

CONGRATULATIONS

DCFS ALL STARS

DIRECTOR'S EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION AWARD WINNERS

September 2011

Outstanding Direct Service Staff

Sylvia Cortez, CSW II

Pasadena

On a recent afternoon, around 3:30 p.m., a Family Preservation CSW at Court detained seven children, ages eight years old and under. CSW Sylvia Cortez, who is not in a Family Preservation unit, immediately submitted a form requesting placement for the seven children. By 5:00 p.m., no placements for any of the seven children had been located. Sylvia had a possible placement for three children to be placed in the same home, but unfortunately the foster home was too new and was not listed in the system. She then sought assistance from her ARA and was able to place the children. Sylvia then returned to finding placements for the other four children from a small list of FFA agencies. It took until midnight, but Sylvia's hard work paid off with placements for all seven children. She worked on behalf of children who were on another CSW's caseload, in an entirely different unit. Sylvia was not acting as the assigned duty worker—she was just trying to help out another CSW.

Thanks to Sylvia's efforts and dedication to child safety, she was able to ensure all seven children would be properly cared for and that their needs would be met in a safe environment. Two of the seven children were diagnosed as failure to thrive and half of them had lice due to mother's general neglect. Sylvia's efforts were complemented by the work of another Pasadena CSW, Shawna Hunter.

Outstanding Direct Service Staff

Shawna Hunter, CSW III

Pasadena

On the case mentioned above, CSW Shawna Hunter collaborated with CSW Sylvia Cortez in assisting a Family Preservation CSW, in a different unit, with the detention of seven children. Shawna attended the Children's Court hearing and patiently waited for the Court's decision. During the Court hearing, Shawna cared for all of the seven children and made proper arrangements for their safe transportation to the Pasadena DCFS office. Throughout the day, she ensured the children were fed, changed, and clean. It was a lot of work and effort and Shawna's assistance was invaluable. Locating placements for all the children lasted until midnight. Shawna helped transport some of the children to their placement. Shawna Hunter's efforts and dedication to team work, along with CSW Sylvia Cortez, ensured the children were safely cared for. Congratulations

to both CSWs for working together on a very long and difficult day to ensure our clients' needs were met.

Outstanding Administrative Manager

Tayde Perez, CSA I, Service Bureau 3

Glendora

Tayde Perez is a highly valued member of the Service Bureau 3 Administrative Team who handles constituent complaints and is an integral part of several key programs. Her direct contact with the public ensures children are being serviced appropriately by Department staff and services are being provided to improve permanency.

In her work with Crossover Youth, she aides in the Department-wide effort to provide services and intervention to youth at high risk of involvement with juvenile crime and assists in writing protocols for working with the youth. Tayde's involvement with the California Partners for Permanency (CAPP) Project helps prevent detentions and improve permanency outcomes for our youth. This collaborative effort is focused on improving services to African-American youth. She is an active participant in the Eliminating Racial Disproportionality and Disparity (ERDD) committee. Tayde also works tirelessly to provide data and training to Regional Administrators and staff.

Tayde has demonstrated an exceptional ability to provide written information in a logical, succinct manner, and has written speaking points for the Director and Deputy Director on ERDD and Crossover Youth topics. Despite her busy schedule, she always maintains a positive outlook, remaining calm and collected, no matter how hectic the work becomes. Her work ethic makes her a model employee and deserving of the Director's Outstanding Administrative Staff DERA award.

Outstanding Support Service Staff

Anthony Bonman, ITC

Torrance

In June 2011, an emergency response CSW was on an Immediate Response when she noticed her front right tire was flat. She attempted to access the spare tire, but with no tools, it was too difficult to replace. The ER CSW reported back to her office to find an IR referral in need of immediate investigation. The ER CSW bumped into Intermediate Typist Clerk, Anthony Bonman, and asked if he knew of an emergency road service that could respond to the office. Without hesitation, Anthony offered to assist the ER CSW to replace the spare, which in turn enabled the ER CSW to drive her vehicle to the repair shop. Anthony had all the required tools in his vehicle.

Anthony is known to have assisted other coworkers with minor car repairs. Within thirty minutes, the ER CSW's vehicle was drivable. Thanks to Mr. Bonman's assistance, the ER CSW was able to respond and investigate the child safety

concerns on the referral in a timely manner. Because of his efforts, there was no delay with the investigation and, indirectly, his actions ensured the safety of children assessed within Department timelines. Anthony's actions were performed outside the scope of his assigned duties. He recognized an opportunity to be of service to a coworker and did not hesitate to offer assistance.

**An Outstanding Colleague
Of Yours Could Be the Next Winner.**

NOMINATE Someone NOW!