

# CWTAP

Winter 2024

Quarterly

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## Director's Letter

Dear CWTAP Community,

With the start of a new calendar year, I am excited for new opportunities for the recruitment and retention of quality child welfare practitioners. We are pleased to announce the continuation and expansion of the EWU CWTAP to include up to 10 junior and senior BASW students seeking a career in public child welfare at DCYF.

-Gerry Charvat, Interim Director & Faculty Field Advisor

## Student Institute 2024

On February 16th – 18th CWTAP will be holding the 2024 Annual Student Institute. This year's conference is being hosted by UW Seattle at the Doubletree Hotel near Southcenter. Students from all three schools (EWU, UW Seattle and UW Tacoma) will attend and present at the conference. We are excited for this great opportunity to share, learn, and network with current and future child welfare professionals.

# Student Spotlight



## Alissa Copeland

Early Learning Program Manager  
DCYF Headquarters

*By Kara Rozeboom*

Alissa Copeland is an EWU CWTAP student in her second year of the Everett part time MSW program. Alissa obtained her undergraduate degree in Developmental Psychology from the University of Washington in 2000. She worked as an undergraduate research assistant with autistic children. After graduating she worked at Service Alternatives as a case manager for children that were placed in therapeutic foster care. While working there she promoted to a program manager overseeing and supporting the in-home programs in Region 3 that offered foster care services, Behavioral Rehabilitation Services (BRS) and Family Preservation Services (FPS). In 2007, Alissa obtained her master's in psychology from Antioch University in Seattle. This integrative studies master's program focused on the intersection of psychology and child welfare.

Alissa was hired by DCYF in 2007 as a Child and Family Welfare Services (CFWS) Social Service Specialist in the Smokey Point office. Since then, she has held numerous

positions in CFWS ICW, FVS, CPS ICW, CFWS Supervisor in Everett, and as the FAR lead for the Lynnwood and Sky Valley DCYF offices. In 2015 she worked at the Alliance as a Curriculum Developer and then returned to child welfare as the Intake and Early Learning Program Manager at Headquarters in 2021. Since April 2023, Alissa has been working as the Early Learning Program Manager with her practicum focusing on macro level system integration of early childhood and child welfare systems to improve access for DCYF case workers and child welfare involved families in communities across Washington.

Alissa decided to apply for the MSW CWTAP because it is a way to enhance her work at DCYF while learning and growing academically and professionally. Alissa has found it fulfilling to integrate what she is learning in the MSW program to her work at the DCYF statewide and systems levels. Alissa's advice to those considering CWTAP is that it's a great opportunity that shouldn't be passed up and it is a huge benefit that tuition is covered.

Alissa's interests outside of work and school include gardening and baking. She also enjoys spending time with her dog Mila.

# Alumni Spotlight

## Cori Duncan

*MSW, Social Service Specialist 3  
CFWS, North Spokane DCYF – Region 1*

*By Danelle Stone*

Cori Duncan is a CWTAP alumni who graduated from Eastern Washington University's Cheney full-time MSW program in 2021. Cori obtained her undergraduate degree in Psychology from the University of Idaho in 2019 with minors in Addiction Studies and Spanish.

While pursuing her undergraduate degree, Cori took advantage of the exciting opportunity to study abroad in Costa Rica for six months. Motivated to pursue an advanced degree with an interest in helping those struggling with substance use disorders, Cori learned from a friend just how versatile a master's degree in social work could be. She was introduced to CWTAP after deciding to earn her MSW at EWU and fell in love with child welfare work.

Cori was hired as a Child and Family Welfare Services (CFWS) Social Service Specialist upon graduation with her MSW in June 2021. Two and a half years later, Cori loves what she does; cultivating working relationships with families and children, witnessing their growth and change, and helping them reach positive outcomes. Cori also serves as the chair of the Spokane North DCYF office Safety Committee and recently joined a newly formed statewide Family Preservation Services (FPS) workgroup. As part of these leadership commitments, Cori works to ensure office and building safety of Spokane North staff and will have a platform to provide immeasurable insight as an eastern Washington field staff representative into FPS practice, delivery, and utilization.

Cori's advice for people interested in CWTAP is do it and take advantage of the opportunity by putting yourself out there, networking, and asking all questions. Cori expressed gratitude for her CWTAP AFIs who made her DCYF practicum experience in ICW and CFWS a positive one. While in the program, she appreciated the support of her cohort and the practicum experiences that helped with employment readiness. Cori loves her job and any opportunity to train, coach, and support where needed, which makes it easy and joyful to now give back and fulfill her role as an AFI for current CWTAP students.

Since graduating from CWTAP, Cori became a mother to her two-year old daughter Harper, fondly known as the Spokane North DCYF office mascot, married her husband in Mexico, and bought a home. They enjoy spending time as a family, especially summers at their lake cabin in Priest Lake, Idaho.





## EWU CWTAP Staff



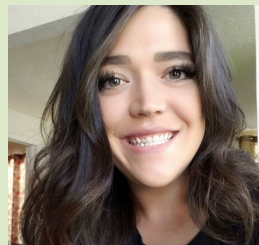
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## Resources

[Alliance for Child Welfare Excellence](#)

[Child Welfare League of America](#)

[Children's Defense Fund](#)

[Child Welfare Information Gateway](#)

[Casey Family Programs](#)

[U.S. Department of Health and Human  
Services Administration for Children and  
Families](#)

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Child Welfare Training  
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