University at Albany

School of Social Welfare

2015 Research Guide

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INTRODUCTION TO THE 2015 RESEARCH GUIDE

We are delighted to share with you this inventory of some of the research underway at the School of Social Welfare at the University at Albany. Each year our faculty, research associates, doctoral students and staff along with our Institutes, Centers, and community collaboratives achieve new levels of excellence. This Research Guide profiles some of our new research grants symbolizing some of the pioneering work underway. Others represent ongoing research partnerships and evolving studies.

Our research programs constitute an array of program evaluation, survey, intervention, translational, community-based participatory research as well as basic research studies. Topics range from school services to death and dying and from individual wellbeing to community development in the U.S. and abroad. Despite economic downturns we continue to attract significant grant awards. Such achievements in our sponsored programs reflect the excellence of our faculty, research associates, staff, doctoral students, and many collaborators. The diversity in funding sources including federal, state, and local sources as well as non-profit, philanthropic, corporate, and faith-based sectors underscores the wide appeal of our researchers and successes in our ongoing research program.

Katharine Briar-Lawson, PhD, Dean
Anne E. Fortune, PhD, Associate Dean for Academic Programs
Lynn Warner, PhD, Associate Dean for Research
School of Social Welfare
University at Albany
State University of New York

OUR VISION

The School of Social Welfare seeks to expand its national and international leadership by virtue of:
• Ever increasing its excellence in research and scholarship, teaching and learning, and professional service;
• Broadening its achievements related to multiple kinds of collaboration and community partnerships;
• Deepening its ability to act strategically in relation to rapid and dramatic social change; and
• Furthering its reliance on systematic and planful organizational and programmatic assessment and evaluation for mutual learning, improvement, innovation, and knowledge development.

OUR MISSION

“In keeping with Social Work’s historic and enduring commitments, the mission of the School of Social Welfare is to further social and economic justice and to serve people who are vulnerable, marginalized, or oppressed. This mission is implemented through education, knowledge development, and service that promotes leadership for evidence-based social work with a global perspective.”
II. Institutes and Centers
INSTITUTE OF GERONTOLOGY
Director: Ron Toseland, PhD

HISTORY
The Institute of Gerontology was established in the late 1960s. It was initially funded by the then Administration on Aging of the U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare (now the Department of Health and Human Services) to serve as the multi-disciplinary center for research, teaching, and service in aging at the University of Albany. By the late 1970s, the Institute was granted official status as an organized research unit within the University. From 1981 to 1997, in recognition of the support received from Rhoda and Stan Ringel, the Institute was called the Ringel Institute of Gerontology. The Institute of Gerontology serves as the centerpiece of the University at Albany's multi-faceted approach to respond to the needs of the diverse, rapidly growing population of older persons in the Capital region, New York State, and the nation.

MISSION
The Institute promotes principles of engagement and social responsibility as faculty and students join with the community and state agencies to foster improved outcomes for the aged and caregivers in the region. Fostering knowledge and inventive new practices and policies, the Institute's work reaches the most vulnerable elderly. The Institute stimulates interest in collaborative gerontological research, education, and practice at the University; works aggressively to increase the Institute's capacity to generate such high quality research; develops interdisciplinary partnerships with New York State and community agencies to foster policy and practice relevant gerontological research with national significance; and facilitates the dissemination of important research findings through local, state, and national forums.

RESEARCH AND ACTIVITIES
In recent years, the Institute has conducted a variety of applied aging research projects sponsored by federal, state, and foundation sources.
INSTITUTE FOR SOCIAL SERVICES RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT
Director: Philip McCallion, PhD

OVERVIEW
Component Centers:
- **Center for Excellence in Aging Services & Community Wellness**
  Directors: Philip McCallion, PhD & Lisa A. Ferretti, L.MSW
- **Center for Human Services Research & Practice**
  Director: Rose Greene
- **Center for Innovation in Mental Health Research**
  Director: Eric Hardiman, PhD
- **New York State Social Work Education Consortium**
  Director: Mary McCarthy, PhD

HISTORY
The Institute for Social Services Research and Development (ISSRD) serves as an umbrella organization to coordinate, promote and oversee research, outreach programs, and workforce education and training in the area of social service programs and systems. The impetus for establishing the Institute is the dramatic expansion of the School of Social Welfare’s portfolio of interdisciplinary research and development in the social services arena through several centers and the Social Work Education Consortium.

MISSION
Under the auspices of ISSRD, the mission of the affiliated Centers is to:
- Develop empirically based knowledge to promote effective social welfare services to meet human needs;
- Conduct applied research on social service programs and systems through interdisciplinary partnerships with government agencies, not-for-profit organizations, and foundations addressing human service needs through program and policy development;
- Increase the participation of the School of Social Welfare and the University in federally funded research opportunities;
- Promote further linkage between applied social services research and social welfare policy;
- Enhance the professional development and capacity of the social services workforce through evidence-based education and training; and
- Provide services that enhance the quality of life for vulnerable, marginalized, or oppressed populations.

There is a combined portfolio of approximately $8 million in grants, training, research and service contracts supporting this agenda.
CENTER FOR EXCELLENCE IN AGING SERVICES & COMMUNITY WELLNESS
Co-Directors: Philip McCallion, PhD and Lisa A. Ferretti, LMSW

OVERVIEW
The Center for Excellence in Aging & Community Wellness (CEACW) is a translational research center that develops, tests, and implements innovative practices and policies.

As a translational research center, we promote the adoption of effective, innovative practices and policies that address the needs of aging persons, their families and caregivers with an emphasis on vulnerable and oppressed populations.

MISSION
The Center for Excellence in Aging and Community Wellness, organized within the University at Albany’s School of Social Welfare and initially supported by a series of grants awarded by the John A. Hartford Foundation, partners with state and local agencies in the development of research, training and services to:

• Develop social work research capacity around aging issues.
• Translate and implement innovations in aging services at the individual, family, community, regional and state levels.
• Build community collaborations.
• Recognize and respond to the needs of vulnerable and oppressed populations.
• Value the development, implementation and evaluation of innovative, evidence-based research, training and services.
• Find new ways to prepare social workers for aging careers.

OBJECTIVES
CEACW’s diverse research, training, education, planning and services activities synergistically work to improve the creation, delivery and sustainability of evidence-based practice models. CEACW is dedicated to improving the quality of life for older adults, their families and caregivers, and the communities they live in through the promotion of:

• Life-long learning and community service opportunities
• Supporting individuals in their efforts to remain actively engaged in their communities through learning and volunteer work.
• Evidence-based programs that encourage personal self-management of health
• Providing the technical expertise needed for communities to implement proven health care strategies and best practices.
• Community partnerships that facilitate coalition building and systems change
• Advancing civic engagement projects through collaborations with non-profit and governmental providers to address minority health disparities, crime among low-income minority youth, and the lack of opportunities for recreational and physical activities in underserved neighborhoods.
CENTER FOR EXCELLENCE IN AGING SERVICES & COMMUNITY WELLNESS (CONT.)

- Learning and Translational Research
- Combining community based participatory research and web-based technologies to open a dialogue of learning and exploration around topics related to health promotion and successful aging in the community

RESEARCH AND ACTIVITIES

Federal, state and foundation funded research grants from the U.S. Administration on Aging, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, New York State Department of Health and Retirement Research Foundation addressing dementia care, health promotion, systems change, and palliative and end of life care have been combined with training funding from the New York State Office for the Aging and the U.S. Administration on Aging to expand and enhance the Center’s capacity to translate research into practice in a variety of settings.

Planning and service delivery activities are being supported by funds from the OASIS Institute and the Corporation for National and Community Service; and by collaborations with the Albany Guardian Society, NYS Department of Health, and Bronx Reach Health and the Berkshire Bank Foundation. In addition, The Health Research Board of Ireland, the Irish Hospice Foundation, The Atlantic Philanthropies, the Dunhill Trust, and the Northern Ireland Research and Development Office fund international research activities with the Center’s partners at Trinity College Dublin and Ulster University.
CENTER FOR HUMAN SERVICES RESEARCH
Director: Rose Greene
Management Team: Ken Robin, Chris Papas, Brad Watts, and Susan Ehrhart-Dietzel

MISSION
CHSR, established in 1991, conducts evaluation research, designs information systems, and informs policy and program development for a broad spectrum of agencies that serve vulnerable populations. CHSR areas of inquiry cover a wide range of topics including children and family services, children’s mental health, education and early childhood development, health behavior and services, youth development and juvenile justice. Characteristic of all these studies is CHSR’s focus on rigorous methods, strong stakeholder involvement, and the dissemination of timely, accurate and non-partisan information to guide best practices in service delivery.

OBJECTIVES
• Designing and conducting rigorous research and evaluation of social programs;
• Developing and maintaining management information systems to meet the programmatic, administrative, and evaluation needs of agencies, providers and researchers;
• Providing consultation services on program development, evaluation design, data collection, and proposal preparation;
• Strengthening university and community partnerships to advance knowledge about the design and delivery of service programs and practices;
• Promoting scholarship through the dissemination of findings; and
• Fostering research opportunities for scholars and students.
CENTER FOR INNOVATION IN MENTAL HEALTH RESEARCH
Director: Eric Hardiman, PhD

HISTORY
The University at Albany School of Social Welfare’s Center for Innovation in Mental Health Research began operation in January 2004. An engaged interdisciplinary research model is being used, based on collaborative partnerships with social scientists, health/mental health professionals, community members, and governmental representatives. Serving as a hub and model for innovative mental health research, education, and service, the Center seeks to translate and disseminate evidence-based research widely so as to impact clinical practice and policy. An interdisciplinary approach is utilized, in order to maximize collaborative relationships with key partners from related fields of expertise.

MISSION
To advance knowledge in the field of mental health using an evidence-based approach by conducting research in direct practice, service delivery systems, and policy.

OBJECTIVES
• Evaluating and testing intervention and practice models serving individuals facing mental health challenges, along with co-occurring needs such as poverty, disabilities, homelessness, addictions, health challenges, and multi-service-system involvement.
• Generating and advancing culturally competent, cost-effective, and evidence-based approaches to mental health service delivery.
• Engaging in collaborative partnerships with the New York State Office of Mental Health to further evidence-based research, practice, and policy agendas.
• Collaborating with County Mental Health Commissioners in the design of relevant research plans and grants.
• Building sustained relationships with state and local government, community-based agencies, and advocacy groups, while promoting the active and practical dissemination of research findings.
• Fostering relevant research and educational partnerships with universities and research centers throughout the State.
• Supporting ongoing workforce development in order to help meet the needs of mental health programs facing staffing challenges.
• Preparing social workers for the demand to collaborate effectively with other mental health providers, including psychologists, psychiatrists, nurses, and consumers.
• Providing graduate students at the Master’s and Doctoral levels opportunities to collaborate with faculty in conducting relevant mental health research.
SOCIAL WORK EDUCATION CONSORTIUM
Director: Mary McCarthy, PhD, LMSW
Deputy Director: Catherine Lawrence, PhD
Educational Specialist: Marilyn Rooney

HISTORY
The Social Work Education Consortium was established in 2000 as a formal partnership between the Office of Children and Family Services, Bureau of Training, the New York State Dean’s Association, the social work education community and local social services designed to impact the child welfare workforce. Sixteen graduate and 28 undergraduate social work programs participate in the Consortium, along with 57 county social service districts and NYC’s Administration for Children’s Services.

GOAL
The primary goal of the consortium is the identification and implementation of programs and activities, which promote a forward-looking approach to training and education, emphasizing workforce stabilization and professionalization. This goal is achieved through a wide array of activities including:
• Raising awareness about the importance of recruitment, selection and retention of a professionally trained workforce
• Regional collaborations between local social service districts and social work education programs across New York State which implement programs to achieve our goal. There are seven active regional groups operating currently, which are open to all local social service districts.
• Evaluation activities designed to develop knowledge about approaches that facilitate retention and support workforce professionalization and implement effective strategies to achieve the goal.

OBJECTIVES
The Social Work Education Consortium promotes:
• Public sector-university collaborations that support the education and training of child welfare staff.
• Research informed practice and policy innovations in workforce recruitment and retention.
• Policy and program partnerships with OCFS, the legislature and local district leaders in child welfare.
• Professionalization activities and workforce development for child welfare workers and those interested in a child welfare career.

RESEARCH AND ACTIVITIES
• Seven regional groups develop region-specific programs designed to provide tuition support for employees interested in obtaining a graduate social work degree and training topics which support skill development for caseworkers and supervisors appropriate to their region.
• CPS Training provides training on priority topics identified by the regional groups to respond to new issues confronting CPS teams and support priority skill development in the counties.
SOCIAL WORK EDUCATION CONSORTIUM (CONT.)

- Field Education development in NYC supports employees completing MSW degrees to bring new skills back to the agency upon graduation.
- The BSW Scholars Program provides coordination support to match students interested in pursuing a career in child welfare and local districts seeking new employees with enhanced preparation. Participating counties in this statewide program offer the student a position upon successful completion of a field placement and graduation. Graduates are asked to make a 2 years commitment to employment in the public child welfare agency.
CENTER FOR ADDICTIONS RESEARCH
Director: John Yu, PhD

OVERVIEW
The new Center for Addictions Research (ARC) became operational in September 2014. The ARC works under a broad theoretical framework to bring together and generate research on the connection between addictive behaviors, health, and mental health in cultural and systemic contexts of communities and organizations contributing to addiction and recovery.

HISTORY
The Institute for Social Services Research and Development (ISSRD) serves as an umbrella organization to coordinate, promote and oversee research, outreach programs, and workforce education and training in the area of social service programs and systems. The impetus for establishing the Institute is the dramatic expansion of the School of Social Welfare’s portfolio of interdisciplinary research and development in the social services arena through several centers and the Social Work Education Consortium.

GOALS
The goals of the ARC are:
- To provide a platform to University faculty and students for academic as well as practice research in the area of addictions, including addictions to alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs.
- To enhance the capacity of the School of Social Welfare through partnerships among universities, government agencies, research institutions, and service providers in developing privately and publically funded programs that advance knowledge and improve practices in the addictions field.

PRIORITIES
The priority areas of research of the ARC include:
- Implementation and delivery of evidenced-based early intervention programs for substance use disorders in healthcare, public health, mental health settings;
- Policy analysis and evaluation for alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs;
- Capacity enhancement for local community-based substance abuse service providers;
- Drug and HIV risk reduction among vulnerable populations;
- Policies and strategies that reduce impaired driving by alcohol and drugs.

IMPACT
The newly established ARC is a part of the University at Albany’s Impact strategic initiatives to translate science into human health and improve the human condition through policy and practice research.
THE NATIONAL CENTER FOR EXCELLENCE IN HOMELESS SERVICES
CO-PIs: John Records, JD and Heather Larkin, PhD

OVERVIEW
Launched in 2013, the National Center for Excellence in Homeless Services helps to strengthen programs that transform the lives of all homeless children and adults. Our emphasis is on strengthening education in homelessness, developing leadership within and across agencies serving those experiencing homelessness, providing guidance on innovative funding opportunities – especially those made possible by Medicaid and the Affordable Care Act – and supporting the use of evidence-based and emerging practices.

With new funding support from the NY Community Trust, we will now start a National Homelessness Social Work Initiative to strengthen curricular content in homelessness throughout schools of social work nationally. Following strategies employed by child welfare and aging initiatives in social work, this will be a sustained effort over time and across sectors.

Our approach is informed by the Restorative Integral Support (RIS) model, which synthesizes research on adverse childhood experiences (ACEs), resilience, and recovery, into a holistic, multi-system approach that supports consumers

GOALS
The Center’s long-term goals include: addressing workforce educational and training needs; filling gaps in evaluation and research on homelessness; building strong and collaborative networks of service providers; disseminating knowledge through multiple channels; and partnering with public and private institutions and universities.

OBJECTIVES
The Center will utilize the “Restorative Integral Support” (RIS) model (developed by Larkin and Records and first implemented at COTS) to strengthen social work education in homelessness and the impact of homeless service agencies throughout the United States. It will provide training for agency directors to build more effective intervention and support programs. In addition, the center will educate and guide social service agencies personnel in best practices for the prevention of homelessness.

RESEARCH AND ACTIVITIES
We strengthen homeless services by creating partnerships, supporting leaders and sharing excellence. Specifically, the Center aims to:

- Integrate research on adverse childhood experiences (ACEs), resilience, and recovery, for translation into practice and program development.
- Identify and disseminate best practices for application and intervention with homelessness.
- Mobilize partnerships with other social work schools.
- Provide leadership training and support, including use of the Restorative Integral Support (RIS) model.
THE NATIONAL CENTER FOR EXCELLENCE IN HOMELESS SERVICES (CONT.)

- Adapt advanced MSW coursework on Homelessness Prevention & Intervention as continuing education supports for providers.
- Foster synergies among researchers with expertise on topics related to homelessness (e.g. addictions, trauma, and mental health).
- Attract funding for pilot studies, program evaluations, media campaigns, and community education.
- Offer webinars, certificates, online programs, and conference presentations.
- Provide leadership training, support, and identification of innovative funding strategies.
THE NATIONAL CHILD WELFARE WORKFORCE INSTITUTE
CO-PIs: Mary McCarthy, PhD, LMSW and Katharine Briar-Lawson, PhD

OVERVIEW
The National Child Welfare Workforce Institute is funded through a cooperative agreement with the Children’s Bureau, Administration for Children & Families, the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services. Funding began in October 2008.

OBJECTIVES
To increase child welfare practice effectiveness through diverse partnerships that focus on workforce systems development, organizational interventions, and change leadership, using data-driven capacity building, education, and professional development.

RESEARCH AND ACTIVITIES
• Leadership forum for child welfare agency directors and deans/directors/chairs of social work programs
• Preparation of social work graduates for employment in local child welfare systems
• Training for middle managers and supervisors in developing leadership and change management skills
• Support for transfer of learning through coaching and field education
• Intensive organizational interventions (in selected sites)
• Web-enhanced platforms and technology to support communities of practice and peer coaching
• Resource identification, development and dissemination

IMPACT
We envision innovative organizational leadership, high performing staff, and diverse partners prepared and committed to pursue excellence and sustainable systems change in service of optimal outcomes for children, youth and families.

COLLABORATORS
University at Albany
Mary McCarthy (Co-Principal Investigator), Katharine Briar-Lawson (Co-Principal Investigator), Sara Munson, Sharon Kollar, Nancy Claiborne & Catherine Lawrence

University of Denver
Robin Leake, Nancy McDaniel, Melissa Thompson, Robyn Alsop, Anna deGuzman, Salvador Armendariz, Shauna Rienks & Nakia Collins

University of Maryland
Nancy Dickinson (Project Director)

Michigan State University
Gary Anderson, Cheryl Williams-Hecksel, Suzanne Cross, Joanne Riebschleger & Gretchen Archer
THE NATIONAL CHILD WELFARE WORKFORCE INSTITUTE (CONT.)

Portland State University
   Katharine Cahn, Deborah Reed, Michelle Clinch & Nichole Culley

University of Southern Maine
   Freda Bernotavicz, Sue Ebersten, Crystal French, Lee Lauritsen, DeeDee Reardon, Gretchen Robbins,
   Marshall Soloway, Laura Woods-Vachon & Adam Bowman

Children’s Bureau
   Jane Morgan, Capacity Building Division Director
   Randi Walters, NCWWI Federal Project Officer, Capacity Building Division
   Robert Lindecamp, Consultant, ICF International at the Children’s Bureau
III. Research – Faculty, Staff, and Doctoral Students
IMPACT: Identify effective progress to improve student outcomes in the Albany City School District

21ST CENTURY COMMUNITY LEARNING CENTERS EVALUATION

PRINCIPAL AIMS:
The Center for Human Services Research (CHSR) is conducting a process and outcome evaluation of a federally funded program which is designed to support the creation of community learning centers serving high poverty students and their families

METHODOLOGY & SOFTWARE USED:
Secondary analysis of Power School; Teacher surveys; Student surveys; Evaluability assessment; Standardized test scores

FUNDING:
$120,000

DATES OF STUDY:
10/2013 – 6/2015

PROGRESS TO DATE:
Ongoing data collection

ANTICIPATED CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE SOCIAL WORK FIELD:
Extra curricula program development to extend student learning and family support

CHSR INVESTIGATORS:
Kenneth Robin
Melissa King
Chris Rees
IMPACT: The goal is to contribute to theory development and get more information about the reasons for the higher than predicted scores on the common core. This understanding could potentially help future schools in New York.

A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF BEAT-THE-ODDS ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS AND MIDDLE SCHOOLS IN NEW YORK

PRINCIPAL AIMS:
To provide research based theories of action for two samples of schools that scored higher than predicted on the common core learning assessments, given the proportion of their students who are eligible for free and reduced lunch. Round one: 6 elementary schools representing rural, suburban, and urban communities, together with 3 “typical” schools for comparison purposes. Round two: An additional 6 odd-beating middle schools with three more typical schools.

METHODOLOGY & SOFTWARE USED:
Case study methodology with mixed methods, including fixed response surveys, site visits to complete observations and conduct both key informant and focus group interviews, and document reviews.

FUNDING:
New York State Department of Education

DATES OF STUDY:

PROGRESS TO DATE:
First round of data collection is complete; initial analyses completed; research reports and publications are being prepared

ANTICIPATED CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE SOCIAL WORK FIELD:
To provide detailed case studies of these odd-beating schools. To complete cross-case analyses which contribute to theory development.

SSW INVESTIGATOR:
Hal Lawson, PhD

COLLABORATORS:
Kristen Wilcox, PhD (University at Albany School of Education)
Kathryn Schiller, PhD (University at Albany School of Education)
IMPACT
To improve services that address behavioral health of children with serious emotional disturbances

EVALUATION OF NYS SUCCESS

PRINCIPAL AIMS:
The Center for Human Services Research (CHSR) is evaluating NYS Success designed to promote system reform and service delivery for children and youth experiencing serious emotional disturbances

METHODOLOGY & SOFTWARE USED:
Program and individual data entered into a federal database
Key informant interviews
County-level data extraction, integration, and reporting

FUNDING:
$187,920

DATES OF STUDY:
10/2014 – 9/2015

PROGRESS TO DATE:
Updating data collection protocols

ANTICIPATED CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE SOCIAL WORK FIELD:
Develop evidence-based practice for children experiencing serious emotional disturbances

CHSR INVESTIGATORS:
Lauren Polvere
Rose Greene
Mansoor Kazi

COLLABORATOR:
Mary Coppola
IMPACT: To advance improved outcomes for high-promise youth by empowering them with resources, skills and supports to succeed, and to graduate from high school.

LIBERTY PARTNERSHIP EVALUATION

PRINCIPAL AIMS:
This study is an evaluation of the Liberty Partnership program, an after school program for at-risk youth, funded by the New York State Education Department and administered by the School of Social Welfare.

METHODOLOGY & SOFTWARE USED:
Mixed methods

FUNDING:
New York State Education Department

DATES OF STUDY:
2009 – Present

PROGRESS TO DATE:
Program was implemented in Spring 2010

ANTICIPATED CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE SOCIAL WORK FIELD:
Potential contributions include analyses of the role that universities can play in outcomes for low-income youth. In addition, the research will analyze the impact of community service learning engagement on youth.

SSW INVESTIGATOR:
Lani V. Jones
IMPACT: To promote the needs of high-promise youth so that solutions can be mobilized to support them in obtaining their high-school equivalency diploma, and success in their careers future.

OPPORTUNITY YOUTH PROMISE NEIGHBORHOODS INITIATIVE

PRINCIPAL AIMS:
The Opportunity Youth Promise Neighborhoods Initiative is to ensure supports are provided to Albany youth ages 16-24 who are disconnected from education and/or employment. Our goal is to connect Albany Youth to educational and/or employment opportunities that will inspire them to meet their goals and dreams to achieve competitive skills necessary for the 21st century and to become successful citizens within our community.

METHODOLOGY & SOFTWARE USED:
The initiative is comprised of an action team that meets bi-weekly to develop the necessary steps to develop short- and long-term goals and delineate the actions necessary to develop a viable plan for action.

FUNDING:
$25,000

DATES OF STUDY:
4/2013 - Present

ANTICIPATED CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE SOCIAL WORK FIELD:
Understanding of specific needs and barriers of youth disconnected from the formal education system and/or workforce. Development of a community network approach to assisting these youth in gaining a high school equivalency degree and entry into the workforce.

SSW INVESTIGATOR:
Lani V. Jones
IMPACT: Prevent recidivism and develop employability skills among at-risk youth

PROJECT GROWTH

PRINCIPAL AIMS:
The Center for Human Services Research is conducting an evaluation of an initiative whereby juvenile delinquents pay victim restitution through part-time internships at area employers.

METHODOLOGY & SOFTWARE USED:
Program data (intake form, training attendance); employer survey; training survey; youth survey

FUNDING:
$9,000

DATES OF STUDY:
9/2014 – 8/2015

PROGRESS TO DATE:
Development of data collection protocols

ANTICIPATED CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE SOCIAL WORK FIELD:
Understanding of programs to promote strengths among youth offenders

CHSR INVESTIGATORS:
Susan Dietzel
Melissa King

COLLABORATOR:
Carmen Duncan
IMPACT: Inform academic advancement in three distressed neighborhoods.

THE ALBANY PROMISE

PRINCIPAL AIMS:
The Center for Human Services research is collecting, analyzing, and presenting data for Albany’s Promise, an educational and community reform initiative focusing on three distressed neighborhoods: Arbor Hill, West Hill, and the South End.

METHODOLOGY & SOFTWARE USED:
Secondary analysis of school and community data in the city of Albany.

FUNDING:
$327,929

DATES OF STUDY:
2012 – 2015

PROGRESS TO DATE:
Produced the baseline report.

ANTICIPATED CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE SOCIAL WORK FIELD:
Inform strategies to raise educational achievement.

CHSR INVESTIGATORS:
Kenneth Robin
Melissa King
Rose Greene
Chris Rees
IMPACT: By the year 2015, persons 60 years and older will comprise almost 20% of all New York State residents. Today, nationally there are 5.4 million Americans living with Alzheimer’s disease – 5.2 million aged 65 and over and 200,000 under the age of 65. By 2050, up to 16 million will have the disease (www.alz.org). The need for specialized health, mental health and social services for people with dementia and their caregivers will increase dramatically, challenging the service delivery system. New solutions for care need to be developed. Social workers play a key role in providing these front-line services. The U.S. will require 70,000 social workers who specialize in aging by 2020, a 43% increase from 1987 (National Institute of Aging). There is a shortage of professional social workers who are trained in working with older adults. IAP addresses the shortage of aging-trained social workers in New York State.

INTERNSHIPS IN AGING PROJECT

PRINCIPAL AIMS: The IAP program provides a strong educational and internship experience that prepares students for careers in aging. In addition, the program provides extra supports for students with an integrative seminar enriching their educational experience. And the scholarship that each IAP student receives is often the incentive for attracting students to consider a career in aging.

METHODOLOGY & SOFTWARE USED: N/A

FUNDING: SSW program

DATES OF STUDY: 1999 – Present

PROGRESS TO DATE: As of 2014, there are 165 alumni. Approximately 60% of IAP graduates have chosen to work in New York’s Capital Region, and 75% of the IAP graduates work in New York State.

ANTICIPATED CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE SOCIAL WORK FIELD: Workforce development, develop new roles for social workers in aging, train students for leadership roles.

SSW INVESTIGATORS: Anne E. Fortune, PhD Linda Mertz, MSW
IMPACT: This study will help to determine what groups are being done for caregivers and persons with mild and moderate dementia, and what populations (ex. early onset persons with dementia) are not receiving help. It will also identify training needs for group leaders, the extent of use of telephone, video and internet groups, and training needs in that area. It will also collect needed data about how well racial/ethnic minorities are being served.

A SURVEY OF EARLY STAGE ALZHEIMER’S GROUPS

PRINCIPAL AIMS:
To determine the extent to which early onset, early stage and mixed stage support groups for older adults with dementia and their family caregivers occur throughout the United States. To identify the needs of Alzheimer Chapter for staff training in group leadership and group dynamics.

METHODOLOGY & SOFTWARE USED:
Random sample survey SPSS and or SAS.

FUNDING:
None

DATES OF STUDY:
6/2009 – Present

PROGRESS TO DATE:
Survey completed. Data analyzed and now writing up the results.

ANTICIPATED CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE SOCIAL WORK FIELD:
Increase knowledge about early stage and early onset support groups for caregivers and persons with dementia, training needs assessment.

