

# Stephanie A. Holmes, LMSW

Texas Institute for Child and Family Wellbeing  
stephanie.holmes@austin.utexas.edu

## EDUCATION

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*The University of Texas at Austin, Austin, TX* *May 2009*  
Master of Science in Social Work

*Texas Tech University, Lubbock, TX* *May 2001*  
Bachelor of Science in Family Studies

## WORK EXPERIENCE

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*The University of Texas at Austin, Texas Institute for Child & Family Wellbeing* *Austin, TX*

**Program Specialist, Children with Special Healthcare Needs (CSHCN)** **Feb 2020 – Present**

Conduct interviews, focus groups, and online surveys with CSHCN staff, stakeholders, and caregivers  
Establish and lead statewide CSHCN advisory groups  
Perform literature review on best practices on CSHCN and case management models  
Develop a family-centered, comprehensive case management practice model  
Develop a training curriculum for practice model  
Develop a continuous quality improvement process

*Texas Department of Family and Protective Services, Child Protective Services* *Austin, TX*

**Foster Care and Adoption Lead Program Specialist, CPS State Office** **Aug 2018 – Feb 2020**

Managed statewide initiatives to advocate for agency policies and practices  
Reviewed data, identified trends, and made recommendations for program improvement  
Developed multifaceted implementation plans, set goals, and oversaw implementation of project plans  
Performed legislative analysis and implementation as necessitated by the Texas legislative session  
Provided technical assistance, training, written guidelines, and interpretation of policies to agency staff

**Adoption Program Specialist, CPS State Office** **Jun 2016 – Aug 2018**

Reviewed, developed, and implemented statewide policies to promote safe and timely exits from foster care  
Conducted training, provided presentations, and collaborated with internal and external stakeholders  
Collaborated with post-adoption providers to ensure clients had access to community resources  
Provided technical assistance on adoption policy, resources (TARE), and Post-Adopt Substitute Care  
Trained staff and community partners in trauma-informed practices designed to meet the needs of youth

**Placement Program Specialist, CPS State Office** **Nov 2014 – Jun 2016**

Engaged CPS staff and psychiatric hospitals in a joint effort to move children out of inpatient hospitalization  
Prepared statistical data to assist the placement team in identifying gaps in service and bed capacity  
Maintained multiple databases with sensitive information regarding the placement of children in foster care  
Led statewide collaborations between hospitals and provider community to identify barriers for the placement of children with complex needs

**Residential Treatment Placement Coordinator, CPS Region 7** **Jun 2014 – Nov 2014**

Assessed the special needs of children requiring residential treatment  
Evaluated each child on an individual basis and communicated the child's needs to treatment providers  
Worked with CPS caseworkers to ensure that needs of children were clear and documented sufficiently  
Coordinated placements to secure safe and timely placements for children in emergency situations in Texas

**Statewide Master PRIDE Trainer, CPS State Office** **Sep 2012 – Jun 2014**

Trained PRIDE facilitators (Parent Resources for Information, Development, and Education)  
Ensured staff and foster parents were trained to work with children and families with traumatic histories  
Shared expertise and practice in child welfare, foster care, adoption, and out-of-home placements

**Foster Care/Adoption Development Specialist, CPS Region 7** **Apr 2012 – Sep 2012**

Recruited, developed, verified, monitored, and supported foster and adoptive homes, ensuring compliance with Minimum Standards for Child-Placing Agencies  
Trained prospective foster and adoptive parents on issues of caring for the specific needs of children in care  
Exemplified a thorough understanding of the complex needs experienced by children affected by trauma  
Conducted home screenings for families seeking to become foster and adoptive parents

**Adoption Preparation Specialist, CPS Region 7** **Jul 2010 – Apr 2012**

Prepared children for permanency and assessed adoptive families to ensure successful matches  
Conducted home visits, created case plans, made referrals, and documented case activity  
Testified in court as to the needs and best interests of children  
Assessed children's social, emotional, educational, medical, safety, and therapeutic needs

**Foster Care/Adoption Development Specialist, CPS Region 8** **Jun 2009 – Jul 2010**

Recruited, developed, verified, monitored, and supported foster and adoptive homes, ensuring compliance with Minimum Standards for Child-Placing Agencies  
Assisted Kinship Caregivers seeking to become verified as foster homes  
Trained regional staff on Fostering Connections legislation  
Adapted regional practice to meet legislative needs

*The University of Texas at Austin, Steve Hicks School of Social Work*

*Austin, TX*

**Graduate Teaching Assistant** **Jul 2008 – Jan 2009**

Assisted first-year students in social work course "Discrimination & Civic Responsibility"  
Provided lectures on social justice, community awareness, and culturally competent practices

**Graduate Assistant** **Jan 2008 – May 2008**

Assisted the Director of Field Education regarding daily operations of the office and upheld relationships with field placement agencies and the student body seeking field placement

## **CURRENT GRANTS AND CONTRACTS**

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**Program Specialist** **Feb 2020 to Present**

"Children with Special Health Care Needs Case Management," Texas Institute for Child & Family Wellbeing, The University of Texas at Austin (Dr. Beth Gerlach, PI; Dr. Monica Faulkner, Co-PI; Funded by the Texas Department of State Health Services, \$1.3 million)

## PUBLICATIONS

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Nulu, S., Gerlach, B., Holmes, S., Hough, C., Marcos, A. & McKerlie, K. (2021). The Children with Special Health Care Needs Project: Needs Assessment Report. Austin, TX: The University of Texas at Austin.

## CREDENTIALS

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*Licensed Master Social Worker: License #53055*  
Texas State Board of Social Work Examiners

*State of Texas*

## TRAINING AND CERTIFICATIONS

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ACT: An Adoption and Permanency Curriculum for Child Welfare and Mental Health Professionals  
Child Protective Services: QIC-AG Texas Site, December 2016  
Trust-Based Relational Intervention (TBRI)  
TCU Institute of Child Development, April 2016  
Parent Resources for Information, Development, and Education (PRIDE)  
Child Protective Services, August 2009