

Strengthening trauma counseling for those most in need

by Carolyn Bucior

COLLEGE FOR KIDS/TEENS REGISTRATION OPENS JAN. 15

by Cathy Prescher

Next summer, look no further than College for Kids/Teens (CFK/T) for a fun way to keep your children's minds sharp and their interest piqued until the next school year. From creative arts and chemistry, to designing computer games, CFK/T offers more than 225 classes (K5-12).

CFK/T registration opens on Jan. 15, 2015. Early registration is encouraged as classes fill up quickly.

The scholarship application process starts on Jan. 1, 2015, and continues as long as there are available funds. To qualify, students must receive "free or reduced" lunch. For more information, visit sce-kids.uwm.edu. Select "related information" for specifics about scholarships.

For more information about the program, call 414-227-3200. To register via fax, dial 414-227-3146, or visit sce-kids.uwm.edu.



Discussing the roll-out of the Youth Oriented Substance Abuse and Trauma Counseling Program are Laura Otto-Salaj, left, Dimitri Topitzes, Deborah Padgett and Lisa Berger. Not pictured: Jeanne Wagner.

SCE GIFT CERTIFICATES GOOD FOR MORE THAN A THOUSAND SELECTIONS

by Cathy Prescher

This holiday season, just think what a Gift Certificate from the School of Continuing Education can do.

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Through a federal grant created to help communities respond to gun violence at schools, UWM – with the help of eight regional behavioral health providers – is set to strengthen trauma and substance-abuse counseling services for youth.

Helen Bader School of Social Welfare (HBSSW) recently received a three-year, \$1.25 million grant from the Health Resources and Services Administration to train social work master's students in trauma-informed care and substance-abuse counseling for children, adolescents and young adults.

The bulk of the federal funds for this program – the Youth Oriented Substance Abuse and Trauma (YOSAT) Counseling Program – will be used over the next three years to provide stipends for 95 social work graduate students. Each student who qualifies will earn up to \$10,000 for two semesters' work in the field with a partner agency. The program runs through 2017.

Only a small percentage of trauma survivors receive professional treatment for post-traumatic stress, and according to the federal government just 10 percent of those with substance-abuse problems receive treatment at a specialty facility.

Those with mental illnesses have high rates of both psychological trauma and substance abuse.

Students who participate in the YOSAT counseling program will complete coursework for both the Substance-Abuse Counseling Education Program and the Trauma-Informed Care Graduate Certificate within the Social Work department.

According to Deborah Padgett, principal investigator and chair of the school's Social Work department, the funding is linked to a federal program – the Behavioral Health Workforce and Education Training Program – with the goal of improving community systems that serve residents with mental or behavioral health issues. Improvements, Padgett says, include exposing graduate students to current trends and state-of-the-art training in the behavioral and mental health fields.

Padgett will direct the program with social work colleagues who have expertise in the relevant areas: Lisa Berger, associate professor, substance abuse counseling; Laura Otto-Salaj, associate professor and interim director of the Center for Applied Behavioral Health Research, evaluation research; Dimitri Topitzes, associate professor, trauma counseling; and Jeanne Wagner, clinical associate professor, director of field placement.

Eight behavioral health providers who are partnering with the YOSAT Counseling Program are: Sixteenth Street Clinic, Rogers Behavioral Health System, Columbia-St. Mary's Behavioral Medicine, Aurora Behavioral Health Services, Norris Adolescent Center, Benedict Center, Outreach Community Health Center, and Rosecrance.

This grant award is the second for federal training that HBSSW received in 2014. The school was one of 15 sites nationwide to receive a federal training grant aimed at enhancing how social work students, medical residents and student nurse practitioners work with patients who are at risk for or experiencing substance-abuse problems. This three-year grant of \$777,412 was received from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. Berger serves as principal investigator on that project, with Topitzes, Padgett, Wagner and Otto-Salaj as co-investigators.

Starting in September 2013, Berger and Topitzes began training providers and students in Screening, Brief Intervention and Referral to Treatment for Substance Misuse, or SBIRT. Milwaukee's seven partnering organizations in SBIRT include the Clement J. Zablocki VA Medical Center.

"Research has shown that the SBIRT model is effective, particularly in primary care settings such as doctor's offices and clinics," says Berger.

Students interested in the YOSAT program should contact Padgett at dpadgett@uwm.edu.