SSW INVESTIGATOR:
Ron Toseland, PhD
IMPACT: The Hartford Partnership Program for Aging Education (HPPAE) is part of a national effort to increase the numbers of social workers educated to provide social, mental health, and medical coordination services for aging persons and their families. University at Albany’s Internships in Aging Project (IAP) was one of the initial sites that developed a new model of field education. Under the leadership of the Social Work Leadership Initiative at the New York Academy of Medicine, IAP personnel helped implement HPPAE in 72 MSW programs in 33 states plus Veteran’s Administration medical facilities. The focus on preparation for work in aging and on rotational models of field education are now accepted throughout social work education. The evaluation of IAP continues to generate information on graduate careers, aging services, and innovations in field education.

EVALUATION OF THE HARTFORD INTERNSHIPS IN AGING PROJECT

PRINCIPAL AIMS:
1. Develop and implement a rotational model of field education to educate MSW students for leadership in services to older persons (Practicum Partners Program – PPP).
2. Evaluate the effectiveness of the field education model (PPP).
3. Assess career accomplishments of PPP graduates.
4. Evaluate effect of PPP on community agencies.

METHODOLOGY & SOFTWARE USED:
This utilizes focus groups with students, field instructors, agency CEOs pre-post questionnaires, student self-assessment of attitudes and competencies mail questionnaires on careers in aging.

FUNDING: School of Social Welfare and various small grants and donations

DATES OF STUDY: 2001 - Present

PROGRESS TO DATE:
Developed model, and now disseminating it nationally. Completed evaluation of student cohorts graduating in 2001-2012. Published several refereed articles on outcomes and processes.

ANTICIPATED CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE SOCIAL WORK FIELD:
New rotational model of social work field education; developing guidelines for university and community engagement around field education; developing leaders for social work practice with older persons

SSW INVESTIGATOR: Anne E. Fortune, PhD
COLLABORATOR: Linda Mertz, MSW

RESEARCH SUPPORT STAFF
Meera Bhat
IMPACT: Building statewide capacity in health promotion delivery with the aging and disability networks and changing community-clinical linkages in ways supportive of the intent of the Affordable Care Act and consistent with the community, self-management and activated patient aspects of the chronic care model.

CHRONIC DISEASE SELF-MANAGEMENT EDUCATION IN NEW YORK STATE

PRINCIPAL AIMS: To effectively and with fidelity implement evidence-based self-management education programs throughout New York State in ways that will attract reimbursement and build community-clinical linkages.

METHODOLOGY & SOFTWARE USED: Quality assurance, fidelity checks, and systems change analysis.

FUNDING: Administration on Community Living/Prevention & Public Health Fund, NYS Office for the Aging & Department of Health: $4,150,000

DATES OF STUDY: 9/2006 – 8/2015

PROGRESS TO DATE: Interventions underway in English and Spanish

ANTICIPATED CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE SOCIAL WORK FIELD: Positioning of social work in health promotion activities for the elderly.

SSW INVESTIGATORS: Philip McCallion, PhD Lisa Ferretti, LMSW

COLLABORATOR: Laurie Pferr, NYSOFA

RESEARCH SUPPORT STAFF: Mari Brick, MS Junrong Shi, MA Sang Ah Chang, MA Rhonda Rosenberg Ellen Foley
IMPACT: Building statewide capacity in health promotion delivery and changing community-clinical linkages in ways supportive of the intent of the Affordable Care Act and consistent with the community, self-management and activated patient aspects of the chronic care model.

QUALITY AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE CENTER, STATEWIDE SUPPORT OF DELIVERY OF EVIDENCE-BASED ARTHRITIS, DIABETES PREVENTION AND CHRONIC DISEASE AND DISABILITY MANAGEMENT PROGRAMS

PRINCIPAL AIMS:
1. To support delivery of the Chronic Disease Self-Management Program, the National Diabetes Prevention Program, Walk with Ease and Active Living Every Day to 50,000 adults including persons with disabilities from throughout New York.
2. To build an infrastructure capable of sustaining program delivery in ways that will attract reimbursement and build community-clinical linkages.

METHODOLOGY & SOFTWARE USED:
Management of data on health and quality of life outcomes, cost, coalition and collaboration building and quality assurance/treatment fidelity.

FUNDING:
Funded by the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention and NYS Department of Health ($1.5 million)

DATES OF STUDY:
2012 – 2017

PROGRESS TO DATE:
Ongoing delivery of programs. Building of new capacity in Diabetes Prevention Program, Walk with Ease and Active Living Every Day

ANTICIPATED CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE SOCIAL WORK FIELD:
Building systems change implementation science knowledge

SSW INVESTIGATORS:
Philip McCallion, PhD
Lisa Ferretti, LMSW

COLLABORATORS:
Laurie Pferr, NYS OFA
Theresa Paeglow, NYS DOH
Susan Middleton, NYS DOH
Danielle McFee, NYS DOH

RESEARCH SUPPORT STAFF:
Junrong Shi
SangAh Chun
Rebecca Giardino
IMPACT: Building new relationships between the aging services network, health care, disability services and dementia care in ways that develop new models for maintaining older adults and persons with disabilities in the community.

QUALITY AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE CENTER, SYSTEMS INTEGRATION PROJECT

PRINCIPAL AIMS:
1. To accelerate development of integrated, evidence-based, and sustainable service systems for older adults, individuals with disabilities and family caregivers, and create dementia capable, sustainable service systems for persons with dementia and their family caregivers.
2. To ensure access to such services for 50% of New York’s population.

METHODOLOGY & SOFTWARE USED:
Management of data on staff training, health and quality of life outcomes, cost, coalition, and collaboration building and quality assurance/treatment fidelity.

FUNDING:
Funded by the Administration of Community Living and by the New York State Office for the Aging ($3.3 million)

DATES OF STUDY:
2011 – 2015

PROGRESS TO DATE:
Development of training, contracts, and service delivery

ANTICIPATED CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE SOCIAL WORK FIELD:
Building systems change implementation science knowledge

SSW INVESTIGATORS:
Philip McCallion, PhD
Lisa Ferretti, LMSW

COLLABORATORS:
Laurie Pferr, NYS OFA

RESEARCH SUPPORT STAFF:
Junrong Shi
IMPACT: Findings can be translated to policy and program designs that increase access and supports for older adults with backgrounds of early adversity.

ADVERSE CHILDHOOD EXPERIENCES (ACE) AMONG POOR OLDER ADULTS: COPING MECHANISMS AND CONSEQUENCES

PRINCIPAL AIMS:
This study will extend and enhance ACE research that has been carried out with a middle class population in a medical setting with a much more vulnerable poorer population of people over the age of 55. In addition to providing information about the extent of ACEs and ACE correlates among this population, this study will explore moderating protective and coping resources.

METHODOLOGY & SOFTWARE USED:
Participants: The participants of this study will be 250 older adults served by Troy Housing Authority; Design: The study is a cross-sectional survey; Sample: This will be a stratified random sample; Instruments: ACE Study questions, Brief COPE, CAGE, Lubben Social Network Scale (LSNS), Patient Health Questionnaire (PHQ-9), and GAD-7.

FUNDING: Applied for FRAP A

DATES OF STUDY: 12/2010 – Present

PROGRESS TO DATE:
Data analysis has begun. An article is in development.

ANTICIPATED CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE SOCIAL WORK FIELD:
This research will help us to better understand the backgrounds of poverty-stricken older adults. This study extends existing ACE research to the very important problem of the correlates of ACEs for older people living in poverty. Information from this study will identify how some older people are able to use coping strategies to avoid the many negative long-term consequences of ACEs while others suffer from the sequela of ACEs. It will also help to inform intervention strategies that can be put in place in the Troy Housing Authority where this research will be conducted. This study includes Healthy People 2010 leading health indicators (substance abuse, mental health, injury and violence, environmental quality, physical activity, and health care access). For this reason, findings from this groundbreaking study will provide important pilot data for applications to NIH agencies such as NIAAA and NIA, as well as private foundations.

SSW INVESTIGATORS:
Heather Larkin, PhD
Ron Toseland, PhD

COLLABORATOR:
Troy Housing Authority (including MSW interns)
IMPACT: Despite well-known projections for the increase of Asian American elderly from the 2010 US Census (Asians 65 and older in 2010: 1.5 million; Asians 65 and older in 2050: 7.5 million), there have not been many large-scale studies which examined the relationship of acculturation to well-being for this population. Asians are the fastest growing immigrant group, the fastest growing among the elderly, and represent both extremes in socioeconomics and health (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2010; US Census, 2010). Acculturation is an important construct to disentangling the impact of social determinants to health for Asian American elders, such as perceived discrimination, family and social support.

EXAMINING THE EFFECT OF DISCRIMINATION ON PSYCHOLOGICAL DISTRESS IN THE CONTEXT OF ACCULTURATION AMONG FOREIGN-BORN OLDER ASIAN AMERICANS

PRINCIPAL AIMS: The aims of this study are to examine the mechanisms of acculturation and other social determinants with psychological distress for Asian elders. Specifically, this study aims to 1) test the utility of traditional proxies for acculturation, namely English ability and length of stay in the US, as predictors for psychological distress with Asian elders, 2) examine the ethnic differences in associations of social determinants, such as perceived discrimination, family and social support, and 3) identify the mediating effects of perceived discrimination on the relationship of acculturation and psychological distress.

METHODOLOGY & SOFTWARE USED: This study used data from the National Latino and Asian American Study (NLAAS), funded by the National Institute of Health as part of the Collaborative Psychiatric Epidemiology Surveys (CPES). NLAAS was collected from 2001 to 2003, and the 27,026 respondents include Latino, Asian, and White Americans 18 and older in their encounters with the US (Alegría, Takeuchi, Canino et al., 2004).

Asians 50 and older who are foreign-born were targeted for analysis in this study, in order to compare age group effects (50 to 64, 65 to 74, 75 and older). Distinct ethnic groups of respondents available from the NLAAS data were selected for between-group analysis (Total: 457; Chinese: n=160; Filipinos: n=145; Vietnamese: n=153). Finally, regression and path analyses were conducted with 332 Chinese, Vietnamese, and Filipino immigrant elders.

FUNDING: Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Award, administered by the Council for Social Work Education (CSWE) Minority Fellowship Program (MFP) through SAMSHA ($40,000); Hartford Doctoral Fellows Award in Geriatric Social Work, Cohort XI, funded by the John A. Hartford Foundation, administered by the Gerontological Society of America ($70,000); Boston College Institute on Aging (IOA) Dissertation Support Grant Award, 2011 ($7,500)

DATES OF STUDY: 7/2013 – Present
PROGRESS TO DATE:
Data has been analyzed, and study has been written up for publication. The study is currently under review.

ANTICIPATED CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE SOCIAL WORK FIELD:
This study provided evidence that perceived discrimination is an important construct that is intricately tied to acculturation and psychological well-being for foreign-born Asian elders. Although Asian ethnicity had no impact on distress, ethnic differences were found for perceived discrimination. Vietnamese elders who arrived as refugees and had fewer resources experienced higher levels of discrimination. Filipino elders who arrived with more resources experienced lower levels of discrimination. Additionally, it is living in the US for more than 10 years, not English ability, which increased perceived discrimination, which in turn leads to higher distress. Other social determinants such as intergenerational conflict also increased both discrimination and distress for Asian elders. The study highlighted that the experience of acculturation has a long term impact on distress and well-being for foreign-born Asian elders. Policies must address intrinsic inequalities, such as the discrimination of Vietnamese refugees, which arise from the context of the immigration experience. Social workers must engage families across generations and the lifespan to address these disparities to health and well-being when working with Asian elders.

SSW INVESTIGATOR:
Keith Chan, PhD

COLLABORATORS:
Thanh Van Tran, PhD, MSW (Boston College)
Thuc-Nhi Nguyen, MSW (Boston College)
IMPACT: Building understanding of the unique aging issues and challenges for people with intellectual disabilities and informing related public policy development.

THE INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY SUPPLEMENT TO THE IRISH LONGITUDINAL STUDY ON AGING

PRINCIPAL AIMS:
To develop a national, representative, longitudinal study of the health of people with intellectual disability as they age.

METHODOLOGY & SOFTWARE USED:
A representative sample of 753 persons with intellectual disabilities over age 40 drawn from the National Intellectual Disabilities Participants will be followed for 10 years.

FUNDING:
Health Research Board of Ireland: $1,200,000

DATES OF STUDY:
2009 – 2015

PROGRESS TO DATE:
Wave one and Wave two data collection completed

ANTICIPATED CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE SOCIAL WORK FIELD:
A better understanding of the aging of people with intellectual disabilities.

SSW INVESTIGATOR:
Philip McCallion, PhD

COLLABORATOR:
Mary McCarron, PhD
IMPACT: Identify effective progress to improve student outcomes in the City School District of Albany

21ST CENTURY COMMUNITY LEARNING CENTERS EVALUATION

PRINCIPAL AIMS:
The Center for Human Services Research is conducting a process and outcome evaluation of a federally funded program which is designed to support the creation of community learning centers serving high poverty students and their families

METHODOLOGY & SOFTWARE USED:
Secondary analysis of Power School
Teacher surveys
Student surveys
Evaluability assessment
Standardized test scores

FUNDING:
$120,000

DATES OF STUDY:
10/2013 – 6/2015

PROGRESS TO DATE:
Ongoing data collection

ANTICIPATED CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE SOCIAL WORK FIELD:
Extra curricula program development to extend student learning and family support

CHSR INVESTIGATORS:
Kenneth Robin
Melissa King
Chris Rees
IMPACT: Small business is often the only viable option for the socioeconomic independence of immigrants and refugees. This study examines how immigrants and refugees establish their businesses in areas that have been experiencing a loss of population and economic power.

ENTREPRENEURIAL DEVELOPMENT OF IMMIGRANTS AND REFUGEES IN THE CAPITAL REGION OF NEW YORK

PRINCIPAL AIMS:
The purpose of this project is to examine the business development process experienced by immigrants and refugees in the Capital Region. This project examines 1) whether there is a significant difference between the opportunities and barriers that are encountered by immigrant- and refugee- business owners, and those encountered by native business owners when establishing a small business, 2) what factors cause difficulties for immigrants and refugees to establish businesses, and 3) the effectiveness of immigrant- and refugee- aimed entrepreneurship training.

METHODOLOGY & SOFTWARE USED:
This study involves 1) development of a pilot entrepreneurship training for immigrants and refugees and 2) a cross-sectional survey of the training participants as well as immigrants/refugees and non-immigrants/refugees who already own small businesses.

FUNDING:
Applied for FRAP A

DATES OF STUDY:
2/2015 – 12/2016

PROGRESS TO DATE:
IRB application being prepared. The project ideas have been shared among potential collaborators.

ANTICIPATED CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE SOCIAL WORK FIELD:
This study will advance our theoretical understanding of ethnic businesses and micro-enterprise development in the context of shrinking cities. This study contributes to our practices by offering insights for developing programs that aid the business-startup process of immigrants and refugees.

SSW INVESTIGATOR:
Wonhyung Lee, PhD
IMPACT: Reduce delinquency and violence of at-risk youth

EVALUABILITY ASSESSMENT OF THE YOUTH AND POLICE INITIATIVE

PRINCIPAL AIMS:
The Center for Human Services Research is conducting an evaluability assessment of the Youth and Police Initiative (YPI), a program operated by the North American Family Institute (NAFI) that aims to reduce delinquency and violence among at-risk youth by establishing police legitimacy in the youth community.

METHODOLOGY & SOFTWARE USED:
Staff interviews, document reviews, program observation, and secondary program data analysis

FUNDING:
$163,302

DATES OF STUDY:
10/2013 – Present

PROGRESS TO DATE:
Fully developed evaluation plan

ANTICIPATED CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE SOCIAL WORK FIELD:
Potential of establishing an evidence-based juvenile initiative

CHSR INVESTIGATOR:
Bradley Watts

COLLABORATOR:
Heather Washington
IMPACT: To promote effective services involving intimate partner violence for the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender non-conforming communities

EVALUATION CAPACITY-BUILDING FOR THE NYC ANTI-VIOLENCE PROJECT

PRINCIPAL AIMS:
The Center for Human Services Research worked with the NYC Anti-Violence Project to develop logic models and measurement capacity for services and outreach for the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender non-conforming communities.

METHODOLOGY & SOFTWARE USED:
- Individual interviews
- Literature review
- Review measures

FUNDING:
$5,000

DATES OF STUDY:
11/2013 – 10/2014

PROGRESS TO DATE:
Completed data collection and preparing final report

ANTICIPATED CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE SOCIAL WORK FIELD:
Build measurement capacity of organizations addressing intimate partner violence in LGBT communities

CHSR INVESTIGATOR:
Lara Kaye
IMPACT: To develop evidence-based practice to promote post-secondary education for individuals residing in high need areas.

HESC URBAN EDGE EVALUATION

PRINCIPAL AIMS:
The Center for Human Services Research will measure outcomes and service quality among adult learners in high need communities enrolled in post-secondary programs.

METHODOLOGY & SOFTWARE USED:
Program data: social marketing log, assessment and intake forms
South campus database
Education records
Pre/Post tests and student surveys

FUNDING:
$15,000

DATES OF STUDY:
10/2014 – 9/2015

PROGRESS TO DATE:
Developing data collection protocols

ANTICIPATED CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE SOCIAL WORK FIELD:
Promotion of effective practice to support post-secondary educational opportunities among individuals residing in high need communities.

CHSR INVESTIGATORS:
Ken Robin
Rose Greene

COLLABORATORS:
Harris Oberlander
James Thomas
IMPACT: Prevent recidivism and develop employability skills among at-risk youth

PROJECT GROWTH

PRINCIPAL AIMS:
The Center for Human Services Research is conducting an evaluation of an initiative whereby juvenile delinquents pay victim restitution through part-time internships at area employers.

METHODOLOGY & SOFTWARE USED:
Program data (intake form, training attendance); employer survey; training survey; youth survey

FUNDING:
$9,000

DATES OF STUDY:
9/2014 – 8/2015

PROGRESS TO DATE:
Development of data collection protocols

ANTICIPATED CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE SOCIAL WORK FIELD:
Understanding of programs to promote strengths among youth offenders

CHSR INVESTIGATORS:
Susan Dietzel
Melissa King

COLLABORATOR:
Carmen Duncan
IMPACT: Comorbid depression and diabetes is recognized as a condition that is costly to the health care system and is a vital topic of public health concern. The data obtained throughout both phases of this project will inform health practitioners and scientists to understand and describe illness perceptions of persons identified as having comorbid depression and diabetes who are either African American or Caribbean Black adults living in the Bay Area of California or upstate New York. The information gathered will broaden scientific understanding about cultural meanings and definitions of illness, depression, and diabetes so that social service agencies can better provide services. Ultimately, the findings of this study will fill a major gap in knowledge by addressing an emergent public health research priority in health and mental health areas.

PSYCHIATRIC EPIDEMIOLOGY: RACIAL DISPARITIES AMONG VULNERABLE POPULATIONS WITH DIABETES AND DEPRESSION

PRINCIPAL AIMS:
Phase 1: Illness Perceptions of Diabetes and Depression (Qualitative Study). Face-to-face interviews to understand and describe the social service needs and illness perceptions of persons identified as having comorbid depression and diabetes who are African American or Caribbean Black. Phase 2: Baseline Picture of Diabetes and Depression among Black Americans (Quantitative Study). The National Survey of American Life (NSAL) dataset will be used to establish a baseline for the prevalence of the comorbidity of diabetes and depression among African Americans and Caribbean Blacks. Phase 3: Service Utilization among Black Americans with comorbid depression and diabetes (National Primary Data Collection). Collecting national data from a randomly selected, probability sampled respondent group will allow for more generalizable information regarding Blacks who suffer from comorbid conditions.

METHODOLOGY & SOFTWARE USED:
Phase 1: Qualitative research methodology. Phase 2 and 3: Quantitative research methodology. Descriptive statistics will be used to characterize all variables; Chi-square tests and ANOVAs will be used to identify significant differences across subgroups defined by race. Multinomial and logistic regression analyses will be employed.

FUNDING: NIMHD K-22 (3 years)

DATES OF STUDY: 8/2012 - 7/2015

PROGRESS TO DATE: Phase 1 & 2 are underway. Follow-up interviewing in Phase 1 began. Data collection in CA and NY is moving forward.

ANTICIPATED CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE SOCIAL WORK FIELD:
The study plan is designed to advance knowledge and make five important contributions to the literature on depression and diabetes comorbidity among Black Americans by: (1) disseminating a clearer understanding of the social service needs and illness perceptions of persons identified as having comorbid depression and diabetes; (2) capitalizing on the strengths of a large, nationally representative data; (2) determining whether SES is associated with reductions in the risk for the studied comorbid condition by Blacks; (3) examining the mediation effects of health insurance status; and (4) describing the cultural meaning of being diagnosed with and managing health care with a comorbid diagnosis.

SSW INVESTIGATOR:
Julia F. Hastings, PhD
IMPACT: Inform academic advancement in three distressed neighborhoods.

THE ALBANY PROMISE

PRINCIPAL AIMS:
The Center for Human Services research is collecting, analyzing, and presenting data for Albany’s Promise, an educational and community reform initiative focusing on three distressed neighborhoods: Arbor Hill, West Hill, and the South End.

METHODOLOGY & SOFTWARE USED:
Secondary analysis of school and community data in the city of Albany.

FUNDING:
$327,929

DATES OF STUDY:
2012 – 2015

PROGRESS TO DATE:
Produced the baseline report.

ANTICIPATED CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE SOCIAL WORK FIELD:
Inform strategies to raise educational achievement.

CHSR INVESTIGATORS:
Kenneth Robin
Melissa King
Rose Greene
Chris Rees
IMPACT: The Research Training and Education Core continue to provide access to training and mentoring opportunities in the areas of health disparities to University students and faculty. With a particular focus on training doctoral students to successfully publish the dissertations, providing statistical support and conducting substantive health research in subpopulations such as sexual minorities of color. The Core continues to provide small grant opportunities for faculty interested in establishing a health disparities research program.

THE CENTER FOR THE ELIMINATION OF MINORITY HEALTH DISPARITIES RESEARCH TRAINING AND MENTORING CORE

PRINCIPAL AIMS:
The foci of the Research Training and Education Core includes cultivating interest and increasing minority health and health disparities research skills in undergraduate and graduate students within the University. The core’s programs for faculty and students will include training and education related to conducting responsible research. The goal of the Research Training/Education Core is to establish and sustain opportunities that introduce, cultivate, and support health disparities research interests and develop career trajectories among undergraduate students and graduate students in schools participating in this proposal.

METHODOLOGY & SOFTWARE USED:
The training component will consist of three parts:
1. A research colloquia series designed to introduce issues related to minority health and health disparities to students in the Educational Opportunity Program (EOP) and the Honors College (HC) at the University at Albany;
2. Network building colloquia and discussion groups for advanced graduate students and untenured faculty; and
3. A series of workshops on conducting responsible research for new Research Associates of the Center.

FUNDING:
N/A

DATES OF STUDY: 5/2014 – 5/2020

PROGRESS TO DATE:
Two publications and a national conference.

SSW INVESTIGATOR:
Robert L. Miller, Jr., PhD
IMPACT: Findings can be translated to policy and program designs that increase access and supports for older adults with backgrounds of early adversity.

ADVERSE CHILDHOOD EXPERIENCES (ACE) AMONG POOR OLDER ADULTS: COPING MECHANISMS AND CONSEQUENCES

PRINCIPAL AIMS:
This study will extend and enhance ACE research that has been carried out with a middle class population in a medical setting with a much more vulnerable poorer population of people over the age of 55. In addition to providing information about the extent of ACEs and ACE correlates among this population, this study will explore moderating protective and coping resources.

METHODOLOGY & SOFTWARE USED:
Participants: The participants of this study will be 250 older adults served by Troy Housing Authority; Design: The study is a cross-sectional survey; Sample: This will be a stratified random sample; Instruments: ACE Study questions, Brief COPE, CAGE, Lubben Social Network Scale (LSNS), Patient Health Questionnaire (PHQ-9), and GAD-7.

FUNDING: Applied for FRAP A

DATES OF STUDY: 12/2010 – Present

PROGRESS TO DATE: Data analysis has begun. An article is in development.

ANTICIPATED CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE SOCIAL WORK FIELD:
This research will help us to better understand the backgrounds of poverty-stricken older adults. This study extends existing ACE research to the very important problem of the correlates of ACEs for older people living in poverty. Information from this study will identify how some older people are able to use coping strategies to avoid the many negative long-term consequences of ACEs while others suffer from the sequel of ACEs. It will also help to inform intervention strategies that can be put in place in the Troy Housing Authority where this research will be conducted. This study includes Healthy People 2010 leading health indicators (substance abuse, mental health, injury and violence, environmental quality, physical activity, and health care access). For this reason, findings from this groundbreaking study will provide important pilot data for applications to NIH agencies such as NIAAA and NIA, as well as private foundations.

SSW INVESTIGATORS:
Heather Larkin, PhD
Ron Toseland, PhD

COLLABORATOR:
Troy Housing Authority (including MSW interns)
IMPACT: Greater understanding of lived experiences of Lesbian Clergy in Protestant Mainline Denominations

DISSERTATION TITLE: THE LIVED EXPERIENCES OF LESBIAN CLERGY IN FOUR PROTESTANT MAINLINE DENOMINATIONS: THE FORMATION OF THEIR RELIGIOUS, SPIRITUAL, AND SEXUAL IDENTITIES

PRINCIPAL AIMS:
- To explore the lived experiences of the sampled lesbian ELCA, PCUSA, RCA, and UCC clergy;
- To explore whether and how the sampled lesbian ELCA, PCUSA, RCA, and UCC clergy have experienced “fit” in their families, in their communities, and in their denominations;
- To understand the meanings that the sampled lesbian ELCA, PCUSA, RCA, and UCC clergy attach to their personal histories; and
- To understand how the lesbian ELCA, PCUSA, RCA, and UCC clergy perceive themselves regarding each of the domains of their religious, spiritual, and sexual identities.

METHODOLOGY & SOFTWARE USED:
Qualitative, life history narratives, ATLAS Ti

ANTICIPATED CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE SOCIAL WORK FIELD:
Further supports social justice efforts by potentially illuminating the challenges that lesbian clergy confront in ministerial development.

DOCTORAL STUDENT:
Pamela Patter Ennis, MSW, MDiv

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:
Robert L Miller, Jr, PhD, (Chair)
Katharine Briar-Lawson, PhD
Zulema Suarez
IMPACT: Identify effective progress to improve student outcomes in the City School District of Albany

21ST CENTURY COMMUNITY LEARNING CENTERS EVALUATION

PRINCIPAL AIMS:
The Center for Human Services Research is conducting a process and outcome evaluation of a federally funded program which is designed to support the creation of community learning centers serving high poverty students and their families.

METHODOLOGY & SOFTWARE USED:
Secondary analysis of Power School
Teacher surveys
Student surveys
Evaluability assessment
Standardized test scores

FUNDING:
$120,000

DATES OF STUDY:
10/2013 – 6/2015

PROGRESS TO DATE:
Ongoing data collection

ANTICIPATED CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE SOCIAL WORK FIELD:
Extra curricula program development to extend student learning and family support

CHSR INVESTIGATORS:
Kenneth Robin
Melissa King
Chris Rees
IMPACT: To foster child welfare research capacity of doctoral students at SSW

ACF CHILDREN’S BUREAU, FELLOWSHIPS FOR UNIVERSITY-BASED DOCTORAL CANDIDATES AND FACULTY FOR RESEARCH IN CHILD MALTREATMENT

PRINCIPAL AIMS:
1. Strengthen the capacity at University at Albany School of Social Welfare to engage in collaborative, statistically advanced child maltreatment research
2. Complete two dissertation research projects and one faculty research project on child maltreatment;
3. Make contributions to the field of child welfare through proposed projects on examining the interplay of poverty, child neglect, and child welfare outcomes.

METHODOLOGY & SOFTWARE USED:
Secondary data analysis of child welfare data; Multi-level modeling, logistic regression and sequential-response logits modeling, and propensity score matching

FUNDING:
$200,000 for two years (9/30/2014 – 9/29/2016)

DATES OF STUDY:
9/2014 – 9/2016

PROGRESS TO DATE:
Data preparation and biweekly meetings and statistical consultation

ANTICIPATED CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE SOCIAL WORK FIELD:
The development of projects to examine the interplay of poverty, child neglect, and child welfare outcomes

SSW INVESTIGATOR:
Eunju Lee, PhD

COLLABORATORS:
Tana D. James
Mi Jin Choi
IMPACT: Improving the Juvenile Justice System

ALBANY COUNTY JUVENILE DETENTION ALTERNATIVES INITIATIVE (JDAI)

PRINCIPAL AIMS:
The Center for Human Services Research is working with the Albany County Department for Children, Youth, and Families to collect and analyze data for making policy and case-level decisions and develop strategies to improve the local juvenile justice system.

