Winter semester class and will return to work between the Fall and Spring semesters if their break is longer than 15 business days. Since they will be attending school full time for the Summer semester, students will not return to work in the county until they graduate in August.

For those full-time students admitted without advanced standing, the MSW Program will be completed in two academic years with students attending Fall and Spring semesters over two consecutive academic years. Full time students at PennWest California and PennWest Edinboro will no longer take classes in the Winter or Summer semesters. Students will return to work between the Fall and Spring semesters if their break is longer than 15 business days. Additionally, they will return to work full-time for the summer between their first and second years of school.

We are looking forward to supporting our newest PennWest CWEL students using this uniform approach. **This change will not affect current PennWest CWEL students or part-time students attending either PennWest California or PennWest Edinboro.**
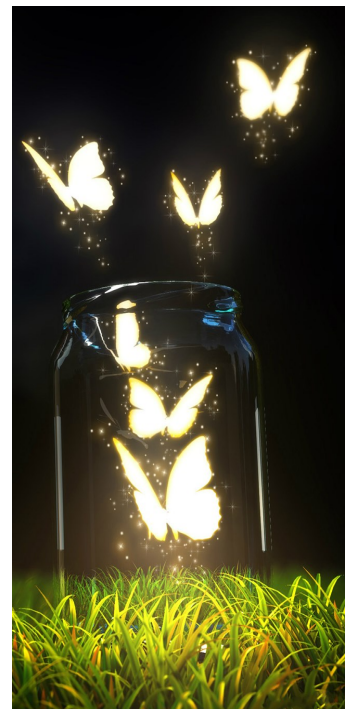
Application Reminder

As a reminder, all CWEL applicants must apply to the CWEL-approved school of their choice by the application deadline determined by that school. A separate CWEL application is required and is available at https://www.socialwork.pitt.edu/researchtraining/child-welfare-programs/child-welfare-education-leadership-cwel.

Our CWEL application deadline is March 15th for students applying to attend Millersville or Shippensburg Universities and Advanced Standing applicants to Bryn Mawr College, Edinboro University, Kutztown University, Marywood University, the University of Pennsylvania, Temple University, and Widener University. The regular CWEL application deadline is April 30th for all other applicants. We will begin to review completed applications over the summer and prioritize advanced standing admissions.

Update on Caseworker Certification Series

Submitted by: Jenna Meister

The following update was emailed to all county administrators and training liaisons on March 2, 2023.

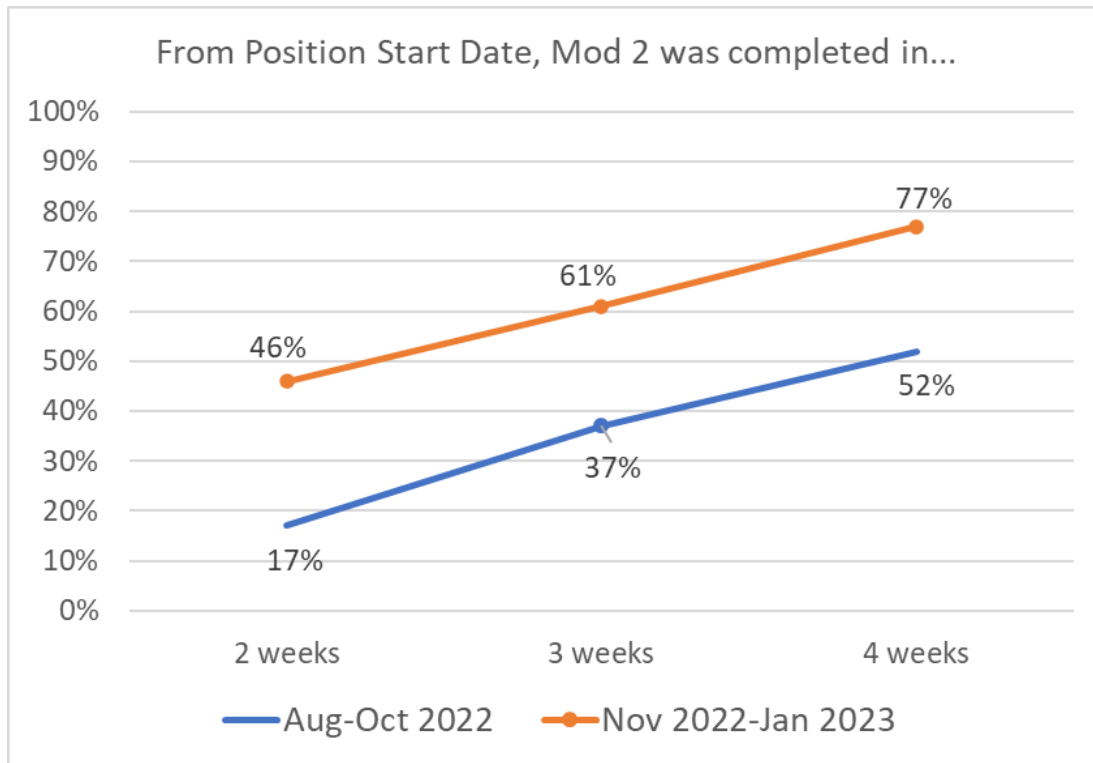**Subject:** Update on Caseworker Certification Series

Dear Administrators,

We want to provide an update on our efforts for all caseworkers to have the opportunity to attend Foundations Module 2, the first instructor-led module in Foundations, within 3 weeks of hire. In addition to the changes that we communicated in December 2022, below are recent actions that we have put into place to support our goal.

- Adjustments to the January-March training calendar including adding additional Foundations sessions

- Adjustments to the April-June training calendar including staggering the start of Foundations series in all regions

- Implementing an automated process in Bridge to move staff from the waiting list to the registered list when cancellations occur

- Developed internal dashboards that allow us to track Foundations registration and completion

We have increased the number of caseworkers completing Module 2 within 3 weeks of hire.

