



Workforce Development Project

Victor Lasko

Sr. Statewide Director of Workforce Development

I ILLINOIS
School of Social Work

History

- **2015:** Current partnership discussions began between UIUC SSW and DCFS' Office of Learning and Professional Development (OLPD).
- **April 2016:** STEP / FISP program was brought to the SSW.
- **2017:** Five more OLPD programs were brought to the SSW.
- **April 2019:** Simulation Lab in Chicago to train Child Welfare staff was launched.

Funding provided for the Workforce Development Program in whole or in part by the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services.



Current Overview

- 7 Programs
 - Yearly employee headcount of over 100 positions
- Staff are both located and serve the professional development of child welfare staff and of caregivers statewide.



Programs

- Learning and Development
- Registration and Logistics
- Pre-Service and In-Service Training (Child Welfare Employees)
- Chicago Child Protection Training Academy (Simulation Training)
- Field Implementation Support Program (FISP)
- Academic Partnerships
- PRIDE (Caregiver Pre-Service and In-Service Training)

Leadership Team

- **Victor Lasko**, Senior Statewide Director of Workforce Development
- **Larry Nelson**, Associate Director, Learning and Development
- **Brooke Taylor**, Director, Registration and Logistics
- **Elizabeth Smith**, Director, Pre-Service and In-Service Training
- **Marshae Terry**, Director, Chicago Child Protection Training Academy
- **Latrice Ware**, Director, Field Implementation Support Program
- **Audrey Reischauer**, Director, Academic Partnerships
- **Veronica Sanchez-Shavers**, Director, PRIDE





FY24: At a Glance

- Registration handled **164,528** training registrations.
- Design team worked on **70** unique trainings.
 - Ranging from 1 to 140 hours of content each.
- Exam team oversaw **4,911** professional exams.

FY24: At a Glance

- **161** newly hired DCFS investigation staff successfully completed the SSW facilitated Simulation training course which includes both online and in person components at DCFS' Chicago Simulation Lab facility.



AP Photo, 7/30/19



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FY24: At a Glance

- Child Welfare supervisors, administrators, and leadership had a combined **752** completions for various SSW facilitated supervisory trainings or coaching.
- **36,077** Participant successful completions for caregiver training events.

FY24: At a Glance

- **14** Schools actively offered a University Partnership Course in FY24
- **13** Schools are considering, in development, or preparing for a course to be offered in an upcoming year
- **272** unique students enrolled.
- **85** Unique Academic Interns