METHODOLOGY & SOFTWARE USED:
Collect and analyze secondary data

FUNDING:
$104,371

DATES OF STUDY:

PROGRESS TO DATE:
Ongoing data collection

ANTICIPATED CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE SOCIAL WORK FIELD:
Improved strategies to address juvenile justice systems work

CHSR INVESTIGATORS:
Susan Dietzel
Victoria Schall
IMPACT: Having implemented realist evaluation in the last 13 years, Moray Council in Scotland is the only local authority in the United Kingdom to practice evaluation consistently with its social services, schools and youth justice; and its main contribution to knowledge is to demonstrate that robust evaluation research strategies can be integrated into the daily practice of all human service agencies, to continuously evaluate what interventions work and in what circumstances.

EVALUATION OF MORAY COUNCIL’S CHILDREN’S SERVICES, SCOTLAND, UNITED KINGDOM

PRINCIPAL AIMS: Moray Council’s Children & Family and Criminal Justice Service has been integrating realist evaluation (Kazi, 2003) into practice to investigate what interventions work and in what contexts to achieve the Scottish Government’s ‘Getting it Right for Every Child’ outcomes. This strategy includes the use of reliable outcome measures repeatedly over time, the recording of children and families’ contextual data, and information on the services provided.

METHODOLOGY & SOFTWARE USED: Moray Council has used realist evaluation for the last 13 years, including the systematic tracking of outcomes, interventions and client circumstances. Data from the management information systems (social services, education and youth justice) is analyzed every three months to inform future practice. Research tools such as binary logistic regression models are used to investigate the contexts in which the interventions are to be effective.

FUNDING: $133,000 (Moray Council local authority, Scotland)


PROGRESS TO DATE: Regular analysis of patterns of change in this data enable a prospective investigation of where services are more or less likely to achieve the desired outcomes, and the repeated analysis of the findings help to better target the services for children and their families. A 10-year longitudinal evaluation found that although the program had been effective in reducing the risk of offending and the number of offences, alcohol misuse was a significant barrier to progress for persistent young offenders.

ANTICIPATED CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE SOCIAL WORK FIELD:
The area social work teams are helping the majority of the young people to improve on the Child Holistic Measure (CHM), the Index of Self-Esteem (ISE) and in the Practitioners’ Holistic Measurement Tool (PHMT). Additionally, with regard to the extent of improvement, those who had family support workers were improving more than those who did not; and the findings were similar with Children 1st—Children’s Right Worker involvement. CHM and PHMT were validated as part of this evaluation. Since the last year, an added emphasis has been on universal school data from the local authority, and the programs of intervention with children and families are evaluated universally for all children attending schools in Moray Council, using academic school outcomes, behavior and attendance.

SSW INVESTIGATOR: Mansoor A. F. Kazi, PhD
IMPACT: This project examines the well-being of kinship families that have received limited attention in the field of child welfare. Findings will promote our understanding of the needs of kinship families and will advance child welfare practice, in the areas of safety and permanency.

EVALUATION OF NYS KINSHIP CHILD WELFARE AND TANF COLLABORATION DEMONSTRATION PROJECT

PRINCIPAL AIMS:
The evaluation is designed to assist successful implementation of the NYS Kinship Demonstration Project and measure outcomes to assess whether the project achieved intended objectives. Specifically, the evaluation aims to achieve the following:
1. Monitor the project implementation at local departments of social services (LDSS), kinship networks (KN), and partner agencies;
2. Provide ongoing feedback on the implementation process;
3. Collect high quality data on the demographics, needs, costs, service utilization and case-level outcomes;
4. Conduct a rigorous outcome evaluation using the wait-listed control group; and
5. Disseminate the findings of the evaluation with the stakeholders and through publications.

METHODOLOGY & SOFTWARE USED:
Process evaluation: focus group, interviews, and document reviews. Outcome evaluation: interviews (through Survey Monkey), mail questionnaire and data from child welfare and TANF administrative records. Data analysis will be done using SPSS and Stata.

FUNDING:
ACF $140,000 per year for 3 years (subcontracted through Catholic Family Center, Rochester, NY)

DATES OF STUDY: 10/2012 – 9/2015

PROGRESS TO DATE:
We conducted a series of focus groups, completed the baseline study (N=303) and are collecting 6-month and 1-year follow up data.

ANTICIPATED CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE SOCIAL WORK FIELD:
The findings from this evaluation will improve child welfare practice by:
1. Identifying what proportion of the children enter kinship care after their families get involved in child protective services;
2. Documenting a detailed profile of kinship care families;
3. Understanding the needs of children and kin caregivers in legal, financial, and health services;
4. Assessing whether the demonstration project improves service utilization among kinship families;
5. Examining safety, stability, and permanency outcomes of children in kinship care;
6. Evaluating the impact of the demonstration project on coordination and collaboration among stakeholders at local and state levels; and
7. Identifying best practices and policies that could be replicated across the state and nationally

SSW INVESTIGATOR: Eunjoo Lee, PhD
COLLABORATOR: Jerry Wallace, Esq., NYS Kinship Navigator
RESEARCH SUPPORT STAFF: Mi Jin Choi, Mike Clarkson-Hendrix, Younggeul Lee, and Althea Pestine (Doctoral Students)
IMPACT  To improve services that address behavioral health of children with serious emotional disturbances

EVALUATION OF NYS SUCCESS

PRINCIPAL AIMS:  
The Center for Human Services Research is evaluating NYS Success designed to promote system reform and service delivery for children and youth experiencing serious emotional disturbances

METHODOLOGY & SOFTWARE USED:  
Program and individual data entered into a federal database
Key informant interviews
County-level data extraction, integration, and reporting

FUNDING:  
$187,920

DATES OF STUDY:  
10/2014 – 9/2015

PROGRESS TO DATE:  
Updating data collection protocols

ANTICIPATED CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE SOCIAL WORK FIELD:  
Develop evidence-based practice for children experiencing serious emotional disturbances

CHSR INVESTIGATORS:  
Lauren Polvere
Rose Greene
Mansoor Kazi

COLLABORATOR:  
Mary Coppola
IMPACT: This research project adds to the body of research that evaluates social outcomes of foster and homeless youth. In addition, the study explores the opinions of the youth themselves by collecting data on youths’ opinions of the independent living services they received.

DISsertation Title: Evaluation of the Equinox, Inc. Transitional Housing Program

Principal Aims: To evaluate the effectiveness of a transitional housing program for foster and homeless youth with regard to their housing, employment and educational goals.

Methodology & Software Used: Mixed methodology using SPSS, and ATLAS.ti software.

Funding: N/A

Duration of Study: Started in 2007

Progress to Date: Data collection is complete. Currently in the data analysis phase.

Anticipated Contributions to the Social Work Field: Improving outcomes for foster and homeless youth being served by independent living programs

Doctoral Student: Emily DeLorenzo

Committee Members: Toni Naccarato, PhD, Chair
Dana Peterson, PhD
Katharine Briar-Lawson, PhD
IMPACT: Inform program development for families with young children

EVALUATION OF THE NYS FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER

PRINCIPAL AIMS:
The Center for Human Services Research (CHSR) is evaluating the NYS Family Resource Center network of voluntary programs that are located throughout the state and offer broad based support for families living within a designated area. The evaluation consists of process and outcome studies.

METHODOLOGY & SOFTWARE USED:
Management Information System (MIS): Data on the characteristics of participants and the services they receive are collected through a web-based MIS developed by CHSR. The MIS provides data summaries used for federal reporting and state oversight.
Outcome Study: Surveys measuring parental protective factors are administered to program participants at baseline and at follow-up intervals.

FUNDING:
NYS Office of Children and Family Services: $176,792 (07/05 – 06/06); $184,458 (07/06 – 06/07); $201,698 (07/07 – 06/08); $201,698 (07/08 – 06/09); $201,698 (07/09 – 06/10); $175,000 (7/10 – 6/11); $175,000 (7/11 – 6/12), $175,000 (10/12 – 9/13), $100,000 (10/13 – 9/14), $166,662 (10/14 – 9/15).

DATES OF STUDY:
7/2005 – Present

PROGRESS TO DATE:
Ongoing data analysis and reporting.

ANTICIPATED CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE SOCIAL WORK FIELD:
Improved service delivery to families to prevent child maltreatment.

CHSR INVESTIGATORS:
Sara Rain
Chris Papas
Rose Greene
IMPACT: Add to the body of evidence of the long term effects of home visitation as well inform program development.

EVALUATION OF THE NEW YORK STATE HOME VISITING PROGRAM

PRINCIPAL AIMS:
Healthy Families New York (HFNY) is a multi-site program designed to prevent child abuse and neglect, increase parental self-sufficiency, and enhance child health and development. HFNY is based on a national model of home visiting services being delivered in over 400 communities across the United States. Studies have included a randomized controlled trial in three sites, a management information system in 39 sites.

METHODOLOGY & SOFTWARE USED:
Longitudinal randomized trial: This study began in 2000. Originally over 1,000 women were interviewed annually for 3 years. In 2006, we re-interviewed families at 7 years to test the long-term effects of the program. In 2014 we will begin a 15-year follow-up study. In the study, expectant and new parents are assigned to either a treatment group (offered home visiting services) or a control group (offered referral information only). Management Information System (MIS): The MIS is available to all 39 HFNY program sites to provide evaluation data and on-site statistical reports to assist in program monitoring, reporting, administration and management of cases. Special Studies: CHSR continues to conduct specialized research projects to foster quality improvement, including on home visitors, intake and assessment processes, and fatherhood initiatives. Specialized Studies: Research on enrollment processes, fatherhood involvement, and support workers.

FUNDING:
NYS Office of Children and Family Services; $971,885 (10/05 – 09/06); $1,116,069 (10/06 – 09/07); $1,332,057 (10/07 – 09/08); $1,021,584 (10/08 – 09/09); $1,021,584 (10/09 – 09/10); $974,084 (10/10 – 09/11); $1,217,606 (7/1/11 – 9/30/12), $974,088 (10/12 – 9/13), $1,528,176 (10/13 – 9/14), $1,528,176 (10/14 – 9/15).

DATES OF STUDY:
10/2005 – Present

PROGRESS TO DATE:
Ongoing work includes revising the MIS, continuing analysis of program data, reporting findings, and publishing papers.

ANTICIPATED CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE SOCIAL WORK FIELD:
Improved service delivery to prevent child maltreatment.

CHSR INVESTIGATORS:
Chun Dar Chen, Susan Ehrhard-Dietzel, Chris Papas, Jay Robohn, Bradley Watts, Thomas Dwyer, Cori Robohn, Rose Greene, Eunju Lee, John Heck, Corinne Noble, Maria Aviles, Gayle Bryant, Damali Thomas
IMPACT: Consistent with the goals of child welfare, this research hopes to improve children’s safety, permanency, and well-being.

DISSERTATION TITLE: EFFECTS OF ECONOMIC FACTORS ON OUT-OF-HOME CARE PLACEMENT FOR NEGLECTED CHILDREN

PRINCIPAL AIMS:
1) to investigate the effect of economic factors on out-of-home placement decisions;
2) to measure the relative magnitude of family economic factors on the change of probability in out-of-home placement decisions; and
3) to examine the effects of family economic factors on the placement types of the neglected children.

METHODOLOGY & SOFTWARE USED:
Quantitative, Logistic regression, STATA13

FUNDING:

DURATION OF STUDY:
1 year

PROGRESS TO DATE:
Dissertation Proposal Defense was completed.

ANTICIPATED CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE SOCIAL WORK FIELD:
To understand the placement decision comprehensively, and to make clear guidelines for consistent decisions for children who have been maltreated. To ensure more appropriate placement for children and to decrease unsuccessful placement decisions and recurrence of placement failure.

DOCTORAL STUDENT:
Mi Jin Choi

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:
Anne Fortune, PhD (Chair)
Eunju Lee, PhD
Glenn Deane, PhD
IMPACT: Asthma is the most common chronic illness in children and can be life-threatening. There is an increasing awareness of the psychosocial impacts for the child with asthma, the child’s caregivers, and society. Twenty-four percent of children have activity limitations. It is the most common reason for school absences which in turn impacts developmental and psychological growth. This then has psychosocial impacts within families and with families and their communities. Children with asthma and their caregivers may also experience increased stress and have mental health diagnoses. Research based interventions may increase both the child’s and family functioning, increased health outcomes, and ultimately have an impact upon the community.

DISSERTATION TITLE: THE LIVED EXPERIENCE OF CAREGIVERS FOR CHILDREN WITH ASTHMA

PRINCIPAL AIMS:
1. Identify the specific psychosocial factors that impact the health management and health outcomes of rural children with moderate persistent and severe persistent asthma.
2. Describe the subjective in-depth experience of asthmatic child’s caregivers.
3. Describe the meaning of the lived experiences for the caregivers from their perspectives.

METHODOLOGY & SOFTWARE USED:
The study is qualitative and uses descriptive phenomenology to illustrate the day-to-day lived experience of the caregiver. Each caregiver was interviewed utilizing in-depth open-ended interviewing techniques within the phenomenological method. This included the use of trigger questions to insure that the answers contained the phenomenon of interest. The interviews were tape-recorded to insure more collection of the interview responses.

FUNDING: Study expenses have been self-funded

DURATION OF STUDY: Started in 2003

PROGRESS TO DATE:
Data collection has been completed and the researcher has recently submitted a draft revision based on the recommendations of the dissertation committee members

ANTICIPATED CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE SOCIAL WORK FIELD:
It is anticipated that the findings will contribute to the development and implementation of more effective interventions for social workers who are working with rural caregivers of children with moderate to severe persistent asthma. There are also recommendations for specific interventions and further research and policies.

DOCTORAL STUDENT: Caroline W. Dawson

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:
Philip McCallion, PhD (Chair)
Hal Lawson, PhD
Hendrika Maltby, PhD (University of Vermont)
IMPACT: Contribute to informing improved service delivery to prevent child maltreatment

MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEM FOR HEALTHY FAMILIES NEW JERSEY

PRINCIPAL AIMS:
The Center for Human Services Research is developing an MIS that collects data on client characteristics, service provision and outcomes for an intervention designed to prevent child abuse and neglect, enhance child health and development, and foster parent-child interactions.

METHODOLOGY & SOFTWARE USED:
FamSys: Customized software to collect client, service, and outcome data.

FUNDING:
Prevent Child Abuse New Jersey: $576,369

DATES OF STUDY:

PROGRESS TO DATE:
Continued MIS development and reporting.

ANTICIPATED CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE SOCIAL WORK FIELD:
Improved service delivery to prevent child maltreatment.

CHSR INVESTIGATORS:
Chris Papas
Jay Robohn
IMPACT: This research seeks to provide researchers, practitioners and policy leaders from social work education, psychology, sociology, economics, and public administration with knowledge that may help adolescents to be more academically engaged and to display higher levels of academic achievement.

DISserTATION TITLE: THE PARENT-CHILD RELATIONSHIP, ATTACHMENT AND PARENTAL MONITORING: INFLUENCES ON ACADEMIC ENGAGEMENT AND ACHIEVEMENT

PRINCIPAL AIMS: This dissertation focuses on the influence of parental monitoring on students’ academic engagement and achievement in the context of the parent child relationship. The main research question is as follows. Does the parent child relationship influence the child’s academic engagement and, in turn, achievement?

METHODOLOGY & SOFTWARE USED: Secondary data analysis using data from the Flourishing Families Project. Includes longitudinal data and measure from target child as well as parents. Observational measures of dyadic relationships using the Iowa Family Interaction Scale.

FUNDING: NA

DURATION OF STUDY: Longitudinal data over 3 years

PROGRESS TO DATE: Data collected, advancing on to analysis

ANTICIPATED CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE SOCIAL WORK FIELD: Does the parent child relationship influence the child’s academic engagement and, in turn, achievement? This question is especially timely as awareness grows about the importance of postsecondary education completion with advanced competence for success in the workforce and participation in our democracy. Special interest resides in children and family systems challenged by social and economic disadvantage because educational success is the main pathway out of poverty and toward adult wellbeing and future prosperity. This interest is consistent with social work’s values and focus on marginalized, oppressed and socially excluded populations. Important to social work’s missions for social and economic justice, this main question and pertinent sub-questions merit the attention of researchers, practitioners and policy leaders from several other disciplines including education, psychology, sociology, economics, and public administration.

DOCTORAL STUDENT: Benjamin R. Malczyk, MSW

COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Hal Lawson, PhD (chair) Katharine Briar-Lawson, PhD Randal Day, PhD, BYU School of Family Life
IMPACT: Since the start in 2008, the local evaluation is being implemented by offering a 100% evaluation of all services to all agencies in Chautauqua County, New York State. At present we have nearly 50 agencies taking part, and we are able to evaluate the services for most children and families in Chautauqua County, e.g. over 9,000 youth in the largest two school districts, Jamestown and Dunkirk. We have also used these examples of evaluation in Chautauqua County to inform similar evaluation strategies in the Upstate New York System of Care expansion with 22 other counties to date. We have continued to present at both national and international conferences.

TAPESTRY OF CHAUTAUQUA’S SYSTEMS OF CARE GRANT

PRINCIPAL AIMS: The goal of Chautauqua Tapestry Initiative is to weave together a countywide, culturally and linguistically competent, family-driven and youth-guided rural system of care, which will transform how children with serious emotional disturbances (SED), and their families, from all service systems, will be served, with a focus on addressing the needs of children with SED, and their families, of Hispanic and African American descent.

METHODOLOGY & SOFTWARE USED: The local evaluation strategy utilizes a new approach that involves the systematic collection of data on 1) the client circumstances (e.g. demographic characteristics, cultural differences and needs, environments in which people live and function, and the nature of baseline target problems); 2) the dosage, duration and frequency of each intervention in relation to each client; and 3) the changes in the outcomes as observed through the repeated use of reliable outcome measures with each client. This is a mixed methods approach.

FUNDING: $9,000,000; $977,317 for evaluation, Funded by SAMHSA — Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Center for Mental Health Services.

DATES OF STUDY: 10/2008 – 9/2015

PROGRESS TO DATE: The results are analyzed with the agencies four times a year, and we are now writing reports and articles with them. The findings from evaluation are analyzed in partnership with the agencies. We are at the stage of merging the agencies’ management information system data with those of the participating school districts.

ANTICIPATED CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE SOCIAL WORK FIELD: We plan to publish and disseminate findings with each of the many agencies we have worked with, including a book that will be published with Lyceum Books in 2015. The contributions will include the development of the realist evaluation paradigm that has been applied, as well as developments in the methods of data analysis, e.g. the use of binary logistic regression, with data from the agencies’ management information systems.

SSW INVESTIGATOR: Mansoor A. F. Kazi, PhD
COLLABORATOR: Katharine Briar-Lawson, PhD
Research Support Staff: Anne Bartone, Savra Frounfelker, Yeongbin Kim, Althea Pestine
IMPACT: Non-profit community agencies are increasingly making evaluation an integral part of the design and implementation of the psychosocial service programs they provide. Program evaluation offers agencies data they can use to improve effectiveness and inform programming decisions. It helps identify program outcomes and broader impacts at the community, organization, and society levels. Evaluation results are crucial to attract and retain support from relevant constituents including current and potential service recipients and funding sources.

EVALUATION OF A FAMILY AND NEIGHBORHOOD RESOURCE CENTER

PRINCIPAL AIM: To evaluate a Family and Neighborhood Resource Center program in a local non-profit community organization.

METHODOLOGY & SOFTWARE USED: Quantitative and qualitative methods

FUNDING: Trinity Alliance of the Capital Region

DATES OF STUDY: 2013 – Present

PROGRESS TO DATE: Data collected and entered; data analyzed; preliminary dissemination of findings.

ANTICIPATED CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE SOCIAL WORK FIELD: Family resource centers (FRCs) play a key role in many local, state, and national efforts to develop more comprehensive and integrated child and family service systems. FRCs can use evaluation data to help increase accountability, quality of services, positive impact on service recipients, and social work practice and service effectiveness. Evidence-based information on FRCs’ best practices and lessons learned can contribute to their empirical history and potential generalizability to specific settings and populations.

SSW INVESTIGATOR: Blanca M Ramos, PhD

RESEARCH SUPPORT STAFF: Ramon Guerrero Yeonggeul Lee
IMPACT: The complexities of child welfare work, including high turnover rates and unsupportive organizations, demand an integrated partnership approach to workforce systems development for sustained organizational and practice changes that promote the well-being of children and youth. The National Child Welfare Workforce Institute is designed to build the leadership and workforce development capacity of child welfare professionals nation-wide and improve the ability of organizations to recruit, select, train, supervise, manage, and retain them. The Institute provides leadership offerings for partnerships of child welfare directors and social work deans; leadership training and reinforcement for child welfare middle managers and supervisors; MSW/BSW educational stipends for those committed to child welfare careers; and organizational interventions to strengthen supportive workforce practices. Knowledge management and dissemination practices facilitate knowledge-building and information-sharing across the country and a rigorous evaluation process is in place to examine outcomes for all program areas.

THE NATIONAL CHILD WELFARE WORKFORCE INSTITUTE

PRINCIPAL AIMS:
The purpose of the next five years of NCWWI is to increase child welfare practice effectiveness through diverse partnerships that focus on workforce systems development, organizational interventions, and change leadership, using data-driven capacity building, education, and professional development.

FUNDING:
US Children’s Bureau: 5-year, $22.5 M award

DATES OF STUDY:
October 1, 2013 – September 30, 2018

PROGRESS TO DATE:
Awarded October 1, 2013, this five-year Cooperative Agreement with the Children’s Bureau is focused on supporting the implementation and sustainability of evidence informed workforce practices in states/regions/Tribes. Funding has just been awarded for the following integrated program components:

- University Partnerships (UP)- up to 13 awards for 5 years. Eleven are currently in operation with 2 new awardees joining in fall of 2014.
- Leadership Academy for Deans/Directors/Chairs of social work programs and Directors of State/County/Tribal Child Welfare Agencies (LADD), which is underway and held the first face to face meeting in fall 2014.
- Leadership Academy for Child Welfare Supervisors (LAS) which is rolling out in the first OI site in fall 2014.
- Leadership Academy for child welfare Middle Managers (LAMM), which will offer the first 3 day residential program in January 2015.
• Organizational Interventions (OI); up to 3 state/regional/Tribal. Sites have been selected and work is underway in site 1 with the roll out of the organizational health assessment scheduled for January 2015 in site 2.
• Knowledge Development and Dissemination (LINKD). The new portal MyNCWWI.org has launched and is now fully operational for the OI sites and the LADD teams.
• Comprehensive Evaluation. The comprehensive organizational health assessment (COHA) for the first OI site has been completed and a full report submitted to the county site. All other program components have evaluation activities underway.

Implementation of the work plan is underway and proceeding on schedule. This work is a cooperative agreement with the Children’s Bureau and the partnership is essential to the overall success and sustainability of the NCWWI Program plan. Data has been analyzed, and study has been written up for publication. The study is currently under review.

ANTICIPATED CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE SOCIAL WORK FIELD:
This award continues the work carried out from 2008-2013 through the National Child Welfare Workforce Institute. The new funding builds on the knowledge gained from the work of the Leadership Academies for Middle Managers (LAMM) and Supervisors (LAS) and the BSW and MSW Traineeships. We know that in order to sustain a professional workforce, the organizational practices must focus on effective recruitment, selection and retention of the right workers and supervisors for the job. Building strong university partnerships is one strategy designed to facilitate educational preparation in evidence based practices, field placements to support and test these practices, and partnerships between institutional leaders that bring to bear the resources of both in support of quality organizational practices and the use of continuous quality improvement measures to evaluate and modify practice. Work on new curriculum is underway and field education models will be explored during the coming year; all designed to prepare social workers for a career in child welfare. We anticipate evidence that working with leaders and facilitating an organizational intervention focused on recruitment, selection or retention will result in agencies retaining skilled workers prepared to provide effective services which result in quality outcomes for families and children.

SSW INVESTIGATORS:
Mary McCarthy, PhD, LMSW
Katharine Briar-Lawson, PhD, LMSW
University at Albany, SSW-lead

COLLABORATORS:
University of Maryland
University of Denver
University of Southern Maine
Michigan State University
Portland State University
American Public Human Services Association

RESEARCH SUPPORT STAFF:
Nancy Claiborne, PhD
Catherine Lawrence, PhD
IMPACT: Development of valid and reliable coordinated assessment system

OFFICE OF PERSONS WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES VALIDITY AND RELIABILITY STUDY

PRINCIPAL AIMS:
To validate the new Coordinated Assessment System as a needs assessment tool for persons with developmental disabilities in NYS

METHODOLOGY & SOFTWARE USED:
Statistics to measure the degree to which the Coordinated Assessment System is valid as an assessment tool by demonstrating alignment between subscales and established measurement scales. Also, analyze internal reliability of items, applicability for youth diagnosis and inter-rater reliability.

FUNDING:
$49,500

DATES OF STUDY:
2/2014 – 6/2015

PROGRESS TO DATE:
N/A

ANTICIPATED CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE SOCIAL WORK FIELD:
N/A

CHSR INVESTIGATORS:
Bradley Watts
Sandra McGinnis
IMPACT: Very little is known about mental illness in deaf populations. This research will increase our understanding of how serious mental illness manifests in deaf populations and shed light on the ways that mental illness affects perception and cognition in deaf persons.

PERCEPTION AND COGNITION IN THE DEAF: SEQUELAE AMONG SUBJECTS WITH AND WITHOUT SCHIZOPHRENIA

PRINCIPAL AIMS:
The current study extends prior work that investigated deaf subjects with and without schizophrenia in order to examine differences explained by schizophrenia. Replication of earlier work is an important part of the project, however more fundamental goals relate to a continued focus on basic research regarding the manifestation of schizophrenia in the deaf. The study employs a sample of deaf people with and without schizophrenia to compare performance levels in particular domains of functioning. Schizophrenia-related deficits compared to average performance levels among non-mentally ill deaf people will highlight profiles of cognitive functioning, including linguistic and visual processing, as well as psychological and symptom summaries that will contribute to knowledge bases regarding the course and treatment of schizophrenia in general.

METHODOLOGY & SOFTWARE USED:
A convenience sample of deaf people with and without schizophrenia will be recruited (respectively) from the Capital District. An extensive diagnostic interview as well as a battery of cognitive and social cognitive measures will be administered.

FUNDING:
Faculty Research Award Program (A).

DATES OF STUDY:
1/2014- Present

PROGRESS TO DATE:
FRAP A grant awarded, IRB application submitted, data collection will begin once IRB approval is granted.

ANTICIPATED CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE SOCIAL WORK FIELD:
Little research exists regarding deaf people with schizophrenia and the majority of the population remains inappropriately institutionalized or untreated. Basic research will contribute to knowledge regarding the course and treatment of the illness in the deaf as well as extend our understanding of how a reliance on a visuo-spatial language interacts with thought, language, and mental illness.

SSW INVESTIGATOR:
Heather K. Horton, PhD

RESEARCH SUPPORT STAFF:
Marley Mills
Heather Dingman
IMPACT: Building capacity to address diabetes among people with disabilities to both ensure their greater inclusion in community based interventions and reduce the likelihood that greater morbidity from diabetes will threaten community maintenance and quality of life.

REDUCING THE IMPACT OF DIABETES AMONG PERSONS WITH EXISTING DISABILITIES

PRINCIPAL AIMS:
3. To develop diabetes self-management capacity within the disabilities services network.
4. To reduce the likelihood that diabetes will reduce the independence of people with disabilities.

METHODOLOGY & SOFTWARE USED:
Management of data on staff training, health and quality of life outcomes, cost, coalition, and collaboration building and quality assurance/treatment fidelity.

FUNDING:
NYSDOH and CMS ($701,000)

DATES OF STUDY:
2014 – 2015

PROGRESS TO DATE:
Development of training and contracts

ANTICIPATED CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE SOCIAL WORK FIELD:
Building systems change implementation science knowledge

SSW INVESTIGATORS:
Philip McCallion, PhD
Lisa Ferretti, LMSW

COLLABORATOR:
Independent Living Centers in NYS

RESEARCH SUPPORT STAFF:
SangAh Chun
IMPACT:  Building understanding of the unique aging issues and challenges for people with intellectual disabilities and informing related public policy development.

THE INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY SUPPLEMENT TO THE IRISH LONGITUDINAL STUDY ON AGING

PRINCIPAL AIMS:
To develop a national, representative, longitudinal study of the health of people with intellectual disability as they age.

