

THE PALETTE

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Bridge Update

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Submitted by: Kari Giles

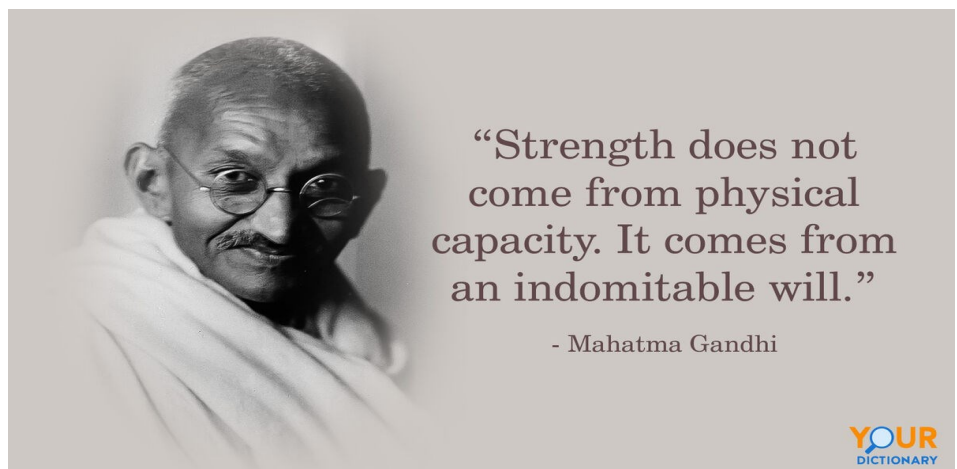
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New or Coming Soon!

- In the “Instructor Toolbox” located in the “Manage Attendance” screen, a new “Instructor Materials” section has been added which displays any relevant course material to the instructor.
- The instructor “Discussion Forum” orb has been renamed “Instructor Resources”. Along with the discussion forum, it now also includes a link to curriculum materials.

Bridge Reminders

- The Bridge TBL Project is currently underway. We anticipate its launch in Bridge in early summer of 2024.
- We would 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.



Hello New SC!

WE WELCOMED NEW SC TO THE TEAM IN THE LAST FEW YEARS AND WANTED TO INTRODUCE YOU! PLEASE SAY HELLO AS YOU SEE THEM ALONG YOUR JOURNEY!



Vivian Harris is a Licensed Master Social Worker, Certified Drug and Alcohol Counselor, and Certified Community Healthcare Worker with an extensive background spanning over 25 years in various aspects of human services. With a dedicated focus on drug and alcohol counseling for over 15 years, her expertise and empathy in aiding others have become her guiding principles.

Driven by a steadfast commitment to her community, Vivian founded Vivian Speaks LLC to give back in a meaningful way. Serving as the CEO and Owner, Vivian Speaks LLC offers counseling services specializing in addiction and mental health. Vivian firmly believes in creating a safe and supportive environment where individuals can openly address the challenges hindering their personal growth and success. Through her work, she strives to empower individuals to overcome obstacles and achieve their full potential.



Catherine is excited about joining CWRC! It's a dream come true. She's no stranger to Standardized Clients. She was hoping to have more opportunities to work in this area since she was introduced to it in Philadelphia Department of Human Services. She enjoys the opportunity of helping in the formation of emerging Social Workers! She's a mother, grandmother and minister! She enjoys helping others reach their full potential!

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Delaney Hagy is excited to be joining the SC Team!! Delaney earned her Bachelor of Fine Arts at Baldwin Wallace University in Classical Theater. Delaney then took up full time residence in Cleveland, performing, directing, and teaching in the area. She worked at Cleveland Play House for many years as a drama therapist, theater educator and after school program coordinator. Delaney has worked at the PA Ren Faire for the past 2 seasons as a plot lead and Celtic revel. Her journeys have also taken to The Rev Theater, Cedar Point, and Creede Repertory Theater! She is currently on the Red cast for Murder at Mount Hope Manor playing Fanny Liqueur the Femme Fatale

José Pérez IV has worked in simulation since 2017, first as a Standardized Patient for the University of Pittsburgh's School of Medicine, then as a Simulation Educator for VA Pittsburgh Hospital System. He has been on several simulation projects with a national reach, specializing in combative patient trainings utilizing SPs. José is a Pittsburgh-based actor, playwright, and fight & intimacy director. BFA in Drama from NYU Tisch School of the Arts, MFA in Performance Pedagogy from the University of Pittsburgh.



