

**Status of Safety and Well-Being: Census of Children in Out of Home Care
Draft Syllabus**

Applied Needs Assessment in Child Well-Being

Fall, 2002

Course Number:

Designed to be taught as a special topics course or an independent study. Designed for social work majors especially PCWCP students and other human service majors.

Credits: Could be 1-3 credits.

Description:

This course focuses on learning through active participation in a census of children in foster care conducted for the Kentucky Cabinet for Families and Children. Students will develop skills in interviewing, practice field study research techniques, learn about the needs of children in out of home care, and understand the perspective of foster and adoptive parents.

This is a one-time only opportunity to participate in a statewide data collection with eight public universities and the Kentucky Cabinet for Families and Children.

Course Objectives:

At the conclusion of the course, students will be able to:

1. Understand the essential domains of child safety and well-being.
2. Understand the principles and techniques of needs assessment.
3. Apply interview skills for identifying needs in the child welfare system
4. Evaluate needs-assessment data and formulate suggestions for training and other practices.
5. Value collaborative research between the Cabinet and the university.

Sample Schedule:

Week 1: Orientation to the course
Week 2: Mandatory day-long training session
Weeks 3-9 Data collection and follow-up
Week 10 - 11 Debriefing with faculty
Week 12 Review of findings
Week 13 Discussion of journal
Week 14-15 Formulate suggestions for training and practices for children in OOHC.

Readings: (suggestions)

- Cicchetti, D., Rappaport, J., Sandler, I., & Weissberg, R. P.(Eds.) (2000). The promotion of wellness in children and adolescents. Washington, DC: CWLA Press.
- Maluccio, A. N., Ainsworth, F., & Thoburn, J. (2000). Child welfare outcomes research in the United States, the United Kingdom, and Australia. Washington, DC: CWLA Press.