METHODOLOGY & SOFTWARE USED:
A representative sample of 753 persons with intellectual disabilities over age 40 drawn from the National Intellectual Disabilities Participants will be followed for 10 years.

FUNDING:
Health Research Board of Ireland: $1,200,000

DATES OF STUDY:
2009 – 2015

PROGRESS TO DATE:
Wave one and Wave two data collection completed

ANTICIPATED CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE SOCIAL WORK FIELD:
A better understanding of the aging of people with intellectual disabilities.

SSW INVESTIGATOR:
Philip McCallion, PhD

COLLABORATOR:
Mary McCarron, PhD
IMPACT: The proposed assessment of the relative impact of state and federal policy activities on insurance coverage is needed to extend prior knowledge on best enrollment practices generated through the State Health Access Reform Evaluation (SHARE) initiative and studies of other expansion efforts (e.g., CHIP). This is especially critical, given the key role of insurance coverage in decreasing health disparities.

A COMPARATIVE CASE STUDY OF ACA NAVIGATORS

PRINCIPAL AIMS:
This study investigate the interplay between federal “top down” policy levers intended to motivate enrollment of the uninsured in health plans and state-level “bottom up” activities that promote, and in some cases hinder, enrollment, especially in states that have not embraced the Affordable Care Act (ACA). The specific goals are: (1) to determine the state and federal enrollment approaches and investments that yield the greatest increases in insurance rates, and identify if the increases are similar for specific groups (e.g., racial-ethnic minorities for whom health disparities are a significant concern; healthy young adults); and (2) in light of variations in state-level economic, political, and policy environments, to provide feasible recommendations for policymakers and other stakeholders who seek to establish and carry out activities that will assure future health coverage expansion.

METHODOLOGY & SOFTWARE USED:
Qualitative methods.

FUNDING:
Unfunded

DATES OF STUDY:
8/2014 – Present

PROGRESS TO DATE:
Qualitative interviews completed; presentation accepted at SSWR 2015 Annual Conference.

ANTICIPATED CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE SOCIAL WORK FIELD:
May contribute to best practices regarding outreach to populations with the greatest barriers to health care; May inform policy advocacy organizations about how to influence State and Federal policies to improve access to health care

SSW INVESTIGATOR:
Lynn Warner, PhD

COLLABORATOR:
Brenda Smith, PhD (University of Alabama)

RESEARCH SUPPORT STAFF:
Kevin O’Keeffe, MSW Student
IMPACT: Consistent with the federal and state mandates of “Ending AIDS,” this research will illuminate how HIV-negative black men who have sex with men maintain their sero-status.

HIV PREVENTION DECISION-MAKING AMONG NEW YORK STATE HIV-NEGATIVE BLACK MEN WHO HAVE SEX WITH MEN

Principal Aims:
1. To understand the meaning HIV negative BMSM attribute to their sero-status.
2. To understand how HIV negative BMSM sustain their sero-status.
   a. To determine the perceptions HIV negative BMSM have of PrEP as an HIV prevention strategy;
   b. To determine if, how and why HIV negative BMSM utilize PrEP as an HIV prevention strategy; and
3. To identify and understand the life events of HIV negative BMSM that supports their sero-status.
4. To determine the salience, if any, spirituality has for HIV negative BMSM.

METHODOLOGY & SOFTWARE USED:
Qualitative, life history narratives, ATLAS Ti

FUNDING:
New York State Department of Health AIDS Institute and Frap B

DATES OF STUDY:
2 years

PROGRESS TO DATE:
IRB has been secured and data collection is in process

ANTICIPATED CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE SOCIAL WORK FIELD:
Further supports in social work HIV prevention efforts

SSW INVESTIGATOR:
Robert L. Miller, Jr., PhD
IMPACT: The study is in the publication phase. The data indicate that HIV positive African American men have established social support, prayer, intentional learning of specific health behavior practices and outcomes driven behaviors as elements of their spiritual practices. An intervention study is being developed to operationalize these findings.

EXPLORING SPIRITUAL AGENCY AS A FRAMEWORK FOR HIV PREVENTION IN AFRICAN AMERICAN GAY MEN

PRINCIPAL AIMS:
1. To create a working definition of spiritual agency and to examine the cognitive, affective and behavioral dimensions of the term in HIV negative/positive African American gay men.
2. To explore how African American gay men understand their various identities (race, gender, sexual orientation and disease status) in relation to spiritual agency.
3. To analyze the relevance of spiritual agency in the lives of these men and particularly as it relates to primary and secondary HIV prevention efforts.

METHODOLOGY & SOFTWARE USED:
Narrative Collective Case study, ATLAS.ti.

FUNDING:
National Institute of Childhood Health and Human Development, NIH.

DATES OF STUDY:
11/06 – Present

PROGRESS TO DATE:
Data have been analyzed and papers are being generated.

ANTICIPATED CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE SOCIAL WORK FIELD:
1. A deeper understanding of the utility of spirituality in the lives of African American men who have sex with men as they engage in HIV prevention efforts;
2. A conceptualization of spiritual agency as it influences primary and secondary HIV prevention efforts in HIV positive and negative men in light of their core identities of race, gender and sexual orientation;
3. An empirical understanding of themes related to the supports and impediments of HIV prevention efforts among African American men who have sex with men;
4. An articulation of structural and environmental obstacles to effective HIV prevention messages for a cohort of 32 African American men who have sex with men.

SSW INVESTIGATOR:
Robert L. Miller, Jr., PhD

COLLABORATORS:
Olga Grinstead, PhD
Judith Barker, PhD, University of California
Hector Carrillo, PhD, San Francisco State University
IMPACT: Pilot studies for this effort are currently being conducted in Tanzania. College students who engage in tourism and survival sex for cash exchanges are the research informants. Preliminary data will be available in the next three months.

DETERMINING AND MONITORING HIV AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE RISKS BEHAVIORS AMONG UNIVERSITY STUDENTS AND STAFF AT THE UNIVERSITY OF DODOMA (UDOM), TANZANIA

PRINCIPAL AIMS:
The primary goal is to gather behavioral data to monitor HIV and substance abuse risks among university students and staff at the University of Dodoma (UDOM), Tanzania. Surveying health risk behaviors in this population of more than 20,000 is important because university students are a scarce and valuable national resource in Tanzania.

METHODOLOGY & SOFTWARE USED:
The project will utilize different methods (i.e. will use both quantitative and qualitative methods of data collection and urine/saliva dipstick tests) of assessing risk behaviors among UDOM university students and staff populations, as well as a variety of different AIDS prevention programming on this university (school campuses). The development of the survey instrument proposed here would provide baseline data that will allow us as researchers to monitor changes in knowledge, attitudes, and behaviors related to HIV/AIDS, to relate any changes to the various types of programming being utilized.

FUNDING: The University of Dodoma and potentially from federal sources.

DATES OF STUDY: N/A

PROGRESS TO DATE:
Data have been analyzed and papers are being generated.

ANTICIPATED CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE SOCIAL WORK FIELD:
This project will provide a better understanding of the psychosocial determinants of HIV related risk and protection among university students. This understanding will help define the most effective strategies for promoting behavior change that reduces the risk of transmission of the disease (Priority 1.1). Additionally, it will provide information about the role of stigma and discrimination among this population, and its impact on HIV and AIDS prevention efforts (Priority 1.2). The information obtained on both of these topics will greatly benefit the ability of the University of Dodoma to fight the spread of the disease among its populations (students and staff). The proposed study will take 12-18 months of baseline data collection, analysis and report writing.

SSW INVESTIGATOR:
Robert L. Miller, Jr., PhD

COLLABORATORS:
Steven Nsimba, (University of Dodoma)
C.J. Comor, (University of Dodoma)
C.K., Mgweshemi, (University of Dodoma).
IMPACT: Building Services and Supports to Reduce the Impact of Diabetes in the South Bronx

BUILDING SERVICES AND SUPPORTS TO REDUCE THE IMPACT OF DIABETES IN THE SOUTH BRONX

PRINCIPAL AIMS:
1. To develop diabetes self-management capacity in a community with the highest level of diabetes and diabetes related amputations.
2. To reduce the likelihood that diabetes will result in hospitalizations.

METHODOLOGY & SOFTWARE USED:
Management of data on staff training, health and quality of life outcomes, cost, coalition, and collaboration building and quality assurance/treatment fidelity.

FUNDING:
NYSDOH and CMS ($348,000)

DATES OF STUDY:
2014 – 2015

PROGRESS TO DATE:
Development of training and contracts

ANTICIPATED CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE SOCIAL WORK FIELD:
Building systems change implementation science knowledge

SSW INVESTIGATORS:
Philip McCallion, PhD
Lisa Ferretti, LMSW

COLLABORATORS:
HealthPeople
NYS Academy of Family Physicians

RESEARCH SUPPORT STAFF:
SangAh Chun
IMPACT: The building of new models to link physician practices and clinics to community based delivery of health promotion with related reduction of incidence of Heart Disease, Stroke and Diabetes

COMMUNITY CLINICAL LINKAGE STRATEGIES TO SUPPORT HEART DISEASE AND STROKE AND DIABETES PREVENTION EFFORTS

PRINCIPAL AIMS:
1. Utilize a custom data portal to expand referrals from primary care physicians.
2. Pilot a bidirectional communication approach between primary care physicians and community based delivery sites for evidence based health promotion programs
3. Evaluate the impact of these more coordinated efforts on incidence of Heart Disease and Stroke and Diabetes in select New York City communities.

METHODOLOGY & SOFTWARE USED:
Management of data on staff training, health and quality of life outcomes, cost, coalition, and collaboration building and quality assurance/treatment fidelity.

FUNDING:
CDC and NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene ($400,000)

DATES OF STUDY:
2014 – 2018

PROGRESS TO DATE:
Development of contracts

ANTICIPATED CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE SOCIAL WORK FIELD:
Building systems change implementation science knowledge

SSW INVESTIGATORS:
Philip McCallion, PhD
Lisa Ferretti, LMSW

COLLABORATOR:
NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
IMPACT: Building capacity to address diabetes among people with disabilities to both ensure their greater inclusion in community based interventions and reduce the likelihood that greater morbidity from diabetes will threaten community maintenance and quality of life.

REDUCING THE IMPACT OF DIABETES AMONG PERSONS WITH EXISTING DISABILITIES

PRINCIPAL AIMS:
1. To develop diabetes self-management capacity within the disabilities services network.
2. To reduce the likelihood that diabetes will reduce the independence of people with disabilities.

METHODOLOGY & SOFTWARE USED:
Management of data on staff training, health and quality of life outcomes, cost, coalition, and collaboration building and quality assurance/treatment fidelity.

FUNDING:
NYSDOH and CMS ($701,000)

DATES OF STUDY:
2014 – 2015

PROGRESS TO DATE:
Development of training and contracts

ANTICIPATED CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE SOCIAL WORK FIELD:
Building systems change implementation science knowledge

SSW INVESTIGATORS:
Philip McCallion, PhD
Lisa Ferretti, LMSW

COLLABORATOR:
Independent Living Centers in NYS

RESEARCH SUPPORT STAFF:
SangAh Chun
IMPACT: Consistent with ACO and Medical Home concepts building new models for the delivery and sustainability of evidence-based health promotion

REPLICATING THE NATIONAL DIABETES PREVENTION PROGRAM AMONG PRIMARY CARE PROVIDERS

PRINCIPAL AIM:
Implement and evaluate internal realignments by health systems and community based agencies designed to support sustained delivery of the National Diabetes Prevention Program.

METHODOLOGY & SOFTWARE USED:
Management of data on staff training, health and quality of life outcomes, cost, coalition, and collaboration building and quality assurance/treatment fidelity.

FUNDING:
NYS Health Foundation ($75,000)

DATES OF STUDY:
2014 – 2015

PROGRESS TO DATE:
Development of contracts

ANTICIPATED CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE SOCIAL WORK FIELD:
Building systems change implementation science knowledge

SSW INVESTIGATORS:
Philip McCallion, PhD
Lisa Ferretti, LMSW

COLLABORATOR:
New York State Health Foundation
IMPACT: Building understanding of the unique aging issues and challenges for people with intellectual disabilities and informing related public policy development.

QUALITY AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE CENTER, STATEWIDE SUPPORT OF DELIVERY OF EVIDENCE-BASED ARTHRITIS, DIABETES PREVENTION AND CHRONIC DISEASE AND DISABILITY MANAGEMENT PROGRAMS

PRINCIPAL AIMS:
To build an infrastructure capable of sustaining program delivery in ways that will attract reimbursement and build community-clinical linkages.

METHODOLOGY & SOFTWARE USED:
A representative sample of 753 persons with intellectual disabilities over age 40 drawn from the National Intellectual Disabilities Participants will be followed for 10 years.

FUNDING:
Health Research Board of Ireland: $1,200,000

DATES OF STUDY:
2009 – 2015

PROGRESS TO DATE:
Wave one and Wave two data collection completed

ANTICIPATED CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE SOCIAL WORK FIELD:
A better understanding of the aging of people with intellectual disabilities

SSW INVESTIGATOR:
Philip McCallion, PhD

COLLABORATOR:
Mary McCarron, PhD
IMPACT: Building understanding of the unique aging issues and challenges for people with intellectual disabilities and informing related public policy development.

THE INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY SUPPLEMENT TO THE IRISH LONGITUDINAL STUDY ON AGING

PRINCIPAL AIMS:
To develop a national, representative, longitudinal study of the health of people with intellectual disability as they age.

METHODOLOGY & SOFTWARE USED:
A representative sample of 753 persons with intellectual disabilities over age 40 drawn from the National Intellectual Disabilities Participants will be followed for 10 years.

FUNDING:
Health Research Board of Ireland: $1,200,000

DATES OF STUDY:
2009 – 2015

PROGRESS TO DATE:
Wave one and Wave two data collection completed

ANTICIPATED CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE SOCIAL WORK FIELD:
A better understanding of the aging of people with intellectual disabilities.

SSW INVESTIGATOR:
Philip McCallion, PhD

COLLABORATOR:
Mary McCarron, PhD
IMPACT: Consistent with the federal and state mandates of “Ending AIDS,” this research will illuminate how HIV-negative black men who have sex with men maintain their sero-status.

HIV PREVENTION DECISION-MAKING AMONG NEW YORK STATE HIV-NEGATIVE BLACK MEN WHO HAVE SEX WITH MEN

Principal Aims:
1. To understand the meaning HIV negative BMSM attribute to their sero-status.
2. To understand how HIV negative BMSM sustain their sero-status.
   a. To determine the perceptions HIV negative BMSM have of PrEP as an HIV prevention strategy;
   b. To determine if, how and why HIV negative BMSM utilize PrEP as an HIV prevention strategy; and
3. To identify and understand the life events of HIV negative BMSM that supports their sero-status.
4. To determine the salience, if any, spirituality has for HIV negative BMSM.

METHODOLOGY & SOFTWARE USED:
Qualitative, life history narratives, ATLAS Ti

FUNDING:
New York State Department of Health AIDS Institute and Frap B

DATES OF STUDY:
2 years

PROGRESS TO DATE:
IRB has been secured and data collection is in process

ANTICIPATED CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE SOCIAL WORK FIELD:
Further supports in social work HIV prevention efforts

SSW INVESTIGATOR:
Robert L. Miller, Jr., PhD
IMPACT: The study is in the publication phase. The data indicate that a HIV positive African American men have established social support, prayer, intentional learning of specific health behavior practices and outcomes driven behaviors as elements of their spiritual practices. An intervention study is being developed to operationalize these findings.

EXPLORING SPIRITUAL AGENCY AS A FRAMEWORK FOR HIV PREVENTION IN AFRICAN AMERICAN GAY MEN

PRINCIPAL AIMS:
4. To create a working definition of spiritual agency and to examine the cognitive, affective and behavioral dimensions of the term in HIV negative/positive African American gay men.
5. To explore how African American gay men understand their various identities (race, gender, sexual orientation and disease status) in relation to spiritual agency.
6. To analyze the relevance of spiritual agency in the lives of these men and particularly as it relates to primary and secondary HIV prevention efforts.

METHODOLOGY & SOFTWARE USED:
Narrative Collective Case study, ATLAS.ti.

FUNDING:
National Institute of Childhood Health and Human Development, NIH.

DATES OF STUDY:
11/06 – Present

PROGRESS TO DATE:
Data has been analyzed and papers are being generated.

ANTICIPATED CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE SOCIAL WORK FIELD:
1. A deeper understanding of the utility of spirituality in the lives of African American men who have sex with men as they engage in HIV prevention efforts;
2. A conceptualization of spiritual agency as it influences primary and secondary HIV prevention efforts in HIV positive and negative men in light of their core identities of race, gender and sexual orientation;
3. An empirical understanding of themes related to the supports and impediments of HIV prevention efforts among African American men who have sex with men;
4. An articulation of structural and environmental obstacles to effective HIV prevention messages for a cohort of 32 African American men who have sex with men.

SSW INVESTIGATOR:
Robert L. Miller, Jr., PhD

COLLABORATORS:
Olga Grinstead, PhD
Judith Barker, PhD, University of California
Hector Carrillo, PhD, San Francisco State University
IMPACT: Pilot studies for this effort are currently being conducted in Tanzania. College students who engage in tourism and survival sex for cash exchanges are the research informants. Preliminary data will be available in the next three months.

DETERMINING AND MONITORING HIV AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE RISKS BEHAVIORS AMONG UNIVERSITY STUDENTS AND STAFF AT THE UNIVERSITY OF DODOMA (UDOM), TANZANIA

PRINCIPAL AIMS:
The primary goal is to gather behavioral data to monitor HIV and substance abuse risks among university students and staff at the University of Dodoma (UDOM), Tanzania. Surveying health risk behaviors in this population of more than 20,000 is important because university students are a scarce and valuable national resource in Tanzania.

METHODOLOGY & SOFTWARE USED:
The project will utilize different methods (i.e. will use both quantitative and qualitative methods of data collection and urine/saliva dipstick tests) of assessing risk behaviors among UDOM university students and staff populations, as well as a variety of different AIDS prevention programming on this university (school campuses). The development of the survey instrument proposed here would provide baseline data that will allow us as researchers to monitor changes in knowledge, attitudes, and behaviors related to HIV/AIDS, to relate any changes to the various types of programming being utilized.

FUNDING: The University of Dodoma and potentially from federal sources.

DATES OF STUDY: N/A

PROGRESS TO DATE:
Data has been analyzed and papers are being generated.

ANTICIPATED CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE SOCIAL WORK FIELD:
This project will provide a better understanding of the psychosocial determinants of HIV related risk and protection among university students. This understanding will help define the most effective strategies for promoting behavior change that reduces the risk of transmission of the disease (Priority 1.1). Additionally, it will provide information about the role of stigma and discrimination among this population, and its impact on HIV and AIDS prevention efforts (Priority 1.2). The information obtained on both of these topics will greatly benefit the ability of the University of Dodoma to fight the spread of the disease among its populations (students and staff). The proposed study will take 12-18 months of baseline data collection, analysis and report writing.

SSW INVESTIGATOR: Robert L. Miller, Jr., PhD

COLLABORATORS:
Steven Nsimba, (University of Dodoma)
C.J. Comor, (University of Dodoma)
C.K., Mgweshemi, (University of Dodoma).
IMPACT: In addition to traditional kinds of scholarly dissemination, the findings of this study culminate in the production of a guide and training for international actors working in disaster recovery settings, focusing on practical applications of local-external partnership building, providing professionals with a unique opportunity to advance skills in sustainable disaster recovery practices.

DYNAMICS BETWEEN LOCAL AND FOREIGN ACTORS: INFLUENCES ON CAPABILITIES IN POST-EARTHQUAKE RURAL HAITI AND HURRICANE IMPACTED RURAL GULF COAST

PRINCIPAL AIMS:
The research is a comparative study of disaster-affected rural communities on the United States Gulf Coast (Louisiana and Mississippi) and Haiti designed to analyze the interactions between international actors and communities during recovery efforts and the influences that local participation has on the capabilities of disaster-affected individuals.

METHODOLOGY & SOFTWARE USED:
Mixed-methods, including key informant interviews, content analysis of organizational documents, random household surveys, critical discourse analysis of print and online media, and policy analysis

FUNDING: National Science Foundation/Disaster Resilience in Rural Communities; $399,641.

DATES OF STUDY: 2011 – 2015

PROGRESS TO DATE: Working on instrument development and identification of media sample

ANTICIPATED CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE SOCIAL WORK FIELD:
The findings will culminate in the production of a guide and training for international actors working in disaster recovery settings. The guide and training will stem from the findings of the study, focusing on practical applications of local-external partnership building, providing professionals with a unique opportunity to advance skills in sustainable disaster recovery practices. Benefits can accrue to rural communities impacted by disasters, as a result of this research, providing them with greater opportunities to participate in their own recovery efforts and benefit from technical assistance and other direct supports from international partners working to advance sustainable recovery.

SSW INVESTIGATOR: Loretta Pyles, PhD

COLLABORATORS:
Tom Birkland (North Carolina State)
Tonya Thornton-Neaves (Mississippi State)
Josue Andre, Universite de Fondwa/ SEKONAPA (Haiti)

RESEARCH SUPPORT STAFF:
Juliana Svistova (Project Coordinator/ Graduate Research Assistant)
IMPACT: To promote the educational awareness and professional skills needed by helping professionals to provide effective service in a global society.

GLOBAL RURAL COMMUNITIES IMPACTED BY GLOBALIZATION, LIMITED SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC JUSTICE AND ADVOCACY: IMPLICATIONS FOR POLICY AND COMMUNITY PRACTICE.

PRINCIPAL AIMS:
The principal aim of this research is to secure information for a book. The vision for the research and book is to: highlight socio-economic and cultural issues in global rural communities; the impact that these issues have on rural residents, their community, and their nation; and the implications for preparing helping professionals to work in a global society. Telephone conferences, focus group meetings and library research will be designed and implemented.

METHODOLOGY & SOFTWARE USED:
Questionnaires, focus group meetings, (and) library research and dialogues will be used to secure quantitative and qualitative information. Sustainable dialogues will be used to secure case studies and action plans. It is hoped that the dialogues will foster “collective wisdom" and help to develop global collaborative partnerships.

FUNDING:
Seeking direct and indirect funding. Exploring how indirect funding can aid in reaching research goals


ANTICIPATED CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE SOCIAL WORK FIELD:
1) To educate helping professionals as well as the general public about global rural issues and concerns.
2) To provide information for local, regional, national and international governments regarding rural issues and the needs/concerns of rural residents.
3) To promote social and economic justice for rural areas and their residents.
4) To encourage collaborative partnerships (i.e. urban/rural, general public and helping professional, national and international) for change and development.
5) To better educate and train helping professionals to work in rural areas and to help bring about community change and development from a global perspective.

SSW INVESTIGATOR:
Shirley J. Jones, PhD

COLLABORATORS:
Talking with selected staff of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, also collaborating with International Donor organizations and International Faith Based Organizations
IMPACT: To influence policy makers to provide needed assistance to the childless older adults in China

DISertation Title: HOW CHILDLESSNESS AFFECTS THE WELLBEING AND MORTALITY OF OLDER ADULTS IN CHINA

PRINCIPAL AIMS: To understand the impact of childlessness on older adults in China; how gender, marital status, disability, and social support interact with childlessness.

METHODOLOGY & SOFTWARE USED: Secondary Data Analysis (Linear and logistic regression, survival analysis). The data analysis will be performed using Stata 13

FUNDING: N/A

DURATION OF STUDY: Fall 2013-Spring 2016

PROGRESS TO DATE: Finished doctoral essay, and now working on the research proposal. Dataset for the study was acquired for further analysis.

ANTICIPATED CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE SOCIAL WORK FIELD: It is hoped that this study will provide new knowledge and understanding about the special group, childless elders, for social work practitioners and policy makers in China. It could provide evidence to advocate for policies or programs to assist childless elders, and to guide the practice of social workers who directly work with this population.

DOCTORAL STUDENT: Junrong Shi

COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Phil McCallion, PhD (Chair) Keith Chan, PhD Russell Ward, PhD (Sociology Department, University at Albany)
IMPACT: In a rapidly changing world, helping professionals should be encouraged to identify and promote important professional values, perspectives and theories in order to provide effective change and development in communities, and to also be encouraged to respect the worth and dignity of all people.

INFORMATION AS A CONSCIOUS INTERVENTION: GENERALIZING FROM GLOBAL RURAL ISSUES

PRINCIPAL AIMS:
The principal aim of this research is to help prepare helping professionals to meet global community needs. The vision that supports this research and the interest to publish a book related to it stems from the hypothesis that helping professionals should be educated to better appreciate that information and knowledge united with worth, purpose, ethics and principles can play important roles in the lives of poor, disabled and vulnerable individuals, small groups, families, organizations, and societies.

METHODOLOGY & SOFTWARE USED:
Questionnaires, focus group meetings, library research and dialogues will be used to secure quantitative and qualitative information. Sustainable dialogues will be used to secure case studies and action plans. It is hoped that the dialogues will foster “collective wisdom” and help to develop global collaborative partnerships. International organizations will be used to identify rural researchers and authors for the book.

FUNDING: Seeking direct and indirect funding.

DATES OF STUDY: 11/2013 - 11/2015

PROGRESS TO DATE: I held a collaborative meeting with professional colleagues; continued my library research, identified collaborative authors, completed drafts of several chapters for review, and now exploring possible publishers.

ANTICIPATED CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE SOCIAL WORK FIELD:
1) To better promote information as a conscious intervention for effective change and development.
2) To provide information for local, regional, national and international governments regarding rural issues and the needs/concerns of rural residents.
3) To promote social and economic justice for all communities and their residents.
4) To encourage collaborative partnerships (i.e. urban/rural, general public and helping professionals, national and international) for change and development.
5) To better educate and train Helping Professionals to help bring about community change and development from a global perspective.

SSW INVESTIGATOR:
Shirley J. Jones, PhD

COLLABORATORS:
Dr. Ayodeji Badejo (Lagos University, Nigeria)   Dr. Sharon Cadiz (United States)
Dr. Orpha Ongita (Kenya)                        Samuel Johnson (United States)
IMPACT: Pilot studies for this effort are currently being conducted in Tanzania. College students who engage in tourism and survival sex for cash exchanges are the research informants. Preliminary data will be available in the next three months.

DETERMINING AND MONITORING HIV AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE RISKS BEHAVIORS AMONG UNIVERSITY STUDENTS AND STAFF AT THE UNIVERSITY OF DODOMA (UDOM), TANZANIA

PRINCIPAL AIMS: The primary goal is to gather behavioral data to monitor HIV and substance abuse risks among university students and staff at the University of Dodoma (UDOM), Tanzania. Surveying health risk behaviors in this population of more than 20,000 is important because university students are a scarce and valuable national resource in Tanzania.

METHODOLOGY & SOFTWARE USED: The project will utilize different methods (i.e. will use both quantitative and qualitative methods of data collection and urine/saliva dipstick tests) of assessing risk behaviors among UDOM university students and staff populations, as well as a variety of different AIDS prevention programming on this university (school campuses). The development of the survey instrument proposed here would provide baseline data that will allow us as researchers to monitor changes in knowledge, attitudes, and behaviors related to HIV/AIDS, to relate any changes to the various types of programming being utilized.

FUNDING: The University of Dodoma and potentially from federal sources.

DATES OF STUDY: N/A

PROGRESS TO DATE: Data have been analyzed and papers are being generated.

ANTICIPATED CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE SOCIAL WORK FIELD: This project will provide a better understanding of the psychosocial determinants of HIV related risk and protection among university students. This understanding will help define the most effective strategies for promoting behavior change that reduces the risk of transmission of the disease (Priority 1.1). Additionally, it will provide information about the role of stigma and discrimination among this population, and its impact on HIV and AIDS prevention efforts (Priority 1.2). The information obtained on both of these topics will greatly benefit the ability of the University of Dodoma to fight the spread of the disease among its populations (students and staff). The proposed study will take 12-18 months of baseline data collection, analysis and report writing.

SSW INVESTIGATOR: Robert L. Miller, Jr., PhD

COLLABORATORS: Steven Nsimba, (University of Dodoma) C.J. Comor, (University of Dodoma) C.K., Mgweshemi, (University of Dodoma)
IMPACT: Having implemented realist evaluation in the last 13 years, Moray Council in Scotland is the only local authority in the United Kingdom to practice evaluation consistently with its social services, schools and youth justice; and its main contribution to knowledge is to demonstrate that robust evaluation research strategies can be integrated into the daily practice of all human service agencies, to continuously evaluate what interventions work and in what circumstances.

