

Forensic Human Services Certificate Program

December 2010



Santa Clara County Social Services Agency
in collaboration with
San Jose State University
The Office of the County Counsel
Santa Clara County Superior Court

Upcoming Winter Courses

FHS-02 Juvenile Court Law (20 hours)

This course will provide human service professionals with an overview of the juvenile court process, including delinquency, dependency and status offender cases. Primary emphasis will be given to juvenile dependency cases.

Date: Wednesdays, January 5 to March 9, 2011

Time: 6:00pm to 8:00pm

Location: 373 W. Julian St. San Jose, CA 95110

Room: DFCS SW Training Rm, 1st Floor

Instructors

Carol Robinson

Annette Stahlnecker

FHS-05 Writing Court Reports (30 hours)

This course will help participants to improve their ability to present facts and strength-based, family-centered, culturally sensitive assessments in court reports.

Date: Thursdays, January 6 to March 10, 2011

Time: 6:00pm to 9:00pm

Location: 373 W. Julian St. San Jose, CA 95110

Room: DFCS SW Training Rm, 1st Floor

Instructors

Liz Morgan

Jennifer Hubbs

Comments from a previous participant.....

"I will be able to write more concise, more helpful Court reports. I do believe I have learned valuable methods for organizing information in a clearer and more understandable manner. I feel more sure of myself in regards to presenting reports to Court."

How to Register for Courses

Log on to SSA Learn and search for upcoming offerings:



External Non-SSA Staff will need to contact Barbara Chavez for registration at 408-635-1700

Mission Statement

The purpose of the Forensic Human Services Certificate Program is to teach child welfare professionals how to prepare and present effective assessments in a forensic setting. The program specifically helps child welfare social workers make the transition from the academic setting to the public agency setting where they must conduct investigations, write court reports and offer expert testimony. The program emphasizes the need for factual, strength-based, family-centered, and culturally sensitive assessments.

Executive Committee

Carol Robinson
Lead Deputy County Counsel

Stanley Lee
DFCS, SSPM I

Pnina Green
Title IV-E Coordinator, JSU

Jacqueline Creager
DFCS, Social Worker

Linda Martinez
Sr. Training and Staff Dev Specialist

Rosario Portillo
SW Training Specialists

MEET THE INSTRUCTORS

The Winter 2011 Forensic courses will soon be upon us. To help you decide which course will best meet your needs, we thought it would be helpful if you knew a little bit about the instructors teaching the courses.

2009-2010 Forensic Program Highlights

During the 2009-2010 Annual Report period, 50 students completed courses in the FHS Program. Of the 50 students, 44 successfully completed courses, and 6 students successfully audited courses. 27 other students either dropped courses after starting a course or did not attend after registering for courses. Course evaluations indicate that **94.3% of the students rated the courses as either "Outstanding" or "Above Average"** (on a scale of Outstanding - Above Average - Average - Below Average - Poor). In addition, **95.0% of the students indicated they would recommend the courses to others.**

FHS-02: Juvenile Court Law

Carol Robinson received her undergraduate degree from the University of California, Irvine, and her law degree from Western State University College of Law. She has been a Juvenile Dependency law trial attorney for 24 years. She spent 10 years in Los Angeles County representing both Social Workers and children. She has been in Santa Clara County for the past 14 years and currently is one of 2 Lead Deputy County Counsel in the Child Dependency Unit. Carol has taught with the Forensic Program since coming to Santa Clara. The courses she has taught include Preparing and Presenting Testimony, Collecting Information, Intro to Judicial Court Law. Carol also trains new DFCS Social Workers through the Bay Area Academy and several private training programs throughout California.

Co-teaching this class is **Annette Stahlnecker** who has been an Instructor for the Forensic Human Services Program since 2009. Annette has worked for DFCS for almost 10 years and is a Social Work Supervisor of a Continuing Services unit. Before becoming a supervisor, Annette spent four years as a Social Worker III in a Dependency Investigation unit after completing the work-study program and receiving her MSW from San Jose State. Additionally, she worked as a Social Worker in a Continuing Services unit. Prior to coming to DFCS, Annette was employed at domestic violence agency in Alameda County. During her eight years of employment with the agency, she served in various capacities including Director of the Children's Program as well as interim positions as Director of Residential Services and Director of the transitional housing program. In 2008, Annette graduated from the Forensic Program.

FHS-05: Writing Court Reports

Jennifer Hubbs is a Social Work Supervisor in the Dependency Investigation Unit. Before becoming a Social Worker, Jennifer worked for 10 years as an Emergency Room Technician at San Jose Medical Center. During this time she also participated in the volunteer program working with trauma victims. It was in this program that Jennifer worked with many Social Workers and decided that, "you can't do anything without an MSW." So, off to San Jose State Jennifer went and in 1997 graduated with her MSW. After completing her MSW, Jennifer came to DFCS. Jennifer spent her first 2 years as a DFCS Social Worker in the South County offices. As you are aware, in South County they follow a vertical client model so Jennifer worked with families from ER through continuing services and permanent placement. After 2 years in South County Jennifer then transferred to DI and has been there ever since. Not only is Jennifer an instructor for the Forensic Program, she is a graduate as well. When asked why she became an instructor in the Forensic Program, Jennifer said that she truly believes in the forensic program and has experienced firsthand how the program can benefit a Social Worker. To quote Jennifer, "the Forensic Program gives a Social Worker everything you didn't get in graduate school and can't learn on the job."

Co-teaching this class is **Elizabeth Morgan** who is a Deputy County Counsel in the Child Dependency Unit (CDU) of the Office of the County Counsel. She received her undergraduate degree from the University of California, Santa Barbara, and her law degree from Santa Clara University School of Law. She has been a Juvenile Dependency law trial attorney for 8 years of her 15 years of practice. Liz began her work in Juvenile Dependency representing parents, and in September 2000 she came to the Office of the County Counsel and began representing Social Workers. Her past work experience also includes representing mental health consumers facing involuntary commitment proceedings, representing clients in family law matters, and defending the County of Santa Clara in workers' compensation matters. Liz began teaching in the Forensic Human Services Program in 2010, and enjoys interacting with Social Workers in a classroom setting.

Interested in Teaching?

Are you ready for the challenging opportunity to teach? Would you like to share your forensic expertise and help social workers prepare for effective child welfare practice? If you're interested in serving as a Forensic instructor, please contact Jacqueline Creager at 975-5177.