From Position Start Date, Mod 2 was completed in...

Our efforts toward our goal are ongoing and our team is using Foundations completion data to monitor our progress and inform additional changes.

We continue to need your help.

Please have your training liaison contact their Regional Resource Specialist about the following:

- If there are no available Foundations Module 2 training spots within 3 weeks of hire

- Each time you anticipate hiring new caseworkers (include anticipated hire date, number of new caseworkers, and any anticipated delays in your new hires receiving a county email address)

- Any county-based barriers to starting your caseworkers in Foundations within 3 weeks of hire

- When your county has someone serving as a Foundations Advisor for the first time

We recognize the hiring and staffing crisis many of you are facing. The more we hear from you, the better we can plan with you.

Please remember there are pre-requisites required in E-Learn that your staff must complete prior to attending each Foundations module. We added more language to trainee confirmation emails to emphasize the pre-requisite requirements and that trainees will not be allowed to attend training without completing them. Please see the attached module list for more information.

Finally, continue to join us to share your ideas and to learn more about our training updates. Two upcoming opportunities are:

Foundations Advisor Support

Time: Wednesday, March 29 from 9:00 AM-11:00 AM

Join Zoom Meeting: https://pitt.zoom.us/j/91214460290

All County Training Call

Time: Thursday, April 27 from 10:00 AM-12:00 PM

Join Zoom Meeting: https://pitt.zoom.us/j/95361750807

Mike Byers, MSW
Director

Bridge Update

Submitted by: Kari Giles

Important Announcements

- Please **wait until staff have an active email account with your agency** to enter them into Bridge and/or register them for Foundations.

- When staff leave your agency, **please ensure you enter a "Termination Date" in their demographics**, otherwise, the trainee will continue to be incorrectly associated with your agency. To get to the "**Termination Date**", go to the "**Manage Users**" screen, find the user, and click on "**Modify Demographics**". You will see the "**Termination Date**" on the "**Employment**" screen:

Agency Hire Date *

1 / 31 / 2022

Which of the following best describes your role under the Agency? If your role is unknown, please keep the default of Direct Service Worker. *

Direct Service Worker

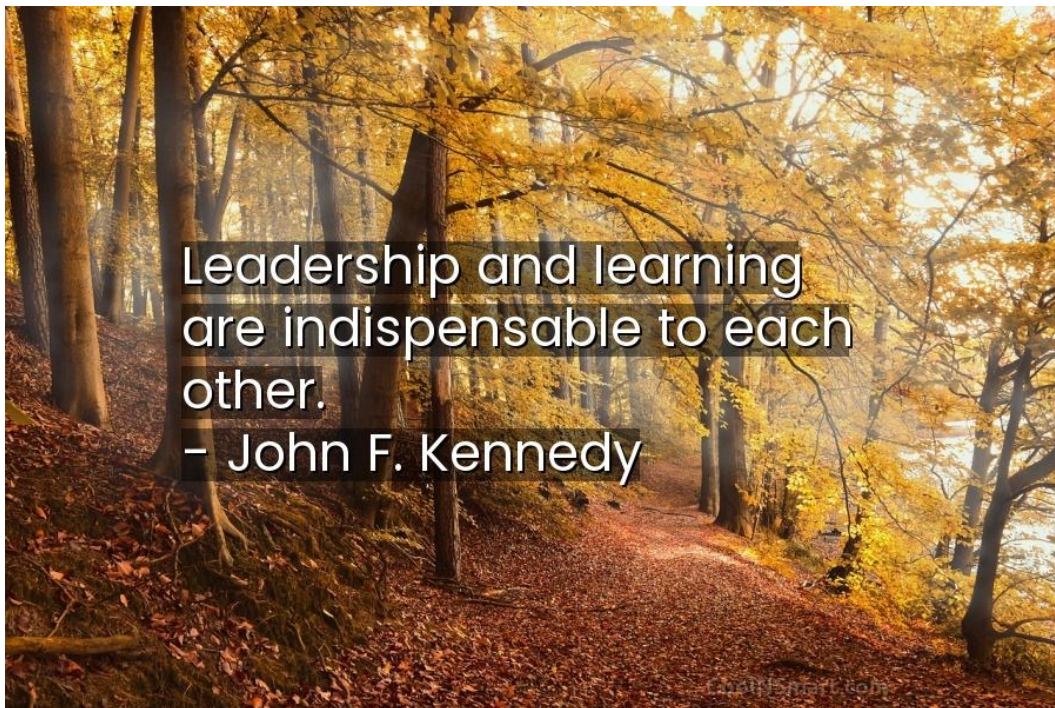Effective Date of Current Role *

1 / 31 / 2022

Termination Date

MM / DD / YYYY

- Please check your approval queue regularly for "**Agency Account Requests**" and "**Agency Transfer Requests**". These are requests from either new trainees that are requesting to be affiliated with your agency or they are trainees with existing Bridge accounts and are transferring from another agency. If you do not know the trainee, please reject it - **do not ignore it**.

<u>For Further Assistance</u>

- For anyone who would like to set up a one-on-one Bridge training via Microsoft Teams, please contact BridgeHD@pitt.edu. This training can be for new liaisons or for anyone who may need a refresher.

- We would also love to hear any feedback, suggestions, and ideas you may have about Bridge via our online form at http://forms.cwrc.pitt.edu/BridgeFeedback/.

- If you have any technical issues or questions, please email the Bridge team at BridgeHD@pitt.edu.

Leadership and learning are indispensable to each other.
– John F. Kennedy

Regional Team Contact Information

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