EVALUATION OF MORAY COUNCIL’S CHILDREN’S SERVICES, SCOTLAND, UNITED KINGDOM

PRINCIPAL AIMS:
Moray Council’s Children & Family and Criminal Justice Service has been integrating realist evaluation (Kazi, 2003) into practice to investigate what interventions work and in what contexts to achieve the Scottish Government’s ‘Getting it Right for Every Child’ outcomes. This strategy includes the use of reliable outcome measures repeatedly over time, the recording of children and families’ contextual data, and information on the services provided.

METHODOLOGY & SOFTWARE USED:
Moray Council has used realist evaluation for the last 13 years, including the systematic tracking of outcomes, interventions and client circumstances. Data from the management information systems (social services, education and youth justice) is analyzed every three months to inform future practice. Research tools such as binary logistic regression models are used to investigate the contexts in which the interventions are to be effective.

FUNDING: $133,000 (Moray Council local authority, Scotland)


PROGRESS TO DATE:
Regular analysis of patterns of change in this data enable a prospective investigation of where services are more or less likely to achieve the desired outcomes, and the repeated analysis of the findings help to better target the services for children and their families. A 10-year longitudinal evaluation found that although the program had been effective in reducing the risk of offending and the number of offences, alcohol misuse was a significant barrier to progress for persistent young offenders.

ANTICIPATED CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE SOCIAL WORK FIELD:
The area social work teams are helping the majority of the young people to improve on the Child Holistic Measure (CHM), the Index of Self-Esteem (ISE) and in the Practitioners’ Holistic Measurement Tool (PHMT). Additionally, with regard to the extent of improvement, those who had family support workers were improving more than those who did not; and the findings were similar with Children 1st—Children’s Right Worker involvement. CHM and PHMT were validated as part of this evaluation. Since the last year, an added emphasis has been on universal school data from the local authority, and the programs of intervention with children and families are evaluated universally for all children attending schools in Moray Council, using academic school outcomes, behavior and attendance.

SSW INVESTIGATOR: Mansoor A. F. Kazi
IMPACT: Building understanding of the unique aging issues and challenges for people with intellectual disabilities and informing related public policy development.

QUALITY AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE CENTER, STATEWIDE SUPPORT OF DELIVERY OF EVIDENCE-BASED ARTHRITIS, DIABETES PREVENTION AND CHRONIC DISEASE AND DISABILITY MANAGEMENT PROGRAMS

PRINCIPAL AIMS:
To build an infrastructure capable of sustaining program delivery in ways that will attract reimbursement and build community-clinical linkages.

METHODOLOGY & SOFTWARE USED:
A representative sample of 753 persons with intellectual disabilities over age 40 drawn from the National Intellectual Disabilities Participants will be followed for 10 years.

FUNDING:
Health Research Board of Ireland: $1,200,000

DATES OF STUDY: 2009 – 2015

PROGRESS TO DATE:
Wave one and Wave two data collection completed

ANTICIPATED CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE SOCIAL WORK FIELD:
A better understanding of the aging of people with intellectual disabilities

SSW INVESTIGATOR:
Philip McCallion, PhD

COLLABORATOR
Mary McCarron, PhD
IMPACT: Building understanding of the unique aging issues and challenges for people with intellectual disabilities and informing related public policy development.

THE INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY SUPPLEMENT TO THE IRISH LONGITUDINAL STUDY ON AGING

PRINCIPAL AIMS:
To develop a national, representative, longitudinal study of the health of people with intellectual disability as they age.

METHODOLOGY & SOFTWARE USED:
A representative sample of 753 persons with intellectual disabilities over age 40 drawn from the National Intellectual Disabilities Participants will be followed for 10 years.

FUNDING:
Health Research Board of Ireland: $1,200,000

DATES OF STUDY:
2009 – 2015

PROGRESS TO DATE:
Wave one and Wave two data collection completed

ANTICIPATED CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE SOCIAL WORK FIELD:
A better understanding of the aging of people with intellectual disabilities.

SSW INVESTIGATOR:
Philip McCallion, PhD

COLLABORATOR:
Mary McCarron, PhD
IMPACT: If in fact different subgroups present with different complicated grief symptoms, it follows that effective intervention protocols for complicated grief may need to be developed for specific subgroups, such as bereaved parents or those who have experienced a traumatic loss.

DISSERTATION TITLE: COMPLICATED GRIEF PRESENTATION IN THE HELP-SEEKING BEREAVED

PRINCIPAL AIMS: To gain further insight into the characteristics of those who seek bereavement counseling, to determine validity, reliability, and diagnostic consistency across current Complicated Grief Disorder criteria sets within a large heterogeneous sample of grievers, and to enhance the understanding of various manifestations of complicated grief among different subgroups of mourners.

METHODOLOGY & SOFTWARE USED: Quantitative statistical analyses using PASW18

FUNDING: None

DURATION OF STUDY: 12 months

PROGRESS TO DATE: Dissertation proposal is under review

ANTICIPATED CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE SOCIAL WORK FIELD: Unique examination of the validity of proposed Complicated Grief Disorder criteria sets in the general bereaved population as well as for different subgroups of grievers.

DOCTORAL STUDENT: Marley Mills

COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Lynn Warner, PhD (Chair) Heather Horton, PhD Carla Sofka, PhD
IMPACT: Inform the implementation of projects serving homeless populations with substance abuse and mental health issues.

EVALUATION OF PEOPLE ADVANCING THROUGH TREATMENT AND HOUSING (PATH)

PRINCIPAL AIMS: The Center for Human Services Research is evaluating the implementation and outcomes of the PATH project, implemented by the Addiction Care Center of Albany (ACCA), to serve the homeless population with substance abuse and mental health issues.

METHODOLOGY & SOFTWARE USED: The study uses software developed specifically for grantees supported by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) that collects data on the participant, service and outcome variables.

FUNDING: U.S. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration/Addiction Care Center of Albany: $257,996


ANTICIPATED CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE SOCIAL WORK FIELD: The evaluation is designed to assist ACCA in its efforts to implement the project and to examine if PATH is achieving the goals and objectives as intended.

CHSR INVESTIGATORS: Sandra McGinnis Michael Clarkson-Hendrix
IMPACT: Although most studies show positive criminal justice and clinical outcomes for Mental Health Courts (MHC) participants, little is known about the impact of community treatment and neighborhood environment on recidivism in MHCs compared to traditional courts.

DISSERTATION TITLE: IMPACT OF COMMUNITY TREATMENT AND NEIGHBORHOOD ENVIRONMENT ON RECIDIVISM IN MENTAL HEALTH COURTS

PRINCIPAL AIMS:
1. To examine whether there are significant differences in individual treatment and neighborhood environments between two sample groups (MHC and traditional court participants) and between two time periods (before and after court enrollment/arrest);
2. To examine the impact of treatment and neighborhood factors on recidivism among offenders with mental health problems for both sample groups;
3. To examine whether the effects of treatment and neighborhood factors change from before to after court enrollment/arrest for each sample group separately, and whether MHC involvement (as compared to traditional court involvement) reduces recidivism after considering changes in treatment and neighborhood factors.

METHODOLOGY & SOFTWARE USED:
HLM, ArcGIS

FUNDING: None

DURATION OF STUDY: Until Spring 2016

PROGRESS TO DATE:
Secondary data analysis, Recoded the addresses into the ArcGIS, have IRB approval

ANTICIPATED CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE SOCIAL WORK FIELD:
Most MHCs do not provide treatment independently but, instead, link program participants with community agencies. Mental health treatment in MHCs is one of the major components and important factors in determining participants’ progress. For this, MHCs rely on social work professionals as mental health service providers. Thus, social workers play a critical role as part of multi-disciplinary teams in MHCs, directly and indirectly involving all MHC procedures. The role of the social worker in the MHC system is not limited to providing treatment, but also, community support.

DOCTORAL STUDENT:
Woojae Han

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:
Lynn Warner, PhD Co-Chair
Allison Redlich, PhD Co-Chair
Eric Hardiman, PhD
Tse-Chuan Yang, PhD
IMPACT: The results of this study will be helpful for informing policy makers on the availability of mental health services. It can also eliminate disparities in treatment utilization by helping health professions and incorporate intervention strategies more responsive to the targeted population.

DISSERTATION TITLE: MENTAL HEALTH SERVICE UTILIZATION AMONG PEOPLE WITH MENTAL ILLNESS: AN EXAMINATION OF PREDICTORS AND THE INFLUENCE OF SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND HIV

PRINCIPAL AIMS:
1. To evaluate factors associated with seeking mental health services among people with mental illness;
2. To assess the impact of HIV status and substance use on mental health service utilization among persons with mental health disorders.

METHODOLOGY & SOFTWARE USED:
The data used by this study combines the four most recent publically available National Survey on Drug Use and Health datasets (2008 to 2011). Univariate analyses were used to examine the frequency distributions of the dependent and independent variables. Chi-square test and bivariate logistic regression will be used to analyze the relationship between each predictor and the outcome variables. Multiple linear logistic regressions are built to help describe how the predictors jointly affect the choice to utilize mental health services. All the analyses are carried out with STATA and SPSS.

FUNDING: N/A

DURATION OF STUDY: 1 year

PROGRESS TO DATE:
Research Proposal is under review

ANTICIPATED CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE SOCIAL WORK FIELD:
Professional social work frequently practices in mental health treatment settings such as community mental health agencies and hospitals where they work with vulnerable clients having mental illness who also likely to suffer from other comorbid disorders. Since appropriate and timely mental health service utilization is related to positive health outcomes; it is essential to understand which factors may be most salient in affecting mental health care access among people with mental illness and how does co-occurring substance use or HIV play the role toward access to mental health care.

DOCTORAL STUDENT:
Man-Chun Chang

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:
Lynn Warner, PhD (Chair)
Barry Loneck, PhD
Glenn Deane, PhD
IMPACT: The evidence for existing disparities in mental health care for the various ethnic and racial populations in the United States and the exponential growth of such diverse groups is well documented through various government reports, nationally published studies, and various standards and guidelines developed in an effort to address existing differences. This study will seek to examine the provider perspective on existing challenges in the integration of cultural competency in the delivery of mental health services to Latino consumers, as well as to explore existing knowledge and skill development needs in this area.

DISSEDITION TITLE: The Integration of Cultural Competency in the Delivery of Mental Health Services to Latinos: A Social Work Perspective

PRINCIPAL AIMS:
To examine potential implications of the understanding of the relevance of cultural competency in the delivery of mental health services to Latinos. Provider Capacity: To explore information and skill development needs which promote greater provider understanding of the implications of culture in all aspects of services. Organizational Capacity: To explore existing opportunities for organizations (service context) to address cultural competency in all levels including administration, management, policy development, staffing, and the provision of professional development opportunities which address culture.

METHODOLOGY & SOFTWARE USED:
Quantitative Analysis, Survey Monkey, SPSS, AMOS, Additional experience in qualitative analysis and facilitation of focus groups

FUNDING: Graduate Fellowships

DURATION OF STUDY: Study entering data analysis phase, less than six months remaining

PROGRESS TO DATE: Dissertation proposal approved. Currently ending data collection

ANTICIPATED CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE SOCIAL WORK FIELD:
This study is intended to address existing barriers in the provision of mental health services to Latino consumers of mental health service and to provide a provider perspective of existing challenges and perceived relevance of cultural competency in the delivery of effective mental health services. This study seeks to explore and identify existing opportunities and barriers to effective and culturally appropriate service provision.

DOCTORAL STUDENT:
Jacqueline Richardson-Melecio

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:
Blanca Ramos, PhD (Chair)
Lynn Videka, PhD
Shirley Jones, PhD
IMPACT: Very little is known about mental illness in deaf populations. This research will increase our understanding of how serious mental illness manifests in deaf populations.

THE PHENOMENON OF ‘HEARING VOICES’ AMONG DEAF PERSONS WITH SCHIZOPHRENIA

PRINCIPAL AIMS: To evaluate the manifestation of auditory hallucinations in deaf persons with schizophrenia; subjects included both inpatient and outpatient deaf patients with schizophrenia from Rockland Psychiatric Center in Orangeburg, New York.

METHODOLOGY & SOFTWARE USED: Inclusion in the study was determined by the Structured Clinical Interview for DSM-IV Axis I Disorders-Patient Edition (SCID) (First et al., 1997); all subjects meet the criteria for schizophrenia or schizoaffective disorder. Data are being analyzed using SPSS.

FUNDING: N/A

DATES OF STUDY: 8/2010 – Present

PROGRESS TO DATE: Data analysis and write up of results is underway.

ANTICIPATED CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE SOCIAL WORK FIELD: Evidence of how auditory symptoms of schizophrenia manifest among deaf persons.

SSW INVESTIGATOR: Heather K. Horton, PhD

COLLABORATOR: Heather Dingman
IMPACT: Comorbid depression and diabetes is recognized as a condition that is costly to the health care system and is a vital topic of public health concern. The data obtained throughout both phases of this project will inform health practitioners and scientists to understand and describe illness perceptions of persons identified as having comorbid depression and diabetes who are either African American or Caribbean Black adults living in the Bay Area of California or upstate New York. The information gathered will broaden scientific understanding about cultural meanings and definitions of illness, depression, and diabetes so that social service agencies can better provide services. Ultimately, the findings of this study will fill a major gap in knowledge by addressing an emergent public health research priority in health and mental health areas.

PSYCHIATRIC EPIDEMIOLOGY: RACIAL DISPARITIES AMONG VULNERABLE POPULATIONS WITH DIABETES AND DEPRESSION

PRINCIPAL AIMS:
Phase 1: Illness Perceptions of Diabetes and Depression (Qualitative Study). Face-to-face interviews to understand and describe the social service needs and illness perceptions of persons identified as having comorbid depression and diabetes who are African American or Caribbean Black. Phase 2: Baseline Picture of Diabetes and Depression among Black Americans (Quantitative Study). The National Survey of American Life (NSAL) dataset will be used to establish a baseline for the prevalence of the comorbidity of diabetes and depression among African Americans and Caribbean Blacks. Phase 3: Service Utilization among Black Americans with comorbid depression and diabetes (National Primary Data Collection). Collecting national data from a randomly selected, probability sampled respondent group will allow for more generalizable information regarding Blacks who suffer from comorbid conditions.

METHODOLOGY & SOFTWARE USED:
Phase 1: Qualitative research methodology. Phase 2 and 3: Quantitative research methodology. Descriptive statistics will be used to characterize all variables; Chi-square tests and ANOVAs will be used to identify significant differences across subgroups defined by race. Multinomial and logistic regression analyses will be employed.

FUNDING: NIMHD K-22 (3 years)

DATES OF STUDY: 8/2012 - 7/2015

PROGRESS TO DATE: Phase 1 & 2 are underway. Follow-up interviewing in Phase 1 began. Data collection in CA and NY is moving forward.

ANTICIPATED CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE SOCIAL WORK FIELD:
The study plan is designed to advance knowledge and make five important contributions to the literature on depression and diabetes comorbidity among Black Americans by: (1) disseminating a clearer understanding of the social service needs and illness perceptions of persons identified as having comorbid depression and diabetes; (2) capitalizing on the strengths of a large, nationally representative data; (2) determining whether SES is associated with reductions in the risk for the studied comorbid condition by Blacks; (3) examining the mediation effects of health insurance status; and (4) describing the cultural meaning of being diagnosed with and managing health care with a comorbid diagnosis.

SSW INVESTIGATOR:
Julia F. Hastings, Ph. D
IMPACT: Very little is known about mental illness in deaf populations. This research sheds light on how deaf consumers of mental health services experience their interactions with mental health systems and providers, as well as suggesting improvements needed in these systems.

SERVICE NEEDS OF DEAF PERSONS WITH MENTAL ILLNESS IN THE CAPITAL DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

PRINCIPAL AIMS:
To investigate service disparities and possible solutions for deaf persons requiring mental health services in New York’s Capital District.

METHODOLOGY & SOFTWARE USED:
A focus group study including deaf and hearing stakeholders in the region. Data was transcribed and then analyzed via ATLAS.ti software.

DATES OF STUDY:
5/2009 - Present

PROGRESS TO DATE:
The focus group was held on May 19th, 2009 in Albany, New York at the University at Albany School of Social Welfare. Transcription and data analysis are complete. Results were presented at three conferences (New York Association of Psychosocial Rehabilitation, Council on Social Work Education, and the Society for Social Work and Research). Project completed and article published in JADARA (Full citation can be seen on Heather’s website: www.heatherkhorton.com). Follow-up meeting with Focus Group participants is pending.

ANTICIPATED CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE SOCIAL WORK FIELD:
The focus group participants mobilized (via a task force) to address the lack of mental health services in the region. Forming a coalition of stakeholders by creating a network of researchers, practitioners, interpreters, consumers, and family members, may positively influence the provision of services to the population.

SSW INVESTIGATOR:
Heather K. Horton, PhD

COLLABORATORS:
Hee Chul Kim
Marley Mills
IMPACT: Very little is known about mental illness in deaf populations. This research will increase our understanding of how group interventions may need to be adapted to be more effective with deaf persons with mental illness.

SOCIAL COGNITION AND INTERACTION TRAINING (SCIT) PROGRAM

PRINCIPAL AIMS: To evaluate social-cognitive abilities before and after a 12-week group intervention; subjects included both inpatient and outpatient deaf patients with schizophrenia from Rockland Psychiatric Center in Orangeburg, New York.

METHODOLOGY & SOFTWARE USED:
Inclusion in the study was determined by the Structured Clinical Interview for DSM-IV Axis I Disorders-Patient Edition (SCID) (First et al., 1997); all subjects meet the criteria for schizophrenia or schizoaffective disorder. The Social Cognition and Interaction Training program ([SCIT] was implemented for 12 weeks. Pretest and post-test measures included:

1. Word Memory – The Signed Paired Associates Test;
2. Visuospatial Memory – The Complex Figure Test;
3. Facial affect processing - The Facial Emotion Identification Task;
4. Theory of mind – The Hinting Task;
5. Scale to Assess Unawareness of Mental Disorder; and

Data are being analyzed using SPSS.

DATES OF STUDY: 8/2010 - Present

PROGRESS TO DATE: Data analysis and write up of results is underway.

ANTICIPATED CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE SOCIAL WORK FIELD:
1. Evidence that a group intervention designed for hearing populations can be modified for use with the deaf.
2. Evidence that social-cognitive ability in this population can be improved and may influence positive functional outcomes.
3. Evidence that the symptoms and course of schizophrenia manifest among the deaf in a fashion that is both similar and different from hearing people with the illness (e.g., symptom structure is similar while deaf subjects display enhanced processing in certain domains of visual processing).

SSW INVESTIGATOR:
Heather K. Horton, PhD

COLLABORATOR:
Rebecca Leland, PhD

RESEARCH SUPPORT STAFF:
Marley Mills
Yeonggeul Lee
IMPACT: Since the start in 2008, the local evaluation is being implemented by offering a 100% evaluation of all services to all agencies in Chautauqua County, New York State. At present we have nearly 50 agencies taking part, and we are able to evaluate the services for most children and families in Chautauqua County, e.g. over 9,000 youth in the largest two school districts, Jamestown and Dunkirk. We have also used these examples of evaluation in Chautauqua County to inform similar evaluation strategies in the Upstate New York System of Care expansion with 22 other counties to date. We have continued to present at both national and international conferences.

TAPESTRY OF CHAUTAUQUA’S SYSTEMS OF CARE GRANT

PRINCIPAL AIMS: The goal of Chautauqua Tapestry Initiative is to weave together a countywide, culturally and linguistically competent, family-driven and youth-guided rural system of care, which will transform how children with serious emotional disturbances (SED), and their families, from all service systems, will be served, with a focus on addressing the needs of children with SED, and their families, of Hispanic and African American descent.

METHODOLOGY & SOFTWARE USED: The local evaluation strategy utilizes a new approach that involves the systematic collection of data on 1) the client circumstances (e.g. demographic characteristics, cultural differences and needs, environments in which people live and function, and the nature of baseline target problems); 2) the dosage, duration and frequency of each intervention in relation to each client; and 3) the changes in the outcomes as observed through the repeated use of reliable outcome measures with each client. This is a mixed methods approach.

FUNDING: $9,000,000; $977,317 for evaluation, Funded by SAMHSA — Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Center for Mental Health Services.

DATES OF STUDY: 10/2008 – 9/2015

PROGRESS TO DATE: The results are analyzed with the agencies four times a year, and we are now writing reports and articles with them. The findings from evaluation are analyzed in partnership with the agencies. We are at the stage of merging the agencies’ management information system data with those of the participating school districts.

ANTICIPATED CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE SOCIAL WORK FIELD: We plan to publish and disseminate findings with each of the many agencies we have worked with, including a book that will be published with Lyceum Books in 2015. The contributions will include the development of the realist evaluation paradigm that has been applied, as well as developments in the methods of data analysis, e.g. the use of binary logistic regression, with data from the agencies’ management information systems.

SSW INVESTIGATOR: Mansoor A. F. Kazi, PhD

COLLABORATOR: Katharine Briar-Lawson, PhD

RESEARCH SUPPORT STAFF: Anne Bartone, Savra Frounfelker, Yeongbin Kim, Althea Pestine
IMPACT: The broad reach of the consortium will guarantee strategic recruitment of suitable trainees who, through specialized curriculum and field placements, will be leaders in providing culturally appropriate mental and behavioral care in interprofessional settings. Rigorous evaluation will document the effectiveness of the activities, discerning those most central to this nationally significant training and educational initiative.

UPSTATE NEW YORK MENTAL AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH EDUCATION CONSORTIUM

PRINCIPAL AIMS:
This initiative is intended to increase social workers' capacity to address the mental and behavioral health needs of veterans, military personnel and their families, and residents of medically underserved rural communities. The objectives are to (i) recruit a highly qualified pool of trainee candidates; (ii) support trainees in educational and career development; (iii) create and sustain specialized mental and behavioral health field placement sites in high need and high demand areas; (iv) provide an enriched learning experience focused on improving services for high need and high demand populations with behavioral health needs; (v) disseminate training materials and scholarly research products; and (vi) institutionalize the Consortium.

METHODOLOGY & SOFTWARE USED: Case study methods; Process evaluation

FUNDING: $480,253 from U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration.

DATES OF STUDY: 9/2012 - 9/2015

PROGRESS TO DATE: First cohort of trainees has graduated; currently 10 students in specialized placements. Presented at CSWE and NASW. Synchronous and asynchronous curriculum modules have been created.

ANTICIPATED CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE SOCIAL WORK FIELD:
Will contribute to knowledge about the training experiences that lead to long-term commitment to working in underserved areas, as well as the competencies needed to effectively work in inter-professional behavioral health settings.

SSW INVESTIGATORS:
Lynn Warner, PhD
Katharine Briar-Lawson, PhD
Estella Williamson, MSW, Director of Field Education
Michael Clarkson-Hendrix, Doctoral Student

COLLABORATORS:
Laura Bronstein (SUNY Binghamton)
Paul Gould (SUNY Binghamton)
Deborah Fromm Faria (SUNY Brockport)
Diane Elze & Laura Lewis (SUNY Buffalo)
Carrie Smith & Kristin Esposito (Syracuse University.)
David Skiff & Laura Ribbing (Roberts Wesleyan College)
Virginia David (Nazareth College of Rochester)
IMPACT: Findings can be translated to policy and program designs that increase access and supports for older adults with backgrounds of early adversity.

ADVERSE CHILDHOOD EXPERIENCES (ACE) AMONG POOR OLDER ADULTS: COPING MECHANISMS AND CONSEQUENCES

PRINCIPAL AIMS: This study will extend and enhance ACE research that has been carried out with a middle class population in a medical setting with a much more vulnerable poorer population of people over the age of 55. In addition to providing information about the extent of ACEs and ACE correlates among this population, this study will explore moderating protective and coping resources.

METHODOLOGY & SOFTWARE USED: Participants: The participants of this study will be 250 older adults served by Troy Housing Authority; Design: The study is a cross-sectional survey; Sample: This will be a stratified random sample; Instruments: ACE Study questions, Brief COPE, CAGE, Lubben Social Network Scale (LSNS), Patient Health Questionnaire (PHQ-9), and GAD-7.

FUNDING: Applied for FRAP A

DATES OF STUDY: 12/2010 – Present

PROGRESS TO DATE: Data analysis has begun. An article is in development.

ANTICIPATED CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE SOCIAL WORK FIELD: This research will help us to better understand the backgrounds of poverty-stricken older adults. This study extends existing ACE research to the very important problem of the correlates of ACEs for older people living in poverty. Information from this study will identify how some older people are able to use coping strategies to avoid the many negative long-term consequences of ACEs while others suffer from the sequela of ACEs. It will also help to inform intervention strategies that can be put in place in the Troy Housing Authority where this research will be conducted. This study includes Healthy People 2010 leading health indicators (substance abuse, mental health, injury and violence, environmental quality, physical activity, and health care access). For this reason, findings from this groundbreaking study will provide important pilot data for applications to NIH agencies such as NIAAA and NIA, as well as private foundations.

SSW INVESTIGATORS: Heather Larkin, PhD Ron Toseland, PhD

COLLABORATOR: Troy Housing Authority (including MSW interns)
IMPACT: Development of dynamic modeling data analysis methods for therapeutic process will aid in the identification and refinement of effective interaction strategies across the range of helping professions, including social work, psychology, nursing, and medicine.

DEVELOPMENT OF DYNAMIC MODELING METHODS FOR THERAPEUTIC PROCESS RESEARCH

PRINCIPAL AIMS:
1. To finalize a comprehensive review of the literature on therapeutic process analysis.
2. To complete requisite mathematics courses, equivalent to an undergraduate major.
3. To establish a preliminary set of dynamic modeling data analysis methods for therapeutic process.

METHODOLOGY & SOFTWARE USED:
Identification of key assumptions, fundamental axioms, and relevant theorems to serve as a basis for DM analytic methods. Testing and refining the initial DM analytic methods through computer simulation and testing the refined DM methods on a dataset from clinical sessions (n=39) between therapists and clients with dual disorders (i.e., substance abuse and mental illness) in a psychiatric emergency room.

FUNDING:
CWDAIR and School of Social Welfare: $7,812.

Dates of Study:
7/2007 – Present

PROGRESS TO DATE:
1. Finalized literature review;
2. Obtained Bachelor of Science in Mathematics from SUNY – Albany;
3. Began work on preliminary set of dynamic modeling analytic methods.

ANTICIPATED CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE SOCIAL WORK FIELD:
This work will produce an empirical approach to the development of clinical protocol manuals across theoretical frameworks.

SSW INVESTIGATOR:
Barry Loneck, PhD

RESEARCH SUPPORT STAFF:
Brian D. Roland, PhD
Erica Dean
IMPACT: This project is examining the impact of a pilot project designed to serve veterans in eleven counties in New York State. The program uses an evidence-informed intervention strategy involving peer support services provided by veterans themselves. Evaluative information will be used to provide information to key stakeholders, offer formative feedback to program administrators, and to inform policy and funding decisions regarding sustainability and replication in other parts of New York State and beyond.

NEW YORK STATE PFC JOSEPH DWYER VETERAN PEER-TO-PEER PROGRAM EVALUATION

PRINCIPAL AIMS:
The principal aim is to conduct a program evaluation for the Joseph P. Dwyer Veterans Peer-to-Peer Program. The program, currently being implemented in eleven counties throughout the state, is named after a combat medic who struggled with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and died from a drug overdose. Each county program recruits, trains, and supervises veterans who provide a range of peer support services to other veterans in need of help. Peer-to-peer interventions have been found to be a promising strategy for veterans and family members who are experiencing various challenges in the community. Support services provided by peers can be particularly effective for those who have served in combat, binding individuals together and fostering the initial trust and credibility necessary for developing relationships in which individuals are willing to open up and discuss their problems.

METHODOLOGY & SOFTWARE USED:
A mixed methods approach is being used, with both quantitative and qualitative data collected. Software used includes SPSS and Atlas Ti.

FUNDING:
New York State Senate, in conjunction with New York State Office of Mental Health

DATES OF STUDY:
1/2013 – 7/2015

PROGRESS TO DATE:
Data collection is currently in progress

ANTICIPATED CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE SOCIAL WORK FIELD:
Evaluative information will be used to provide information to key stakeholders, offer formative feedback to program administrators, and to inform policy and funding decisions regarding sustainability and replication in other parts of New York State and beyond.

SSW INVESTIGATOR:
Eric Hardiman, PhD
IMPACT: Recent research demonstrates that 10-15% of MI patients experience diagnosable PTSD. This study is pioneering because there have been few PTSD interventions among MI patients, and PTSD intervention research has focused on cognitive-behavioral exposure therapy (CBET). Our study will bring attention to the neglected group of MI survivors in PTSD intervention research while expanding treatment options.