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Mmachi O. Dimoriaku (they/she) is very excited to be working in the field of social work as an SC. Mmachi is a Nigerian American professional actress, singer, director, choreographer, photographer, cosmetologist, and Moth storyteller. They have been performing since they were 4 years old when they were chosen to sing the national anthem at their preschool graduation. With a diverse skill set and a passion for artistic expression, Mmachi brings a unique perspective to their work.

In 2020, they earned a B.A. in Theatre Arts with a minor in Creative Writing from Wilkes University; in addition, they participated in over three dozen theatrical productions, onstage and backstage, further demonstrating their commitment to the performing and creative arts. In 2023, they earned their certification in cosmetology and has been working at JCPenney Salon in Wilkes-Barre, PA since November 2023. Currently, Mmachi is further expanding their expertise by pursuing a teaching of cosmetology education. Outside of theatre, Mmachi enjoys making wigs, jewelry and various beauty accessories. You can check out their work on hausofmod.co.

Not Pictured: Lynn Blackston, Victoria White, Austin Greene, Rowan Mentzer

Complex Case Resources

Submitted by: Russ Cripps, Colleen Cox, and Wendy Unger

1. During 2023 and continuing into 2024, at the request of OCYF, Russ and Colleen facilitated the Complex Needs Blueprint Workgroup, in partnership with the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services.

The Desired Future State of this project is:

“In Pennsylvania, we believe all youth with complex needs and their families will have the opportunity to access timely supports and services that are individualized, trauma-informed, holistic, respectful of race and culture, family- and youth-driven, and available in their own communities.

This will be evidenced by:

- *A focus on youth and family engagement while honoring their voice and choice;*
- *Establishing and maintaining a well-supported and qualified workforce;*
- *Collaboration and shared understanding across systems to support planning and shared goals;*
- *Systems that prioritize early identification, proactive intervention, and service options that support family stability, safety, and the youth’s healthy development and meaningful relationships which support life-long connections;*
- *Teams that engage in ongoing and integrated planning that supports the everyday needs of a family and youth (housing, education, transportation, scheduling, access to medical care, etc.); and,*
- *Service delivery that is coordinated, accessible, timely, and includes support throughout the process.*

The final report of the workgroup was shared via a DHS press release on 2/12/2024. The report includes multiple recommendations to improve services for children and families with complex needs. Please use the following link to access the full report: https://www.media.pa.gov/pages/dhs_details.aspx?newsid=992. The next phase of the Complex Needs Blueprint work will focus on establishing a Steering Committee and Workgroups to dive deeper into recommendations and move them towards implementation.

2. The County Commissioners Association of PA (CCAP) also conveyed a workgroup and issued a report with recommendations related to complex cases. The focus for the CCAP report is current emergent issues while the Blueprint report did a deeper dive into root causes to help affect system change. The Blueprint workgroup will be working collaboratively on goals that align in each report.

<https://www.pacounties.org/getmedia/d8ee4cf1-7047-49aa-8a64-87a250db48ed/CCAP-Complex-Case-Workgroup-Report.pdf>

Instructor Impacts

Submitted by: Molly Margeson

The CWRC is extremely fortunate to have a pool of experienced, professional, caring, and overall excellent instructors. While the day-to-day doesn't allow for much cross-collaboration with each other, we wanted to highlight some of the amazing feedback we receive from our participants about our instructors. This list is randomized and not all-encompassing of our instructor pool (we would need a lot more space to share all of the feedback)!