PTSD TREATMENT FOR SERIOUS HEART EVENT SURVIVORS USING EFT

PRINCIPAL AIMS:
We will conduct a pilot study of EFT (Emotional Freedom Techniques) among patients 21 and over who meet diagnostic criteria for PTSD (Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder) following a myocardial infarction (MI). The pilot data will be used to apply for a large federally funded trial. Preliminary evidence suggests that EFT holds promise for PTSD treatment.

METHODOLOGY & SOFTWARE USED:
Participants will be 48 adults who have experienced an MI at least six months ago (avoids spontaneous remission), recruited from two large hospitals and doctors' offices. Screening will rule out previous PTSD and other significant mental health disorders, while ensuring that PTSD diagnostic criteria are met. A blinded research assistant will administer questionnaires at baseline, after intervention (or no treatment), and follow-up. Trained EFT interventionists supervised by Mary Sise, LCSW, DCEP will provide six 1-hour sessions (including a video) using a manualized EFT protocol, and treatment fidelity checks.

FUNDING:
Global Gateway Foundation and the Association of Comprehensive Energy Psychology (ACEP)

DATES OF STUDY:
9/2012 – Present

PROGRESS TO DATE:
We are currently recruiting for this study

ANTICIPATED CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE SOCIAL WORK FIELD:
Extending EFT intervention research to a civilian population, we hope to fill a gap in evidence-supported interventions for survivors of a serious heart event experiencing post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

SSW INVESTIGATORS:
Heather Larkin, PhD
Lara Kaye, PhD
Ronald W Toseland, PhD

COLLABORATOR:
Mary Sise, LCSW, Center for Integrative Psychotherapy
IMPACT: Identifying effective therapeutic processes for referral of clients with dual disorders in a psychiatric emergency room to services in the community is a necessary first step in engaging such clients in their continuum of care.

THERAPEUTIC PROCESS FOR CLIENTS WITH DUAL DISORDERS IN A PSYCHIATRIC EMERGENCY ROOM

PRINCIPAL AIMS:
Discern the nature of the therapeutic processes underlying successful referral of clients with dual disorders in a psychiatric emergency room to services in the community.

METHODOLOGY & SOFTWARE USED:
In-depth analysis of 39 audiotapes of psychiatric emergency room sessions.

FUNDING:
National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors Research Institute.

DATES OF STUDY:
9/1991 – Present

PROGRESS TO DATE:
Analyzed sessions using global ratings indicated the importance of therapist warmth and friendliness as well as the working alliance between clinicians and clients in determining referral outcome (success versus failure). Subsequent work is focusing on a detailed analysis of clinician and client speech acts and their impact on working alliance and referral outcome.

ANTICIPATED CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE SOCIAL WORK FIELD:
This study will lead to a protocol for social workers to follow in their work with clients with dual disorders in a psychiatric emergency room.

SSW INVESTIGATOR:
Barry Loneck, PhD

COLLABORATORS:
Bruce Way
Ernest Bonaparte
Steven Banks (deceased)
**IMPACT:** This study could add knowledge about the determinants of childhood health outcomes, childhood risk factors, as well as identify the moderating effects of protective factors of childhood. This information could be used to develop more effective prevention programs.

**DISSERTATION TITLE:** THE ASSOCIATION BETWEEN POVERTY, PUBLIC ASSISTANCE PROGRAM, AND CHILD HEALTH

**PRINCIPAL AIDS:**
The dissertation aims to explain how food policy programs have affected child health outcomes directly as well as indirectly through economic well-being, accounting for state and policy characteristics.

**METHODOLOGY & SOFTWARE USED:**
Quantitative, Logistic regression, Path analysis, STATA12

**FUNDING:**
None

**DURATION OF STUDY:**
1 year

**PROGRESS TO DATE:**
Dissertation Research Proposal is under final preparation

**ANTICIPATED CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE SOCIAL WORK FIELD:**
This study results not only make a contribution by establishing a link between expanding determinants of childhood health outcomes, but also can speak to the “program evaluation” of SNAP, WIC, and school meal program participation. An additional contribution of this work is to explore comprehensive risk factors and paths to children’s health outcomes as well as moderating effects of protective factors at each major child developmental period that have not previously been thoroughly studied. Policies targeted to each childhood period may be more effective.

**DOCTORAL STUDENT:**
Na Kyoung Song

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS:**
Lynn Warner, PhD, Chair
Julia F. Hastings, PhD
Glenn Deane, PhD
IMPACT: The proposed assessment of the relative impact of state and federal policy activities on insurance coverage is needed to extend prior knowledge on best enrollment practices generated through the State Health Access Reform Evaluation (SHARE) initiative and studies of other expansion efforts (e.g., CHIP). This is especially critical, given the key role of insurance coverage in decreasing health disparities.

A COMPARATIVE CASE STUDY OF ACA NAVIGATORS

PRINCIPAL AIMS:
This study investigate the interplay between federal “top down” policy levers intended to motivate enrollment of the uninsured in health plans and state-level “bottom up” activities that promote, and in some cases hinder, enrollment, especially in states that have not embraced the Affordable Care Act (ACA). The specific goals are: (1) to determine the state and federal enrollment approaches and investments that yield the greatest increases in insurance rates, and identify if the increases are similar for specific groups (e.g., racial-ethnic minorities for whom health disparities are a significant concern; healthy young adults); and (2) in light of variations in state-level economic, political, and policy environments, to provide feasible recommendations for policymakers and other stakeholders who seek to establish and carry out activities that will assure future health coverage expansion.

METHODOLOGY & SOFTWARE USED:
Qualitative methods.

FUNDING: Unfunded

DATES OF STUDY: 8/2014 – Present

PROGRESS TO DATE:
Qualitative interviews completed; presentation accepted at SSWR 2015 Annual Conference.

ANTICIPATED CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE SOCIAL WORK FIELD:
May contribute to best practices regarding outreach to populations with the greatest barriers to health care; May inform policy advocacy organizations about how to influence State and Federal policies to improve access to health care

SSW INVESTIGATORS:
Lynn Warner, PhD

COLLABORATOR:
Brenda Smith, PhD (University of Alabama)

RESEARCH SUPPORT STAFF:
Kevin O’Keeffe, MSW Student
IMPACT: To gain a better understanding of disasters and recovery processes to inform policies and practice regarding disaster preparedness and response. Improve advocacy for active inclusion of local recovery actors for sustainable recovery outcomes.

DISSERTATION TITLE: DISCOURSES OF DISASTER AND RECOVERY IN POST-EARTHQUAKE HAITI: MANIFESTATIONS IN RECOVERY POLICY AND PRACTICE

PRINCIPAL AIMS:
(1) to explore social construction of disaster, recovery actors and recovery as articulated by the media, organizational and political discourse communities; (2) to examine these discourses as they relate to participation, capacity building and resilience building; (3) to compare these discourse communities in terms of their disaster and recovery interpretation (meanings); (4) to scrutinize key recovery policies and organizational practices; (5) to trace the manifestation of discourses in policies and practices and to infer the relationship between discourse production and post-disaster recovery policy and practice and, finally, (6) to develop a provisional disaster recovery model.

METHODOLOGY & SOFTWARE USED:
Qualitative, Critical Discourse Analysis, Grounded Theory, NVivo 9

FUNDING:
Graduate Student Association, Doctoral Dissertation Award

DURATION OF STUDY:
1 year

ANTICIPATED CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE SOCIAL WORK FIELD:
Macro and policy perspective on disaster recovery; the focus on the “environment” of the disaster survivors, not the “person” and further inference of the connection between the two; theoretical framework of disaster recovery; unique research methodology introduced into the field.

DOCTORAL STUDENT:
Juliana Svistova

PROGRESS TO DATE:

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:
Loretta Pyles, PhD (Chair)
Hal Lawson, PhD
Patricia Strach, PhD
Impact: Small business is often the only viable option for the socioeconomic independence of immigrants and refugees. This study examines how immigrants and refugees establish their businesses in areas that have been experiencing a loss of population and economic power.

ENTREPRENEURIAL DEVELOPMENT OF IMMIGRANTS AND REFUGEES IN THE CAPITAL REGION OF NEW YORK

Principal Aims:
The purpose of this project is to examine the business development process experienced by immigrants and refugees in the Capital Region. This project examines 1) whether there is a significant difference between the opportunities and barriers that are encountered by immigrant- and refugee- business owners, and those encountered by native business owners when establishing a small business, 2) what factors cause difficulties for immigrants and refugees to establish businesses, and 3) the effectiveness of immigrant- and refugee- aimed entrepreneurship training.

Methodology & Software Used:
This study involves 1) development of a pilot entrepreneurship training for immigrants and refugees and 2) a cross-sectional survey of the training participants as well as immigrants/refugees and non-immigrants/refugees who already own small businesses.

Funding:
Applied for FRAP A

Dates of Study:
2/2015 – 12/2016

Progress to Date:
IRB application being prepared. The project ideas have been shared among potential collaborators.

Anticipated Contributions to the Social Work Field:
This study will advance our theoretical understanding of ethnic businesses and micro-enterprise development in the context of shrinking cities. This study contributes to our practices by offering insights for developing programs that aid the business-startup process of immigrants and refugees.

SSW Investigator:
Wonhyung Lee, PhD
IMPACT: Non-profit community agencies are increasingly making evaluation an integral part of the design and implementation of the psychosocial service programs they provide. Program evaluation offers agencies data they can use to improve effectiveness and inform programming decisions. It helps identify program outcomes and broader impacts at the community, organization, and society levels. Evaluation results are crucial to attract and retain support from relevant constituents including current and potential service recipients and funding sources.

EVALUATION OF A FAMILY AND NEIGHBORHOOD RESOURCE CENTER

PRINCIPAL AIMS:
To evaluate a Family and Neighborhood Resource Center program in a local non-profit community organization.

METHODOLOGY & SOFTWARE USED:
Quantitative and qualitative methods

FUNDING:
Trinity Alliance of the Capital Region

DATES OF STUDY:
2013 – Present

PROGRESS TO DATE:
Data collected and entered; data analyzed; preliminary dissemination of findings.

ANTICIPATED CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE SOCIAL WORK FIELD:
Family resource centers (FRCs) play a key role in many local, state, and national efforts to develop more comprehensive and integrated child and family service systems. FRCs can use evaluation data to help increase accountability, quality of services, positive impact on service recipients, and social work practice and service effectiveness. Evidence-based information on FRCs’ best practices and lessons learned can contribute to their empirical history and potential generalizability to specific settings and populations.

SSW INVESTIGATOR:
Blanca M Ramos, PhD

RESEARCH SUPPORT STAFF:
Ramon Guerrero
Yeonggeul Lee
IMPACT: Business improvement districts (BIDs) have been mainly approached as an economic development strategy adopted in downtown areas, not as much as a community development tool in inner city neighborhoods that struggle with poverty and social problems. This study acknowledges BIDs as a useful community development tool and examines multiple new factors concerning BID formation, including the characteristics of community stakeholders, their intergroup relationships, and the potential role of social work.

THE FORMATION OF BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICTS (BIDS) IN INNER CITY NEIGHBORHOODS AND THE ROLE OF SOCIAL WORK FOR LOCAL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT.

PRINCIPAL AIMS:
This research concerns multiple aspects of BIDs in inner city neighborhoods, particularly in Los Angeles, New York City, and the Capital Region of New York. This project examines 1) what kind of neighborhoods struggle with BID formation, 2) what factors contribute to successful formation of BIDs, and 3) how the field of social work can collaborate with and contribute to local business development.

METHODOLOGY & SOFTWARE USED:
Archival research and in-depth interviews with community stakeholders are conducted. Census data and ArcGIS are used for demographic and geographical analyses.

FUNDING:
Partial support from the University of Michigan.

DATES OF STUDY:
4/2013-present

PROGRESS TO DATE:
Two conference presentations. Manuscript under review.

ANTICIPATED CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE SOCIAL WORK FIELD:
This project acknowledges neighborhoods that face the possibility of either being excluded or falling behind from the increasing trend of local governance structures. This project contributes to the literature in community economic development and multicultural community organizing. This project also suggests a way in which the field of social work can collaborate with and for the local business communities.

SSW INVESTIGATOR:
Wonhyung Lee, PhD
IMPACT: Inform policy and practice related to housing needs of kinship caregivers

GRANDPARENT HOUSING STUDY

PRINCIPAL AIMS:
The Center for Human Services Research is conducting a qualitative study to gather data on the housing needs.

METHODOLOGY & SOFTWARE USED:
- Literature review
- Interviews with experienced professionals at OCFS, OTDA, and SOFA
- Interviews with directors of local kinship care programs
- Focus groups with children
- Focus groups with grandparents and relative caregivers

FUNDING:
$46,000

DATES OF STUDY:
11/2014 – 1/2015

PROGRESS TO DATE:
Establishing study procedures and processing IRB application

ANTICIPATED CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE SOCIAL WORK FIELD:
Understanding of the needs of relative caregivers of children

CHSR INVESTIGATORS:
Laura Kaye, PhD
Lauren Polvere, PhD
Eunju Lee, PhD
IMPACT: The broad reach of the consortium will guarantee strategic recruitment of suitable trainees who, through specialized curriculum and field placements, will be leaders in providing culturally appropriate mental and behavioral care in interprofessional settings. Rigorous evaluation will document the effectiveness of the activities, discerning those most central to this nationally significant training and educational initiative.

UPSTATE NEW YORK MENTAL AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH EDUCATION CONSORTIUM

PRINCIPAL AIMS:
This initiative is intended to increase social workers' capacity to address the mental and behavioral health needs of veterans, military personnel and their families, and residents of medically underserved rural communities. The objectives are to (i) recruit a highly qualified pool of trainee candidates; (ii) support trainees in educational and career development; (iii) create and sustain specialized mental and behavioral health field placement sites in high need and high demand areas; (iv) provide an enriched learning experience focused on improving services for high need and high demand populations with behavioral health needs; (v) disseminate training materials and scholarly research products; and (vi) institutionalize the Consortium.

METHODOLOGY & SOFTWARE USED: Case study methods; Process evaluation

FUNDING: $480,253 from U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration.

DATES OF STUDY: 9/2012 - 9/2015

PROGRESS TO DATE: First cohort of trainees has graduated; currently 10 students in specialized placements. Presented at CSWE and NASW. Synchronous and asynchronous curriculum modules have been created.

ANTICIPATED CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE SOCIAL WORK FIELD:
Will contribute to knowledge about the training experiences that lead to long-term commitment to working in underserved areas, as well as the competencies needed to effectively work in inter-professional behavioral health settings.

SSW INVESTIGATORS:
Lynn Warner, PhD
Katharine Briar-Lawson, PhD
Estella Williamson, MSW, Field Director
Michael Clarkson-Hendrix, Doctoral Student

COLLABORATORS:
Laura Bronstein (SUNY Binghamton)
Paul Gould (SUNY Binghamton)
Deborah Fromm Faria (SUNY Brockport)
Diane Elze & Laura Lewis (SUNY Buffalo)
Carrie Smith & Kristin Esposito (Syracuse University)
David Skiff & Laura Ribbing (Roberts Wesleyan College)
Virginia David (Nazareth College of Rochester)
IMPACT: By the year 2015, persons 60 years and older will comprise almost 20% of all New York State residents. Today, nationally, there are 5.4 million Americans living with Alzheimer’s disease – 5.2 million aged 65 and over and 200,000 under the age of 65. By 2050, up to 16 million will have the disease (www.alz.org). The need for specialized health, mental health and social services for people with dementia and their caregivers will increase dramatically, challenging the service delivery system. New solutions for care need to be developed. Social workers play a key role in providing these front-line services. The U.S. will require 70,000 social workers who specialize in aging by 2020, a 43% increase from 1987 (National Institute of Aging). There is a shortage of professional social workers who are trained in working with older adults. IAP addresses the shortage of aging-trained social workers in New York State.

INTERNSHIPS IN AGING PROJECT

PRINCIPAL AIMS: The IAP program provides a strong educational and internship experience that prepares students for careers in aging. In addition, the program provides extra supports for students with an integrative seminar enriching their educational experience. And the scholarship that each IAP student receives is often the incentive for attracting students to consider a career in aging.

METHODOLOGY & SOFTWARE USED: N/A

FUNDING: SSW program

DATES OF STUDY: 1999 – Present

PROGRESS TO DATE: As of 2014, there are 165 alumni. Approximately 60% of IAP graduates have chosen to work in New York’s Capital Region, and 75% of the IAP graduates work in New York State.

ANTICIPATED CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE SOCIAL WORK FIELD: Workforce development, develop new roles for social workers in aging, train students for leadership roles.

SSW INVESTIGATORS: Anne E. Fortune, PhD Linda Mertz, MSW
IMPACT: Such a study will help bring to light best practices in student supervision in field education that enhance student learning as well as allow for more efficient use of resources. Contemporary literature points to the need for innovation in field work supervision as a major area of deficiency and discussion in social work education at this time.

NON-TRADITIONAL MODELS OF SUPERVISION

PRINCIPAL AIMS:
The goal of this research is to explore innovative, non-traditional models of field work supervision.

METHODOLOGY & SOFTWARE USED:
The study will draw data from two sources:
- Existing academic as well as informational literature from social work and other disciplines that require students to undergo supervised fieldwork.
- Interviews of students, staff and faculty will be conducted to understand other models and experiences of fieldwork supervision in national and international settings (especially with a resource crunch), in full-time, distance and online education programs

FUNDING:
N/A

DATES OF STUDY:
9/2014 – 5/2015

ANTICIPATED CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE SOCIAL WORK FIELD:
Disseminate creative field models that meet CSWE requirements

SSW INVESTIGATORS:
Anne E. Fortune, PhD
Linda Mertz, MSW

RESEARCH SUPPORT STAFF:
Meera Bhat
Lara Bowen
IMPACT: Identifying the perceived benefits of a program of undergraduate voluntary service in the community could facilitate the scalability of a model for other institutions of higher education. This public service program, generating high student satisfaction, furthers the development of undergraduate students and strengthens university-community engagement, creates or strengthens lasting commitments to service, and meets the needs of many of community's most vulnerable members.

Dissertation Title: UNDERSTANDING THE STUDENT EXPERIENCE IN THE COMMUNITY AND PUBLIC SERVICE PROGRAM

Principal Aims: To explore the student experience and outcomes in a way that identifies the core programmatic components that lead to the described transformational experience that defines the core principles. Using a theory-based program evaluation model, this study will explore and describe the theory that explains why students who participate in the program report such positive outcomes despite their differences. This study will analyze the content of student course evaluations and a sample of reflective essays to describe the benefits perceived by students participating in the Community and Public Service Program through a college student development lens. This research focuses on understanding the elements of the experience that create a fertile change environment and will describe them in a translatable manner to facilitate implementation in other higher education settings.

Methodology & Software Used: Quantitative analysis of secondary data: student course evaluations and demographic information from the Community and Public Service Program (CPSP) database using Stata and qualitative examination of reflective essays will be used to explore the effects of voluntary service for credit. Quantitative methods will include cross tabulation, multiple regression and logistic regression.

Funding: none

Duration of Study: 12 months

Progress to Date: ABD, developing proposal

Anticipated Contributions to the Social Work Field: Understanding undergraduate students’ perceived benefits of voluntary service for credit fills a gap in existing literature and is a salient topic for exploration given the current national movement towards a culture of service and community engagement. Using a program evaluation model will facilitate scalability of the model should other institutions of higher education choose to institute a program that furthers the development of undergraduate students with high student satisfaction that strengthens university-community engagement, creates or strengthens lasting commitments to service and meets the needs of many of a community’s most vulnerable members.

Doctoral Student: Sharon Stevens

Committee Members:
Loretta Pyles, PhD (Chair)       Hal Lawson, PhD       Glenn Deane, PhD
IMPACT: The Hartford Partnership Program for Aging Education (HPPAE) is part of a national effort to increase the numbers of social workers educated to provide social, mental health, and medical coordination services for aging persons and their families. The University at Albany’s Internships in Aging Project (IAP) was one of the initial sites that developed a new model of field education. Under the leadership of the Social Work Leadership Initiative at the New York Academy of Medicine, IAP personnel helped implement HPPAE in 72 MSW programs in 33 states plus Veteran’s Administration medical facilities. The focus on preparation for work in aging and on rotational models of field education are now accepted throughout social work education. The evaluation of IAP continues to generate information on graduate careers, aging services, and innovations in field education.

EVALUATION OF THE HARTFORD INTERNSHIPS IN AGING PROJECT

PRINCIPAL AIMS:
1. Develop and implement a rotational model of field education to educate MSW students for leadership in services to older persons (Practicum Partners Program – PPP).
2. Evaluate the effectiveness of the field education model (PPP).
3. Assess career accomplishments of PPP graduates.
4. Evaluate effect of PPP on community agencies.

METHODOLOGY & SOFTWARE USED:
This utilizes focus groups with students, field instructors, agency CEOs pre-post questionnaires, student self-assessment of attitudes and competencies mail questionnaires on careers in aging.

FUNDING: School of Social Welfare and various small grants and donations

DATES OF STUDY: 2001 - Present

PROGRESS TO DATE:
Developed model, and now disseminating it nationally. Completed evaluation of student cohorts graduating in 2001-2012. Published several refereed articles on outcomes and processes.

ANTICIPATED CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE SOCIAL WORK FIELD:
New rotational model of social work field education; developing guidelines for university and community engagement around field education; developing leaders for social work practice with older persons

SSW INVESTIGATOR: Anne E. Fortune, PhD
COLLABORATOR: Linda Mertz, MSW

RESEARCH SUPPORT STAFF: Meera Bhat
IMPACT: As part of their professional education, social work students work in social service agencies under the supervision of a qualified MSW. Many social work programs require that student take a concurrent Integrative Field seminar that helps them integrate this practical education with their classroom theory and research. There is no evidence whether the Integrative Field Seminar in fact improves students’ learning. This two year study examines the effect of a newly-introduced Integrative Field Seminar by giving a questionnaire to a cohort of students who have NOT been in the integrative seminar and the same questionnaire to another cohort who did take the integrative seminar.

EFFECTS OF INTEGRATIVE FIELD SEMINAR ON ATTITUDES AND SKILLS OF GRADUATE SOCIAL WORK STUDENTS

PRINCIPAL AIMS:
To determine if students who attended the Integrative Field Seminar scored better than those who did not have a seminar on factors related to learning in field, such as critical thinking, self-reflection, and performance of social work competencies.

METHODOLOGY & SOFTWARE USED:
The quasi-experimental design uses two cohorts of MSW students, those who began their first field internship in Fall 2013 when no integrative field seminar was offered, and the following cohort who began Fall 2014 when a seminar was required. The following spring, after completing their first field internship, each group completed a pen-and-paper questionnaire that included standardized scales.

FUNDING:
School of Social Welfare

DATES OF STUDY:
4/2014 – 4/2015

PROGRESS TO DATE:
Data has been collected from the first cohort.

ANTICIPATED CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE SOCIAL WORK FIELD:
This is first study known to compare two groups about the outcomes of an integrative field seminar. Such a seminar is expensive to conduct, but its utility is unknown.

SSW INVESTIGATORS:
Anne E. Fortune, PhD
Crystal Rogers, PhD
Estella Williamson, MSW
IMPACT: A primary purpose of the University at Albany, School of Social Work is education of competent professional social workers who become social work leaders in the capital region. This on-going evaluation gathers data that inform the BS and MSW program committees about students’ achievement of competencies, early career paths, and potential curricular changes.

EDUCATION SATISFACTION AND CAREER ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF GRADUATES OF THE BS AND MSW PROGRAMS OF THE UNIVERSITY AT ALBANY SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WELFARE

PRINCIPAL AIMS:
Determine satisfaction with education, employment, and career accomplishments of graduates of SSW accredited programs, 12-18 months after graduation.

METHODOLOGY & SOFTWARE USED:
Mailed questionnaire. The purpose is to evaluate the educational outcomes of the Baccalaureate and Master of Social Work programs at the School of Social Welfare. Recent graduates are asked about their post-graduate employment, professional activities, and evaluation of delivery of curriculum content and of the quality of their education.

FUNDING:
School of Social Welfare

DATES OF STUDY:
2002 – Present

PROGRESS TO DATE:
The data are collected and annually reported to faculty for BS and MSW graduates

ANTICIPATED CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE SOCIAL WORK FIELD:
The data are used by Program Committees to evaluate and improve the curricula and in required reports to the Council on Social Work Education, which accredits the programs. Commission on Accreditation of School of Social Welfare. An article accepted by a referred journal examined early career patterns for MSW graduates.

SSW INVESTIGATOR:
Anne E. Fortune, PhD

COLLABORATOR:
Crystal Rogers, PhD

RESEARCH SUPPORT STAFF:
Jinhee Koo
IMPACT:  Are social work students prepared with appropriate competencies when they graduate and enter the job market?  This annual survey asks students ready to graduate about their attainment of competencies and satisfaction with their programs. The data is used to assess and possibly change the BS and MSW curricula.

EVALUATION OF SOCIAL WORK STUDENTS’ ATTAINMENT OF EDUCATIONAL OUTCOMES AT TIME OF GRADUATION (EXIT SURVEY)

PRINCIPAL AIMS:
Evaluate students’ self-reported attainment of generalist and (for MSW) advanced concentration objectives and satisfaction with education, for graduating BS and MSW students.

METHODOLOGY & SOFTWARE USED:
A questionnaire was used to evaluate the educational outcomes of the Baccalaureate and Master of Social Work programs at the School of Social Welfare, students about to graduate will be asked to assess their attainment of competencies based on curricular objectives.

FUNDING:
School of Social Welfare

DATES OF STUDY:
2003 – Present

PROGRESS TO DATE:
Data is collected each April and an annual report given to faculty and curriculum committees

ANTICIPATED CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE SOCIAL WORK FIELD:
The data are used by the MSW and BS Program Committees to evaluate and improve the curricula and in required reports to the Council on Social Work Education, which accredits the programs of School of Social Welfare. One dissertation examined the factors contributing to students’ satisfaction with the program.

SSW INVESTIGATOR:
Anne E. Fortune, PhD

RESEARCH SUPPORT STAFF:
Jinhee Koo
IMPACT: The Research Training and Education Core continue to provide access to training and mentoring opportunities in the areas of health disparities to University students and faculty. With a particular focus on training doctoral students to successfully publish the dissertations, providing statistical support and conducting substantive health research in subpopulations such as sexual minorities of color. The Core continues to provide small grant opportunities for faculty interested in establishing a health disparities research program.

THE CENTER FOR THE ELIMINATION OF MINORITY HEALTH DISPARITIES RESEARCH TRAINING AND MENTORING CORE

PRINCIPAL AIMS:
The foci of the Research Training and Education Core includes cultivating interest and increasing minority health and health disparities research skills in undergraduate and graduate students within the University. The core’s programs for faculty and students will include training and education related to conducting responsible research. The goal of the Research Training/Education Core is to establish and sustain opportunities that introduce, cultivate, and support health disparities research interests and develop career trajectories among undergraduate students and graduate students in schools participating in this proposal. To accelerate development of integrated, evidence-based, and sustainable service systems for older adults, individuals with disabilities and family caregivers, and create dementia capable, sustainable service systems for persons with dementia and their family caregivers.

METHODOLOGY & SOFTWARE USED:
The training component will consist of three parts:
1. A research colloquia series designed to introduce issues related to minority health and health disparities to students in the Educational Opportunity Program (EOP) and the Honors College (HC) at the University at Albany;
2. Network building colloquia and discussion groups for advanced graduate students and untenured faculty; and
3. A series of workshops on conducting responsible research for new Research Associates of the Center.

FUNDING:
N/A

DATES OF STUDY: 5/2014 – 5/2020

PROGRESS TO DATE:
Two publications and a national conference.

SSW INVESTIGATOR:
Robert L. Miller, Jr., PhD
IMPACT: Testing the effectiveness and comparability of online and blended courses among students at the Baccalaureate level is timely and greatly needed. The results will serve as a benchmark for other social work programs across NY.

ADDRESSING UNMET WORKFORCE NEEDS IN HEALTH AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH IN UPSTATE NEW YORK THROUGH SOCIAL WELFARE BACCALAUREATE DISTANCE EDUCATION

PRINCIPAL AIMS:
To test the effectiveness and comparability of a distance education model for Social Welfare Baccalaureate students.

METHODOLOGY & SOFTWARE USED:
Quantitative and qualitative methods

FUNDING:
SUNY High Needs

DATES OF STUDY:
2014 – Present

PROGRESS TO DATE:
Preliminary planning in process

ANTICIPATED CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE SOCIAL WORK FIELD:
This project addresses the shortage of health care social workers in New York State by expanding access to the UA Social Welfare Baccalaureate program through distance education. This learning mode reduces some of the barriers to access for non-traditional students, students from outlying geographic areas, and students of diverse economic and sociocultural backgrounds.

SSW INVESTIGATOR:
Blanca M. Ramos, PhD
Katharine Briar-Lawson, PhD

RESEARCH SUPPORT STAFF:
Ben Malczyk
Ramon Guerrero
Alyssa Lotmore
Woojae Han
IMPACT: Reduce delinquency and violence of at-risk youth

EVALUABILITY ASSESSMENT OF THE YOUTH AND POLICE INITIATIVE

PRINCIPAL AIMS:
The Center for Human Services Research is conducting an evaluable assessment of the Youth and Police Initiative (YPI), a program operated by the North American Family Institute (NAFI) that aims to reduce delinquency and violence among at-risk youth by establishing police legitimacy in the youth community.

METHODOLOGY & SOFTWARE USED:
Staff interviews, document reviews, program observation, and secondary program data analysis

FUNDING:
$163,302

DATES OF STUDY:
10/2013 – Present

PROGRESS TO DATE:
Fully developed evaluation plan

ANTICIPATED CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE SOCIAL WORK FIELD:
Potential of establishing an evidence-based juvenile initiative

CHSR INVESTIGATOR:
Bradley Watts

COLLABORATOR:
Heather Washington
IMPACT: Findings will assist in developing services that are accessible by and cater to the treatment needs of veterans and returning soldiers, among whom about 10 percent reported alcohol use disorders and 8 percent reported drug use and dependence.

PATHWAYS TO TREATMENT

PRINCIPAL AIMS:
To understand reasons for veterans to seek treatment in community-based programs vis-à-vis VA sponsored programs and to examine the benefits of the program and barriers to treatment among veterans and returning soldiers.

METHODOLOGY & SOFTWARE USED:
Face-to-face interview; Survey-Monkey; SPSS

FUNDING:
NYS OASAS; in-kind from Samaritan Village (New York City)

DATES OF STUDY:
2013 – Present

PROGRESS TO DATE:
Data collection completed; two conference presentations accepted and presented; one manuscript in preparation

ANTICIPATED CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE SOCIAL WORK FIELD:
Data will inform strategy and program development to improve access to treatment and reduce the levels of trauma symptoms experienced by veterans.

SSW INVESTIGATOR:
John Yu, PhD

COLLABORATORS:
Janetta Astone-Twerell, PhD
Roy Kearse, Samaritan Village
Shazia Hussain
Phil Appel, PhD, NYS OASAS
IMPACT: Creating and sustaining organizational environments that support and nourish substance abuse treatment counselors are vital to the overall goal of delivering the most efficacious treatment approaches to clients in need, especially vulnerable, oppressed, or marginalized ones. By developing a scale to predict counselor retention, substance abuse treatment agencies can identify strategic processes to improve it.

DISSEPTION TITLE: PREDICTING RETENTION: VALIDATING THE SUBSTANCE ABUSE COUNSELOR CONTINGENCY SCALE

PRINCIPAL AIMS: To examine the psychometric properties of The Substance Abuse Counselor Contingency Scale (SACCS)

METHODOLOGY & SOFTWARE USED: This study will consist of three phases. Revisions to the SACCS will occur during each one. The initial phase will consist of expert reviews. A pilot evaluation of the instrument will follow to collect data on the reliability and criterion validity of the SACCS. The final phase will analyze the construct validity of the SACCS. The Doctoral Student will implement multiple statistical techniques (e.g., Chronbach’s alpha, discriminant analysis, confirmatory factor analysis) using STATA to improve the instrument’s psychometric properties.

FUNDING: Self-funded

DURATION OF STUDY: Date of Implementation: Spring 2015

PROGRESS TO DATE: Initial draft of proposal is near completion. The Doctoral Student has identified reviewers and partner agencies for pilot and large-scale evaluation phases.

ANTICIPATED CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE SOCIAL WORK FIELD: The key processes involved in substance abuse counselor retention are critical to the development of policies aimed at improving services in substance abuse treatment agencies. Reducing turnover, absenteeism, and job withdrawal may help to enhance organizational stability and effectiveness in the community.

DOCTORAL STUDENT: Michael Clarkson-Hendrix

COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Lynn Warner, PhD (Chair)
Barry Loneck, PhD
Catherine Lawrence, PhD
Robert Picullel, MSW
IMPACT: This study addresses a gap in literature on providing culturally appropriate substance abuse services to meet the needs of older Asians and the findings will help the treatment community better understand the cultural barriers, improve service programs, and increase access, retention, and completion of treatment among various Asian ethnic groups.

SUBSTANCE USE DISORDERS AMONG OLDER ASIANS

PRINCIPAL AIMS:
To examine substance use problems among older Asians and design culturally appropriate service models to improve the quality of life of this vulnerable group of people.

METHODOLOGY & SOFTWARE USED:
Existing public databases; face-to-face interviews

FUNDING:
Pending

DATES OF STUDY:
2013 – Present

PROGRESS TO DATE:
Position paper in progress.

ANTICIPATED CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE SOCIAL WORK FIELD:
Results from this study will assist in developing service programs and models that address cultural barriers to treatment access, retention, and completion among older Asians and other similar ethnic groups.

SSW INVESTIGATORS:
John Yu, PhD
Keith Chan, PhD

COLLABORATOR:
Benjamin Han, MD, Langone Medical Center, NYU; SSW
IMPACT:  Research activities and results will help to improve tobacco control policies and reduce tobacco hazards for all New Yorkers.

TOBACCO CONTROL POLICY EVALUATION AND DEVELOPMENT

PRINCIPAL AIMS:
To establish a Center of Excellence in Tobacco Policy that supports the adoption of evidence-based policies that reduce tobacco-related morbidity, mortality, and social and economic burdens in New York State.

METHODOLOGY & SOFTWARE USED:
Policy and data analyses; relational database building; mock policy development; SPSS, SAS

FUNDING:
Pending, NYS Department of Health

DATES OF STUDY:
2015 – 2020

PROGRESS TO DATE:
Project application completed and submitted

ANTICIPATED CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE SOCIAL WORK FIELD:
Results from this project will assist in preventing tobacco use initiation by youth and young adults, promoting and facilitating cessation among those who smoke, and eliminating exposure to second-hand smoke in New York State.

SSW INVESTIGATOR:
John Yu, PhD

COLLABORATORS:
Eugene Monaco, Director, Professional Development Program, Rockefeller College
Deborah McGuire, Professional Development Program, Rockefeller College
IMPACT: Results of this study will assist in the improvement of substance abuse treatment programs for the homeless who are addicted to opioids and at high risk for HIV/AIDS, hepatitis C, and other health hazards in the entire New York City area.

UTILIZATION OF DETOXIFICATION SERVICES AMONG CHRONICALLY HOMELESS SUBSTANCE USERS

PRINCIPAL AIMS:
To examine elements of health, behavioral health, and culture traits that influence opioid detoxification service utilization and outcomes among chronically homeless individuals and identify structural factors that prevent this population from accessing addiction treatment services.

METHODOLOGY & SOFTWARE USED:
Semi-structured face-to-face interview; patient records; SPSS

FUNDING:
In-kind from Project Renewal, Inc.; NYS OASAS, SSW

DATES OF STUDY:
2013 – Present

PROGRESS TO DATE:
IRB approval; data collection in progress

ANTICIPATED CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE SOCIAL WORK FIELD:
Findings from this study will inform the development of targeted services for the homeless population that is at high risk of morbidity and co-morbidity of health and mental health problems and infectious diseases such as HIV/AIDS and hepatitis C.

SSW INVESTIGATOR:
John Yu, PhD

COLLABORATORS:
Patrick Germain, Project Renewal Inc.
Veronica Salvas, Phil Appel, PhD, NYS OASAS
Terry Furst, PhD, John Jay College
Herman Joseph, PhD (emeritus NYS OASAS)
IMPACT: Pilot studies for this effort are currently being conducted in Tanzania. College students who engage in tourism and survival sex for cash exchanges are the research informants. Preliminary data will be available in the next three months.

DETERMINING AND MONITORING HIV AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE RISKS BEHAVIORS AMONG UNIVERSITY STUDENTS AND STAFF AT THE UNIVERSITY OF DODOMA (UDOM), TANZANIA

PRINCIPAL AIMS:
The primary goal is to gather behavioral data to monitor HIV and substance abuse risks among university students and staff at the University of Dodoma (UDOM), Tanzania. Surveying health risk behaviors in this population of more than 20,000 is important because university students are a scarce and valuable national resource in Tanzania.

METHODOLOGY & SOFTWARE USED:
The project will utilize different methods (i.e. will use both quantitative and qualitative methods of data collection and urine/saliva dipstick tests) of assessing risk behaviors among UDOM university students and staff populations, as well as a variety of different AIDS prevention programming on this university (school campuses). The development of the survey instrument proposed here would provide baseline data that will allow us as researchers to monitor changes in knowledge, attitudes, and behaviors related to HIV/AIDS, to relate any changes to the various types of programming being utilized.

FUNDING:
The University of Dodoma and potentially from federal sources.

DATES OF STUDY: N/A

PROGRESS TO DATE: Data has been analyzed and papers are being generated.

ANTICIPATED CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE SOCIAL WORK FIELD:
This project will provide a better understanding of the psychosocial determinants of HIV related risk and protection among university students. This understanding will help define the most effective strategies for promoting behavior change that reduces the risk of transmission of the disease (Priority 1.1). Additionally, it will provide information about the role of stigma and discrimination among this population, and its impact on HIV and AIDS prevention efforts (Priority 1.2). The information obtained on both of these topics will greatly benefit the ability of the University of Dodoma to fight the spread of the disease among its populations (students and staff). The proposed study will take 12-18 months of baseline data collection, analysis and report writing.

SSW INVESTIGATOR:
Robert L. Miller, Jr., PhD

COLLABORATORS:
Steven Nsimba, (University of Dodoma)
C.J. Comor, (University of Dodoma)
C.K., Mgweshemi, (University of Dodoma)
IMPACT: Findings can be translated to policy and program designs that increase access and supports for older adults with backgrounds of early adversity.

ADVERSE CHILDHOOD EXPERIENCES (ACE) AMONG POOR OLDER ADULTS: COPING MECHANISMS AND CONSEQUENCES

PRINCIPAL AIMS:
This study will extend and enhance ACE research that has been carried out with a middle class population in a medical setting with a much more vulnerable poorer population of people over the age of 55. In addition to providing information about the extent of ACEs and ACE correlates among this population, this study will explore moderating protective and coping resources.

METHODOLOGY & SOFTWARE USED:
Participants: The participants of this study will be 250 older adults served by Troy Housing Authority; Design: The study is a cross-sectional survey; Sample: This will be a stratified random sample; Instruments: ACE Study questions, Brief COPE, CAGE, Lubben Social Network Scale (LSNS), Patient Health Questionnaire (PHQ-9), and GAD-7.

FUNDING: Applied for FRAP A

DATES OF STUDY: 12/2010 – Present

PROGRESS TO DATE:
Data analysis has begun. An article is in development.

ANTICIPATED CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE SOCIAL WORK FIELD:
This research will help us to better understand the backgrounds of poverty-stricken older adults. This study extends existing ACE research to the very important problem of the correlates of ACEs for older people living in poverty. Information from this study will identify how some older people are able to use coping strategies to avoid the many negative long-term consequences of ACEs while others suffer from the sequela of ACEs. It will also help to inform intervention strategies that can be put in place in the Troy Housing Authority where this research will be conducted. This study includes Healthy People 2010 leading health indicators (substance abuse, mental health, injury and violence, environmental quality, physical activity, and health care access). For this reason, findings from this groundbreaking study will provide important pilot data for applications to NIH agencies such as NIAAA and NIA, as well as private foundations.

SSW INVESTIGATORS:
Heather Larkin, PhD
Ron Toseland, PhD

COLLABORATOR:
Troy Housing Authority (including MSW interns)
IMPACT: Identification and refinement of effective methods to engage and retain individuals with co-occurring disorders of mental illness and substance abuse is a necessary first step in their continuum of care. Without effective engagement and retention, such clients risk continued mental health problems and continued substance abuse difficulties, with all of the attendant costs to family, friends, and society.

ASSESSING THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE JOHNSON INTERVENTION AT ENGAGING AND RETAINING CLIENTS WITH A DUAL DIAGNOSIS IN TREATMENT

PRINCIPAL AIMS: Adapt an existing method to engage and retain clients with dual disorders of substance abuse and mental illness in treatment.

METHODOLOGY & SOFTWARE USED: Project under revision

FUNDING: Center for the Study of Issues in Public Mental Health: $5,314.

DATES OF STUDY: 1996 – Present

PROGRESS TO DATE: Project under revision

ANTICIPATED CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE SOCIAL WORK FIELD: Improve treatment engagement and retention of client with dual disorders of substance abuse and mental illness. This will be done through systematic analysis and improvement of the therapeutic processes at the beginning of services.

SSW INVESTIGATOR: Barry Loneck, PhD
IMPACT: To promote effective services involving intimate partner violence for the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender non-conforming communities

EVALUATION CAPACITY-BUILDING FOR THE NYC ANTI-VIOLENCE PROJECT

PRINCIPAL AIMS:
The Center for Human Services Research worked with the NYC Anti-Violence Project to develop logic models and measurement capacity for services and outreach for the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender non-conforming communities.

METHODOLOGY & SOFTWARE USED:
Individual interviews
Literature review
Review measures

FUNDING:
$5,000

DATES OF STUDY:
11/2013 – 10/2014

PROGRESS TO DATE:
Completed data collection and preparing final report

ANTICIPATED CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE SOCIAL WORK FIELD:
Build measurement capacity of organizations addressing intimate partner violence in LGBT communities

CHSR INVESTIGATOR:
Lara Kaye
IMPACT: Reduce delinquency and violence of at-risk youth

EVALUABILITY ASSESSMENT OF THE YOUTH AND POLICE INITIATIVE

PRINCIPAL AIMS:
The Center for Human Services Research is conducting an evaluability assessment of the Youth and Police Initiative (YPI), a program operated by the North American Family Institute (NAFI) that aims to reduce delinquency and violence among at-risk youth by establishing police legitimacy in the youth community.

METHODOLOGY & SOFTWARE USED:
Staff interviews, document reviews, program observation, and secondary program data analysis

FUNDING:
$163,302

DATES OF STUDY:
10/2013 – Present

PROGRESS TO DATE:
Fully developed evaluation plan

ANTICIPATED CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE SOCIAL WORK FIELD:
Potential of establishing an evidence-based juvenile initiative

CHSR INVESTIGATOR:
Bradley Watts

COLLABORATOR:
Heather Washington
IV. Biographies – Faculty, Staff, and Doctoral Students
CAMILLE BARNES  
RESEARCH ASSISTANT  
CENTER FOR HUMAN SERVICES RESEARCH  

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PhD, Psychology, University at Albany  
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SPECIALIZATION: Social/Personality Psychology

Dr. Camille Barnes is a Social Psychologist. Dr. Barnes joined CHSR in 2011 as a graduate assistant and began her current role in May 2013. She is currently working on the evaluations of Healthy Families New York and NYS Success. Prior to these projects, Camille worked on projects involving qualitative data collection and analysis with students and parents from the City School District of Albany. Camille also coded child behaviors during mother/child interactions as part of Healthy Families New York.

KATHARINE H. BRIAR-LAWSON  
DEAN AND PROFESSOR  

MSW (1968), Columbia University  
PhD (1976), University of California, Berkeley  
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Telephone: (518) 442-5324  

SPECIALIZATION: Child and Family Welfare, Poverty and Unemployment, Community Collaboration and Service Integration


KEITH CHAN  
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR  

MSW (2006), Boston College  
PhD (2013), Boston College
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**SPECIALIZATION:** Acculturation, Immigrant Health and Elderly Asian Americans

Keith Chan is a Hartford Geriatric Doctoral Fellow, and an alumnus from the CSWE Minority Fellowship Program. His research examines the racial and ethnic differences in health and mental health for minority populations, in particular older Asian Americans. His recent publications include quantitative studies on the relationship of health outcomes with various individual and structural measures of acculturation for nationally representative samples of Asian American elderly and other minority populations. With changing demographic profiles, intense debates on immigration, and major health care reforms on the horizon, social workers can play a key role in guiding how research, policy and practice can improve health outcomes for the growing diversity of immigrant elderly in the US.

Dr. Chan’s current projects examine discrimination, disability, psychological distress, and chronic health conditions, and builds upon his earlier work in looking at health disparities for elderly Asians, immigrants, and other vulnerable populations.

**MAN-CHUN CHANG**

**DOCTORAL CANDIDATE**

BS (2001), Department of Medical Sociology, Kaohsiung Medical University, Taiwan
MS (2006), Institute of Health Policy & Management, National Taiwan University, Taiwan
MS (2012), Department of Epidemiology & Biostatistics, University at Albany

**SPECIALIZATION:** Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment, Mental Health, HIV/AIDS Services

Ms. Man-Chun is interested in the areas of co-occurring mental illness, substance abuse, and HIV. She is currently working toward the PhD degree. Her recent research addresses the health service utilization of people with mental health disorders, with particular interests in the extent to how HIV and/or substance use problems impact the use of mental health services. Man-Chun is also interested in secondary data analysis and has extensive experience in statistical computation and data analysis.

**CHUN DAR CHEN**

**ASSISTANT PROGRAMMER**

**CENTER FOR HUMAN SERVICES RESEARCH**

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MS, Operations Research, Union College

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**SPECIALIZATION:** Management Information Systems and Programming
Dar Chen works as an assistant programmer on the Healthy Families New York Evaluation. He retired from the New York State Department of Health as a Research Scientist. His experience includes information systems development, desktop applications, and mapping software.

MI JIN CHOI
DOCTORAL CANDIDATE

BSW (2008), Ewha Womans University, Seoul, South Korea
MSW (2010), Ewha Womans University, Seoul, South Korea
Email: mchoi2@albany.edu

SPECIALIZATION: Child Welfare

Mi Jin Choi’s primary interest is the well-being of vulnerable children and families, including poor and racial and ethnic minorities. She has five years of experience as a part-time research assistant on projects in South Korea and the U.S., including a study of stress on internationally married female migrants; children born to mothers who were an ethnic minority in Korea; an evaluation of student outcomes in higher education; and evaluation of a federally funded demonstration project which examines the safety, permanency, and well-being of children in kinship care in New York State.

NANCY CLAIBORNE
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR

PhD (1999), University of Houston
MSW (1982), University of Southern California
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SPECIALIZATION: Human Service Organizational functioning and change; team buildings and collaboration with community partners

Nancy is the Director of the School of Social Welfare Doctoral Program. She is a management specialist with 17 years’ experience as clinical director, community linkage agent, and senior administrator in inpatient and outpatient mental health settings. Dr. Claiborne’s research interests include human service organizational functioning and change, as well as teambuilding/collaboration with community partners. She is specifically interested in service system design and delivery, including the system facilitators and barriers to innovative services that achieve results. Dr. Claiborne was the Co-PI on a U.S. Children’s Bureau Comprehensive Workforce Project (CWP) grant that advanced the use of design teams to implement change initiatives with voluntary child welfare agencies. She is currently the Organizational Intervention Lead on the U.S. Children’s Bureau National Child Welfare Workforce Initiative (NCWWI), and has expertise working directly with agencies on implementing innovations and advancing systems improvements.
MICHAEL CLARKSON-HENDRIX
DOCTORAL CANDIDATE
RESEARCH PROJECT ASSISTANT, CENTER FOR HUMAN SERVICES RESEARCH

MS in School Psychology (1999), The College of Saint Rose
MSW (2002), University at Albany
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SPECIALIZATION: Behavioral and Mental Health Treatment, Program Evaluation, Instrument Development, Intervention Research, Worker Commitment, Worker Engagement, Organizational Culture, and Organizational Climate in the Mental and Behavioral Health Workforce, PTSD Treatment

Michael’s research focuses on improving the social and economic circumstances in behavioral and mental health organizations with the outcome of improved treatment efficacy. Current projects emphasize behavioral health workforce recruitment and retention as well as program evaluations in the fields of substance abuse treatment and child welfare. Before pursuing his doctoral studies at the University at Albany, Michael served as a clinician and consultant for over ten years in mental and behavioral health organizations.

Michael is involved with two projects at the Center for Human Services Research. As part of the Kinship Navigator County Collaboration Project, Michael assists with data collection and instrument development. As part of the PATH evaluation, a SAMSHA funded project of the Addiction Care Center of Albany to serve the homeless population with substance abuse and mental health issues, Michael assists with the oversight of data collection. Michael is Licensed Clinical Social Worker and Certified School Psychologist in New York State. He is a Doctoral Candidate in the School of Social Welfare at the University at Albany, SUNY.

CAROLINE W. DAWSON
DOCTORAL CANDIDATE

BS in Nursing (1963), University of Wisconsin
MS in Nursing (1975), Boston University
MPA (1994), University at Albany

SPECIALIZATION: Public Health Nursing and Health Surveillance

Caroline’s primary interests have evolved into the biopsychosocial developmental and neuroscience of the factors and the impacts on the child, family, and community and the development of interventions; research; and policies to address these.

EMILY DELORENZO
DOCTORAL CANDIDATE

BA English (1996), University at Albany
MSW (1999), Columbia University
Emily’s work has included direct service with at risk youth and their families; serving youth within the juvenile justice system; advocacy and coordination services with those affected by HIV/AIDS; program direction within a juvenile justice/mental health policy research firm; and coordination of research for a SAMHSA grant focused on treatment with traumatized children. In addition, Emily’s primary interest focuses on assisting young adults at risk as they transition to independence.

**SUSAN EHRHARD-DIETZEL**  
**SENIOR RESEARCH SUPPORT SPECIALIST**  
**CENTER FOR HUMAN SERVICES RESEARCH**

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**SPECIALIZATION:** Criminal Justice

Susan was the lead evaluator of the Sanctuary Model being implemented in several juvenile justice facilities and voluntary agencies across New York State. She is working on the evaluation of the Healthy Families New York program. Prior to joining CHSR, Susan worked for the Bureau of Evaluation at the New York State Office of Children and Family Services. Her research experience involves work on projects in a number of areas including child maltreatment, juvenile delinquency, and capital punishment. She is experienced in quantitative and qualitative methods, including sampling design, instrument development, fieldwork, and data analysis and presentation.

**PAMELA ENNIS**  
**DOCTORAL CANDIDATE**

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M.Div.  
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**SPECIALIZATION:** LGBTQ issues, religious/spiritual issues, trauma and abuse

**LISA FERRETTI**  
**RESEARCH ASSISTANT PROFESSOR AND PUBLIC SERVICE PROFESSOR**  
**CO-DIRECTOR, THE CENTER FOR EXCELLENCE IN AGING SERVICES & COMMUNITY WELLNESS**

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Lisa Ferretti is Research Assistant Professor, Co-Director of the Center for Excellence in Aging & Community Wellness and Executive Director of QTAC-NY, a Quality & Technical Assistance Center that supports expansion of evidence-based health promotion interventions in communities across New York State. An Atlantic Philanthropies/John A. Hartford Foundation Practice Change Leader in Geriatric Care, Lisa is a Stanford University Certified T-Trainer of the Chronic Disease Self-Management Program (CDSMP) and the Diabetes Self-Management Program and co-author of a Program Fidelity Guidance Manual for the CDSMP – Maintaining Program Fidelity: A Guide to Strategies for Improving Program Quality in the Chronic Disease Self-Management Program. Lisa is a national trainer for the National Diabetes Prevention Program, Lead Trainer and the primary developer of a translation of the Stanford University Prevention Research Center’s Active Choices program. Lisa is also a Master Trainer of Active Living Everyday, the Matter of Balance Program, Healthy Eating for Successful Living for Older Adults and the Arthritis Foundation Exercise Program. Lisa has developed and implemented several training projects through the NYS Area Agency on Aging Network in collaboration with the NYS Office for the Aging including Service Needs Assessment in NYS and NY Connects: Choices for Long Term Care Information & Assistance Training. Lisa regularly provides technical assistance and develops/conducts trainings, workshops and educational seminars on a variety of topics related to health promotion, community building, aging, care giving and social work practice throughout NYS and nationally.

ROSE GREENE
PUBLIC SERVICE PROFESSOR AND SENIOR RESEARCH SCIENTIST
DIRECTOR, CENTER FOR HUMAN SERVICES RESEARCH

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MA in Sociology, University at Albany
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SPECIALIZATION: Children and Family Services, Program Evaluation, Service Integration

Rose is the Director of the Center for Human Services Research, which conducts evaluation research, designs information systems, and informs policy and program development for a broad spectrum of agencies that serve vulnerable populations. She has received numerous grants and contracts from federal, state and local agencies for research in the areas of child abuse prevention, children’s mental health, early education, juvenile justice and systems integration and has over 20 years of experience in conducting program evaluation.

WOOJAE HAN
DOCTORAL CANDIDATE, QMHP
HINDELANG CRIMINAL JUSTICE RESEARCH CENTER, SCHOOL OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE, UNIVERSITY AT ALBANY

BSW (2004), Soongsil University, Seoul, Korea
MSW (2007), George Warren Brown School of Social Work, Washington University in St. Louis
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SPECIALIZATION: Interventions for Offenders with Severe Mental Illness, Mental Health Court (MHC), Healthcare Service Utilization and Satisfaction for Different Ethnic/Racial Groups

Woojae Han’s primary interest is developing interventions for the people with severe mental illness in the criminal justice system. Woojae worked at Hopewell Center (a comprehensive community mental health agency) for four years as a psychiatric social worker. He is working on the MHC evaluation project, a Brian & Behavior Research Foundation funded project of the Hindelang Research Center to analyze the effectiveness of mental health court program from the MacArthur Mental Health Court Project dataset.

ERIC R. HARDIMAN
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR

MSW (1993), University of Georgia
PhD (2001), University of California, Berkeley
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SPECIALIZATION: Mental Health, Consumer-Provided Services, Psychiatric Recovery, Homelessness/Housing, Veterans

Eric conducts research on peer-delivered support interventions across a range of populations and service domains, including those addressing mental health, homelessness, disaster relief, urban violence, and Veterans’ communities. His scholarly interests include peer support and the consumer delivery of services within an evidence-based framework that draws on models of psychiatric recovery for persons with serious psychiatric disabilities. He has also studied mental health responses and disaster relief in New York City following September 11, 2001 and in Indonesia as part of a response to the 2004 tsunami. He recently completed an evaluation of the Albany SNUG program, an outreach-based intervention designed to decrease gun violence using a public health model perspective. He is currently conducting a program evaluation of a statewide initiative to deliver peer support services for Veterans facing post-traumatic stress disorder symptoms and other challenges in eleven counties.

JULIA HASTINGS
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR

MSW (1993), University of Washington
PhD (2000), University of California, Los Angeles
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SPECIALIZATION: Poverty Issues among Ethnic Minority Populations; Mental Health and Welfare Participation Dynamics; African American Health and Mental Health Disparities; Program Evaluation.
Dr. Julia F. Hastings is assistant professor in the Schools of Public Health and Social Welfare at the University at Albany, SUNY. Globally, her research interests cover health and mental health disparities among ethnic minority populations, African American mental health, welfare participation dynamics, and ethnic minority women’s health issues. Her research projects focus on the interrelationships between race, mental health outcomes, health conditions, risk and protective factors, and poverty. Dr. Hastings has published on culturally competent research methods within African American communities, welfare participation, depression, and body weight. Her research grant portfolio includes funding from the National Institute of Minority Health and Health Disparities, NIMH, the Ford Foundation, and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

**JOHN HECK**
**SENIOR PROGRAM ANALYST**
**CENTER FOR HUMAN SERVICES RESEARCH**

MSW, University at Albany  
BA, Economics, Wittenberg University  
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**SPECIALIZATION:** Human Services Management Information Systems

John primarily works on the Management Information System for the Healthy Families New York Evaluation. He provides support and training to the users of the system and works with CHSR programmers to convert the exiting PC/network based application into a Web application. John joined CHSR in 1994 when he supervised the Technology Unit of the Neighborhood Based Alliance Initiative (NBA). Previously, he has worked with state information systems in the areas of teen pregnancy prevention, crisis intervention, and case management. John is committed to helping human service agencies use information to manage program activities, do strategic planning, monitor performance, have fidelity to evidence based models, inform policy makers, and accurately report to funders. He has fifteen years of experience working in human service agencies that serve mental health, mental retardation, and developmental disability populations.