“**Sakia** was a very compassionate and amazing instructor who made sure that she was available for questions and answered them in a way that she made you feel comfortable with what you are asking. Sakia also focused on wellbeing in an excellent way accepting different ways for self care. She also made sure to address the group and their differences and find a way to bring them all together. Overall, an excellent experience.”

“This was a positive experience due to **Kenia's** relatability and positive outlook while discussing difficult material.”

“**Lisa M.** was very good as a trainer. She made the process very easy and comfortable.”

“**Charlene** was upbeat and engaging during the course. She used the course materials and combined it with real-life examples and related handouts to make the material more applicable. The materials and simulation used were helpful in working on the skills that we learned in Module #1 and Module #2 online coursework.”

“**Joan** was very engaging and kind. She seemed to have a wealth of knowledge from personal experience, yet she was very understanding of our new roles. The pace was just right as we ventured into these courses with various levels of comfort & experience. Thank you.”

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“The instructor [**Billie T.**] of this course was very knowledgeable and informative, giving wonderful insights. She did a great job getting everyone to engage with the material and made the content both informative and interesting.”

“**Kurt** was a great facilitator and engaging throughout the entire course. He presented challenging topics with a welcoming approach and solicited a lot of interaction from our group.”

“**Donna** was great. She was kind and showed respect and empathy for what we all do as social workers. Her experience showed when talking about the topic at hand.”

“The instructor [**Brenda B.**] worked really well in coordinating questions encouraging discussion of topics and presentation of material. It encouraged the students to respectfully work together and consider all opinions and options working together to find a solution or answer.”

“**June** is a great instructor. She makes it very engaging and very interesting! I learned a lot and based on the conversations we were able to have due to June giving us that safe, comfortable [space], I am eager to continue the conversation further.”

“**Taheera** was absolutely wonderful. Her calm but positive personality really made me feel welcomed and comfortable to share my opinion, ask questions, and it also kept me paying attention better because I wanted to hear her opinions and experiences. She also made sure that she shared experiences that helped to solidify what we were learning and made the concepts much more attainable and [memorable] for my future work. She was also able to give us guidance about how to stay clear-headed on and the path to stay in this very difficult field. She made her experiences our knowledge to help us to be the best [child] welfare workers we can be.”

“**Kaci** was fabulous. She was very knowledgeable and down-to-earth. She made the classroom and learning experience very enjoyable.”

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“**[Samantha W.]** was very knowledgeable and engaging. She had great insight and advice for inside and outside of the office. [The] class engaged in meaningful conversation and challenged each other.”

“The instructor **[Deb G.]** was very caring for everyone in the room. She was easy-going and gave really helpful comments. I had less nerves going into simulations with this instructor. She gave me a comment about having a nice strong tone of voice, which is something I will always remember while working this job. I very much appreciated her and her presentation.”

“The instructor, **Lucretia**, was amazing. She was engaging and took the time to ask each person specific, individualized questions. She made it a point to make every [student] feel welcomed and like their opinion/question was valuable. She broke us into groups; fostering collaboration with new people.”

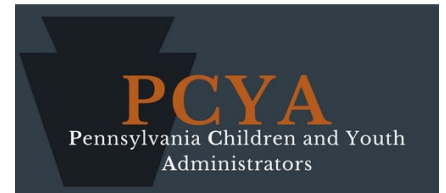
“**Nate B.** was a great instructor. He honored our time and accepted questions as needed. He provided space for us to discuss and have a difference of opinion, as well as pointing us back to the law as the final say. The solicitors for our simulation were awesome, kind, and offered sage advice as we went through our training and for our future work as caseworkers. One of the best modules so far.”

“I learned a lot about engagement and how to approach clients in the field. **Ben** was helpful, informative, and allowed me to more formally understand the process of engagement.”

"Memories of our lives, of our works, and our deeds will continue in others." – Rosa Parks

The Pennsylvania Child Welfare Resource Center is a national leader in advocating for an enhanced quality of life for Pennsylvania’s children, youth, and families.

In partnership with families, communities, public and private agencies, we prepare and support exceptional child welfare professionals and systems through education, research, and a commitment to best practice.



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