**HEATHER K. HORTON**
**ASSISTANT PROFESSOR**

MS (1991), University of Arizona  
Telephone: (518) 442-5331

**SPECIALIZATION:** Mental Health, Deafness, Schizophrenia, Cognition, American Sign Language

Dr. Horton’s research centers on language and thought in the context of deafness and schizophrenia. She studies relations between cognition (e.g., attention, memory, visuo-spatial processing), social-cognition (e.g., facial affect processing, theory of mind), and adaptive outcomes in deaf people who are early and late
sign language learners. Other areas of interest include sign language ability and visual processing in general, as well as the modification of social-cognitive interventions for deaf people with schizophrenia.

LANI V. JONES
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR

MSW (1992), Boston College
PhD (2000), Boston College
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SPECIALIZATION: Mental Health, Black Feminism and Therapy, Evidenced-Based Practice and Group Work

Lani’s research interests are in the area of evidenced based practice with a focus on psychosocial competence, group work and positive mental health outcomes with families and their children in communities. Her current research projects entail: an opportunity youth promise neighborhoods initiative aimed at understanding the specific needs and barriers of youth disconnected from the formal education system and/or workforce.

SHIRLEY J. JONES
DISTINGUISHED SERVICE PROFESSOR

MA (1954), New York University
MSW (1964), New York University
PhD. (1977), Columbia University
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SPECIALIZATION: Planning, Policy, Group Work, Rural Social Work, Community Organization and Development

Dr. Jones’s interests include housing policy, rural social work issues, minorities, community organization and development, and action learning and action research. She is editor of Sociocultural and Service Issues Working with Rural Clients (Rockefeller College Press, 1992), and co-edited a book with Joan Levy Zlotnik, Preparing Helping Professionals to Meet Community Needs: Generalizing from the Rural Experience (1998). She has written two papers for the United Nations on housing policy and several papers on the needs of rural families and the role of women and minorities in development. She is the lead author of an article on “Globalization and Africa: Development, Challenges and Implications for Helping Professionals” in William Roth (2010), Globalization, Social Justice and The Helping Professions. She is also the lead author of an article on “Action Research: An Intervention for Change, Development and Advocacy in a Global Society” in Anne E. Fortune et.al. (2013), Qualitative Research in Social Work. Dr. Jones is presently looking at global rural communities, the impact of globalization and the implications of social and economic injustices in rural communities. Attention will be given to preparing helping professionals to work in a global society, to recognize the worth and dignity of all communities and to advocate for effective change and development.
LARA KAYE
RESEARCH SCIENTIST AND ASSISTANT RESEARCH PROFESSOR
CENTER FOR HUMAN SERVICES RESEARCH

MSW at Hunter College, City University of New York
PhD in Social Welfare at the University at Albany
Postdoctoral Fellowship in Clinical Services Training Research, University of California, San Francisco
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Lara Kaye is presently the Principal Investigator of the US Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention funded project to understand the effects of parent engagement on mentoring outcomes. Previous studies include logic models training evaluation, legally exempt child care provider needs assessment and program evaluation, family assessment response client satisfaction, barriers to obtaining food stamps, and child and adolescent psychiatry and mental health services in NYS. Her research portfolio includes studies on depression and gender, depression and physical activity, nutrition and nutritional education, hope and educational achievement, implementation of reading programs, social work field satisfaction, and coping skills and learning. She is skilled at quantitative and qualitative analysis. She has coordinated and facilitated large events, written and received grants, developed and presented trainings, published in peer-reviewed journals, and presented at national and international conferences.

MANSOOR KAZI
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR

BSc (1974), London School of Economics, United Kingdom
MSW (1988), University of Hull, United Kingdom
PhD (2003), University of Huddersfield, United Kingdom
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SPECIALIZATION: Realist Evaluation, Program Evaluation, and Secondary Data Analysis. Mental Health, Social Services, Education, Health, Chemical Dependency, Probation, and All Other Human Services

Before moving to University at Albany School of Social Welfare in September 2013, Mansoor Kazi was Research Associate Professor and Director of Program Evaluation Center at the School of Social Work, University at Buffalo (The State University of New York), having moved from the United Kingdom in September 2005 where he held a similar position at the School of Human & Health Sciences at the University of Huddersfield for 14 years. He has extensive experience evaluating human service organizations in USA, United Kingdom and Finland. He is lead evaluator of Chautauqua Tapestry System of Care and received SAMHSA’s Gold Award for Outstanding Local Evaluation in July 2010. His books include ‘Realist Evaluation in Practice’ (2003, Sage) and ‘International Perspectives on Evidence-based Practice in Social Work’ (with Bruce Thyer, 2004, Venture Press). At present, this realist evaluation approach is used in
the evaluation of the SAMHSA System of Care Grant in Chautauqua County ($9 million, 2008-2014), and in 24 other New York State counties that have been awarded a System of Care Extension Grant ($4 million, 2012-2016). In all NY counties with the SOC expansion grant to date, he helps agencies to use the data on ALL service users in a realist evaluation, to inform what works and for whom in a system of care. Data from schools, mental health and other services is analyzed quarterly in each county, and data analysis methods drawn from a combination of epidemiology and effectiveness research are used in naturally occurring quasi-experimental designs (e.g. including all school youth) to investigate if the comprehensive array of services and supports are working to provide better outcomes for youth and families. Mansoor Kazi was awarded the honor of joining the inaugural class of Fellows of the Society for Social Work and Research (SSWR) at its 2014 Annual Awards Presentation in January, San Antonio, Texas; and elected as co-chair of the Human Services Topical Interest Group at the American Evaluation Association’s 2014 annual conference.

MELISSA STEEL KING  
SENIOR RESEARCH SCIENTIST  
CENTER FOR HUMAN SERVICES RESEARCH  
BA, Williams College  
MA, Teachers College, Columbia University  
EdD, Harvard Graduate School of Education  
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SPECIALIZATION: PreK-12 Education, School Improvement, and Program Evaluation  
Melissa joined CHSR in 2012 to work on Education and Early Childhood projects. Her current projects include the evaluation of Albany Promise, a cross-sector partnership to provide cradle-to-career support for Albany children, and an evaluation of the 21st Century Community Learning Centers Program in the City School District of Albany. Before coming to CHSR, Melissa worked in the Research and Validation Department at Scholastic Inc. conducting evaluation research on PreK-12 curricula. Prior experience includes work as an elementary school teacher and as a trainer and evaluator for social and ethical awareness programs in elementary and middle schools. Melissa has applied qualitative and quantitative methods to a variety of research interests, including socio-emotional learning and development, PreK-12 instruction and intervention, fidelity of implementation for instructional programs, and school improvement.

CATHERINE K. LAWRENCE  
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR  
MSW (1997), University at Albany  
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Telephone: (518) 437-3692
SPECIALIZATION: Social Welfare Policy, Poverty & Disparity, Cultural Competency, Mixed Methods Research Design

Catherine’s scholarship focuses on public welfare in the United States. In particular, she is interested in the policies and programs that serve our most vulnerable citizens, especially families, children and young people. Income maintenance and child welfare are the policy arenas where her work has focused to date. Within these arenas she has studied and written about the implementation of federal welfare policy by state and local governments. She has also studied and written about the frontline workforce responsible for delivering public child welfare services. Catharine has secured funding for two projects from the federal Children’s Bureau. She currently directs a Children’s Bureau Comprehensive Workforce Project. Within this project and elsewhere in her work, Catherine's research perspective reflects a pragmatic approach to social science. She is committed to exploring useful ways to apply mixed methodologies to research questions when appropriate.

HEATHER LARKIN
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR

MSW (1994), Boston University
PhD (2006), The Catholic University of America
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SPECIALIZATION: Restorative Integral Support (RIS), Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE), Homelessness, Leadership Skills & Staff Self-Care, Policy Advocacy, Post-Trauma Wellness

Heather implements Restorative Integral Support (RIS), applying Integral theory (Wilber, 2000) for a comprehensive, whole person response to adverse childhood experiences (ACE) and trauma. This involves integration of evidence-supported and emerging practices within the context of an intentionally developed culture of recovery. Heather co-directs the National Center for Excellence in Homeless Services with John Records, a Public Service Professor, and volunteers as a consultant on research and education for the Center for Post-Trauma Wellness.

HAL A. LAWSON
PROFESSOR

MA (1967), University of Michigan
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SPECIALIZATION: School-Family-Community Partnerships, Child Welfare, and Interprofessional Collaboration

Hal works with school-family-community university partnerships in the United States as well as in other nations. This work encompasses school reform, systems reform in child welfare, and new health
interventions. It also involves interdisciplinary collaboration, action science, and action learning. For more information click here: http://www.albany.edu/~hlawson.

**EUNJU LEE**
**ASSISTANT PROFESSOR**

MA (1990), University at Albany  
Certificate (1997), Women and Public Policy, University at Albany  
PhD (2003), University at Albany  

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**SPECIALIZATION:** Child Welfare, Intervention Research, and Program Evaluation

Eunju received her BA from Ewha Women’s University in Korea and studied issues related to family, race and ethnicity, immigrant, and gender at the University at Albany. She was one of the fellows for the Center for Women in Government and Civil Society and interned at the New York State Assembly. For more than 10 years, Eunju was a researcher at the Center for Human Services Research (CHSR) conducting evaluation research using both quantitative and qualitative methods. She joined the SSW faculty in 2012. Her interests are program evaluation and intervention research in the field of Child Welfare and teaches Child Welfare, Program Evaluation, and Doctoral Research Seminar. Currently, Eunju is working on three research projects: The randomized controlled trial of Health Families New York, the evaluation of New York State Kinship Navigator Demonstration, and a faculty mentor research using Kinship data. In addition her collaboration with CHSR, Eunju is working with Dr. Heather Larkin of the University at Albany on studying Adverse Childhood Experiences.

**WONHYUNG LEE**
**ASSISTANT PROFESSOR**

MSW (2009) Social Work, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor  
PhD (2014) Urban and Regional Planning, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor  

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**SPECIALIZATION:** Community Development; Business District Revitalization; Ethnic Enclaves; Multicultural Community Organizing; Spatial Analysis and Geographical Information Systems (GIS); Social Entrepreneurship

Wonhyung Lee’s research focuses on community development and organizing, with an emphasis on the improvement of local businesses in low-income multiethnic neighborhoods. Her recent research includes case studies of business improvement districts (BIDs) in Los Angeles and Detroit as well as geographical analyses that measure the effects of various neighborhood characteristics on social and health outcomes. She is continuing her research in BIDs in the Capital Region of New York and developing new research
projects upon entrepreneurship among immigrants and refugees, local human service organizations, and community development and organizing in Asia.

BARRY LONECK
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR

MSSA (1978), Case Western Reserve University
PhD (1985), Case Western Reserve University
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SPECIALIZATION: Alcohol and Drug Dependence Treatment, Mental Health Treatment, Statistics/Data Analysis

Barry has conducted research on therapeutic process in alcohol and drug treatment, as well as mental health treatment, with a primary focus on engaging and retaining clients in needed services. He has examined the effectiveness of the Johnson Intervention in outpatient alcohol and other drug treatment and was a National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors’ (NASMHPD) Research Fellow from 1991 to 1993. As part of the Fellowship, he began studying therapeutic process of dual diagnosed clients in psychiatric emergency rooms through the New York State Office of Mental Health. Current plans include the development and testing of dynamic modeling (DM) analytic methods for therapeutic process data. Before coming to SUNY-Albany, he served as a clinician for eight years in a substance abuse rehabilitation center in Ohio.

BENJAMIN MALCZYK
DOCTORAL CANDIDATE

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SPECIALIZATION: Child Development, Behavior and Wellbeing as Influenced by Familial Factors, Poverty, and the Social Environment; Parental Influence on Student Engagement for Children from Vulnerable Backgrounds; Online Education as a Means of Achieving Social Justice

Secondary interests: Cradle-to-career initiatives as a means of laddering youth out of poverty; Participatory action research and community empowerment; Education policy implications for youth from disadvantaged backgrounds; Service learning

As depicted in my Specializations, I am focused on child welfare in the context of the family. My dissertation and future research will focus on how parent child interactions influence adolescent outcomes. Currently, my focus is on educational outcomes, including both academic engagement and achievement. I also have earned and am interested in online education as a means of achieving social justice.
PHILIP MCCALLION
PROFESSOR
CO-DIRECTOR, CENTER FOR EXCELLENCE IN AGING & COMMUNITY WELLNESS
DIRECTOR, INSTITUTE FOR SOCIAL SERVICES RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

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SPECIALIZATION: Aging and Developmental Disabilities

Philip McCallion is Distinguished Professor in the School of Social Welfare at the University at Albany, a Hartford Geriatric Social Work Faculty Scholar and Mentor and is Director of the Institute for Social Services Research and Development and Co-Director of the Center for Excellence in Aging & Community Wellness. Phil is also co-PI for the Intellectual Disability Supplement to The Irish Longitudinal Study on Ageing. His research has been supported by grants and awards from the National Institute on Drug Abuse, National Institute on Aging the U.S. Administration on Community Living/Administration on Aging, Centers for Disease Control & Prevention, the John A. Hartford Foundation, the Joseph P. Kennedy Jr., Foundation, the Atlantic Philanthropies, the Alzheimer’s Association, the Agency for Health Quality Research, the New York State Health Foundation, the Health Research Board of Ireland, the Irish Hospice Foundation and New York State’s Department of Health, Office for the Aging, Office of People with Developmental Disabilities, Office for Children and Family Services and Developmental Disabilities Planning Council. Phil has over 100 publications on interventions with caregivers of frail elderly, with persons with Alzheimer’s disease, and persons with intellectual/developmental disabilities.

MARY MCCARTHY
LECTURER
DIRECTOR, SOCIAL WORK EDUCATION CONSORTIUM
CO-PI, NATIONAL CHILD WELFARE WORKFORCE INSTITUTE

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SPECIALIZATION: Child Welfare and Political Social Work

Mary McCarthy's practice experience as a caseworker and trainer in child welfare and education frames her interest in public policy for children and families. She is the Co-PI for the National Child Welfare Workforce Institute and Director of the Social Work Education Consortium. The National Child Welfare Workforce Institute is a multi-university collaboration funded through a cooperative agreement with the Children’s Bureau designed to build the capacity of the nation’s child welfare workforce and improve outcomes for children, youth and families through activities that support the development of skilled child welfare
leaders. The Consortium is a partnership between the New York State Deans of Schools of Social Work, the County Child Welfare systems and the NYS Office of Children and Family Services. The Consortium is working on professionalization and stabilization initiatives for the public sector workforce. This involves funding to support interagency collaboration, community development and the education and training of child welfare practitioners. Dr. McCarthy is past president of the New York State Chapter, National Association of Social Workers and is the current (2012-2015) Treasurer for the National Board of Directors. She is on the Editorial Board for the Journal of Public Child Welfare and a reviewer for Child Welfare and Children and Youth Services Review.

SANDRA MCGINNIS
RESEARCH SCIENTIST
CENTER FOR HUMAN SERVICES RESEARCH

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Sandra joined CHSR in 2013 as the lead analyst on the Albany School Improvement Grant Program Evaluation, and the Evaluation of People Advancing through Treatment and Housing (PATH). Before coming to CHSR, Sandra spent ten years as a research associate at the Center for Health Workforce Studies in the School of Public Health at the University at Albany. Her research experience includes projects relating to child outcomes, family formation, public health, aging, workforce diversity, emergency medical services, and supply-demand modeling. Sandra has worked extensively with the analysis of existing large-scale datasets and with survey design and administration for primary data collection. She has authored or co-authored numerous peer-reviewed publications in journals as diverse as Journal of Marriage and Family, Journal of Evaluation in Clinical Practice, and Anesthesiology.

LINDA K. P. MERTZ
PROJECT COORDINATOR, INTERNSHIPS IN AGING PROJECT

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SPECIALIZATION: Geriatrics, Mental Health, Field Education

Linda is the coordinator of two projects with the School of Social Welfare. For the past 15 years Linda has coordinated the Internships in Aging Project – one of several model programs in the nation for training of social workers to work with older adults. Recently she has created a continuing education program for social work practitioners that will align with the new CEU requirements for NYS licensure. Her interests include gerontology, especially caregiving, wellness, intergenerational programming, mental health and community building. She also teaches in the clinical practice sequence.
ROBERT L. MILLER, JR.
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR

MSW (1994), University of Pennsylvania
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PhD (2000), Columbia University

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SPECIALIZATION: HIV Disease in African American Populations; Spirituality and Social Work Practice, Policy and Research; Faith-Based Health Promotion and Disease Prevention Collaboration

Robert explores the intersection of spirituality, social welfare and public health. He has examined the meaning and utility of spirituality in the lives of African American gay men living with AIDS. He is currently exploring the decision making process of African American Clergy in HIV prevention efforts within their congregations; coping strategies for African American women over 50 living with AIDS; and health promotion and disease prevention collaboration efforts between faith-based institutions and health related community-based organizations. Robert teaches Micro Practice One and Two; Cultural Diversity in Social Work; and Spirituality and Social Work Practice. He is an active participant in the US-Africa Partnership for Building Stronger Communities.

MARLEY MILLS, LCSW
DOCTORAL CANDIDATE

MSW (1995), University at Albany

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SPECIALIZATION: Grief and Trauma

Marley’s interests and past work include bereavement, complicated grief, traumatic loss, vicarious trauma, anxiety disorders, academic research and writing, medical social work, burnout prevention, and social work education.

CORINNE NOBLE
SENIOR RESEARCH SUPPORT SPECIALIST
CENTER FOR HUMAN SERVICES RESEARCH

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SPECIALIZATION: Data Collection and Video Coding Data Analysis
Corinne Noble is the coordinator for the Department of Health Menu Labeling Evaluation Project that evaluated the impact of calorie postings and a media campaign in several counties in New York State. She has been involved in many aspects of the evaluation and research process including the design of study materials, English-Spanish translation of study documents, data collection, coding of videotaped interviews, and coding of qualitative data. She has conducted telephone interviews and in person interviews in English and Spanish.

**CHRIS PAPAS**
**PROGRAMMER/ANALYST**
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**SPECIALIZATION:** Computer Programming, Database Design, Project Design

Chris Papas manages the IT unit of the Center for Human Services Research. He has worked on applications for the NYS Family Resource Center, Healthy Families New York, Healthy Families New Jersey and Adolescent Pregnancy & Prevention services initiative. He also helped design and programmed the Albany County Child Care Intranet application. Before coming to CHSR, Chris was an IT Manager at a credit union and a hospital. His experience includes web application programming, database design, data management and server management.

**LAUREN POLVERE**
**SENIOR RESEARCH SCIENTIST**
**CENTER FOR HUMAN SERVICES RESEARCH**

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**SPECIALIZATION:** Developmental Psychology

Lauren joined CHSR in 2013 to work on projects in the areas of early childhood, children and family services, and youth development, including the NYS Success and Healthy Families New York evaluations. Prior to joining CHSR, Lauren worked as a Research Associate for the Douglas Mental Health University Institute/McGill University on projects related to mental health and homelessness. She was a member of the national research team of a large-scale, mixed methods randomized controlled trial of the Housing First approach in Canada (the At Home/Chez Soi project). Lauren has consulted on a variety of mental health and youth development initiatives focused on improving the provision of services for youth and families. She
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has also worked clinically with children and youth in foster care settings. Lauren has written and received grants, published in peer-reviewed journals, and presented at national and international conferences.

LORETTA PYLES
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR

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PhD (2005), Social Work, University of Kansas
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Loretta’s research agenda focuses on community development and organizing from a global perspective with particular interests in the ways that marginalized individuals, groups and communities survive and resist economic and social oppression, particularly neoliberal social and economic policies. Her current research is concerned with the social production of disaster recovery and the relations between foreign actors and indigenous groups, the role of participation, and the impacts on capabilities. She is the author of Progressive Community Organizing: Reflective Practice in a Globalizing World, 2nd Edition (Routledge, 2013). She is interested in the role that contemplative practices such as yoga and mindfulness can play in deepening the capacities of students and practitioners. She is editing (with Gwendolyn J. Adam) Holistic Engagement: Transformative Social Work Education in the 21st Century (Oxford University Press, Forthcoming).

SARAH RAIN
SENIOR RESEARCH SUPPORT SPECIALIST
CENTER FOR HUMAN SERVICES RESEARCH

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SPECIALIZATION: Sociology

Sarah Rain joined CHSR in 2007 to work on evaluating Family Resource Centers located throughout New York State. Sarah has worked in university and private research centers exploring a range of topics including child maltreatment prevention, adolescent substance use, child care, coercion in mental health settings, violence risk assessment, and corporate downsizing. She has experience with a number of quantitative and qualitative data collection and analysis methods, as well as research design and implementation. Her work has been presented in peer-reviewed journals, at national conferences, and in government reports.
BLANCA M. RAMOS
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR

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Blanca’s scholarly interests are centered on health disparities, international social work, gerontology, and domestic violence with a focus on US Latinos. Blanca holds an affiliate appointment in the Department of Latin American and Caribbean Studies. She is Director of the Social Welfare Baccalaureate Program and is past-Director of the Education Core of the Center for the Elimination of Minority Health Disparities. She teaches courses on clinical social work, diversity, immigrants, Hispanic cultures in the U.S., and research in Latino communities. Her international work includes partnership building with higher education institutions and communities in Mexico, Costa Rica, Spain, Sweden and Peru. Blanca serves on a variety of local, regional, and national boards and commissions and has extensive experience as a practitioner and community organizer. Blanca is past First Vice President of the National Association of Social Workers (NASW) and has served in the National Board of the Institute for the Advancement of Social Work Research. Blanca served in the editorial board of Social Work and the NASW National Committee on Inquiry. She is originally from Piura, Peru.

CHRIS REES
GRADUATE ASSISTANT
CENTER FOR HUMAN SERVICES RESEARCH

BA, Sociology, Western Washington University
MA, Sociology, University at Albany
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SPECIALIZATION: Criminology/Urban Sociology

Chris works on Albany Promise and other related projects as a data analyst. His research focuses on the spatial and network dynamics that influence crime and social control. His dissertation centers on the relationship between residential and workplace neighborhoods and their collective influence on processes related to social disorganization.
JACQUELINE RICHARDSON-MELECIO, LMSW
DOCTORAL CANDIDATE

BA, Sociology/Business Administration (1989), University of Albany
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SPECIALIZATION: Organizational Diversity, Cultural Competency, Strategic Planning, Staff and Resource Development

Jacqueline is a licensed master’s level social worker and Doctoral candidate. Jacqueline has over 20 years of experience in administration and service delivery in the provision of human services within minority communities and communities at large as well as experience in statewide mental health advocacy initiatives. Jacqueline has committed her social work career to addressing existing disparities prevalent in minority communities and communities at large and to bringing solutions to prevailing issues of accessibility, quality, and equity within existing service delivery systems of care. Among her many accomplishments she has executed the successful development and implementation of various statewide professional workforce development initiatives. Jacqueline has demonstrated excellence in building collaborative stakeholder initiative successfully engaging of multidisciplinary professionals, policy makers, consumers, and family members. She is an experienced trainer with her own consulting business “New Heights Consulting” providing workshops on Cultural Competency, Corporate Diversity, Workforce Development, Strategic Planning, Board and Organizational Development. For the past 14 years she has served as the Assistant Executive Director for the National Association of Social Workers, New York State Chapter. Current research activities include dissertation research focusing on the delivery of culturally competent mental health and human services to Latino population and a community mental health workforce preparedness training program evaluation( three phase evaluation of a statewide provider training initiative) addressing provider capacity in meeting the mental health needs of returning veterans.

KENNETH ROBIN
SENIOR RESEARCH SCIENTIST AND ASSISTANT RESEARCH PROFESSOR
CENTER FOR HUMAN SERVICES RESEARCH

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SPECIALIZATION: Education, Assessment, and Program Evaluation

Ken is the lead evaluator for the City School District of Albany’s Safe Schools/Healthy Students initiative and Magnet School Assistance Program Evaluation. He also led CHSR’s evaluation of New York’s AmeriCorps*
State programs. Before coming to CHSR, Ken was an Assistant Research Professor at Rutgers University, working for the National Institute for Early Education Research (NIEER). Projects included data management for and co-authorship of the annual State of Preschool Yearbook. Other experience involved research design for evaluations of state preschool programs in New Mexico and Kansas. Ken also wrote policy briefs, conducted cost estimates, and provided research-based advice to policy makers, educators, and media. Ken is a licensed school psychologist.

**CORI ROBOHN**  
**INFORMATION SYSTEMS TECHNICIAN**  
**CENTER FOR HUMAN SERVICES RESEARCH**  

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**SPECIALIZATION:** Research Support, IT Support

Cori joined the center in November 2012, bringing her years of experience in customer service, training, human resources and office management to various projects at CHSR. Cori provides phone and internet support to HFNY MIS users. She also assists in software testing, data collection and data entry. Other projects to which Cori provides support include HFNY, Menu Labeling Evaluation and Glens Falls Hospital Nutrition Study.

**JAY ROBOHN**  
**PROGRAMMER/ANALYST**  
**CENTER FOR HUMAN SERVICES RESEARCH**  

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**SPECIALIZATION:** Management Information Systems, Database Design, Programming, Windows 7/Vista operating systems

Jay works on CHSR systems and software development projects. His experience includes application design and development, primarily to facilitate entry of forms and measurement of program outcomes, maintenance and technical assistance of multi-user, and county and state-wide MIS applications. Jay has worked on the Healthy Families New York (HFNY) MIS, Families Together Albany County project, and Healthy Families New Jersey. Prior to joining CHSR, Jay worked for a forensic CPA firm for five years and then switched careers to be employed by two IT/Database consulting firms in New York City for almost 15 years.
MARILYN ROONEY  
EDUCATIONAL SPECIALIST  
SOCIAL WORK EDUCATION CONSORTIUM  
BA (1972) and MA (1973) Russian Studies, Fordham University  
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SPECIALIZATION: Children and Families – Child Welfare

An experienced caseworker and staff development coordinator in the county social services system in New York State, Marilyn Rooney is an education specialist who works with the BSW Scholars Program. This program provides special child welfare training for social work students interested in working in child welfare, including child protective services. The goal of the program is to help professionalize the field of child welfare and increase the retention of caseworkers.

JUNRONG SHI  
DOCTORAL CANDIDATE  
CENTER FOR EXCELLENCE IN AGING AND COMMUNITY WELLNESS  
BA Management (2003) China Agricultural University  
MS Applied Development Studies (2004) University at Reading  
MSW (2013) University at Albany  
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SPECIALIZATION: Aging and Gerontology, Long-Term Care Policy, Community-Based Development Programs

For five years prior to studying in the US, I worked with several non-profit organizations on community-based programs to support vulnerable children, elderly and the poor. My research interests are in advancing the community and home based support for elderly. I am also interested in social support, service utilization and well-being of older adults; acculturation and social inclusion of immigrants. My main interest is working with Asian American immigrants and Chinese older adults.

NA KKYOUNG SONG  
DOCTORAL CANDIDATE  
BSW (2007), Seoul Women’s University, Seoul, South Korea  
MSW (2009), Yonsei University, Seoul, South Korea  
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SPECIALIZATION: Poverty, Welfare Policy
Na Kyoung’s primary interests include poverty, examining the effects of welfare policies and programs on child and family welfare. More recently, Na Kyoung has been involved in conducting policy and practice relevant research that could potentially minimize the negative impact of substance use and dependence of low income women using mental health service utilization data.

**SHARON STEVENS**
**DOCTORAL CANDIDATE**

BA Spanish (1985), Marist College  
MSW (2007), University at Albany  
L.MSW (2009), University at Albany  

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**SPECIALIZATION:** Service-Learning, Volunteerism in Higher Education, University-Community Engagement, Human Service Organization Continuous Quality Improvement and Training

Sharon’s primary interests are the effects of service on students and the effects of student service in the community. She is passionate about service as a public school intervention. Sharon has also earned her Certificate in Non-Profit Management and Leadership in 2009 at the University at Albany, Rockefeller College of Public Affairs and Policy.

**JULIANA SVISTOVA**
**DOCTORAL CANDIDATE**

MSW (2010), University at Albany  

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**SPECIALIZATION:** Macro Social Work

Juliana’s interests include international social work and social development, civic participation of the oppressed populations, social policy and practice in disaster contexts, community work, issues of knowledge, and power and oppression. In terms of research, Juliana is interested in interdisciplinary research perspectives, qualitative research, participatory action research, critical discourse analysis, interpretive policy analysis, situational analysis, and theories of change.

**RONALD W. TOSELAND**
**PROFESSOR**  
**DIRECTOR, INSTITUTE OF GERONTOLOGY**

MSW (1974), Fordham University  
PhD (1977), University of Wisconsin, Madison  

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SPECIALIZATION: Gerontology and Social Work Practice

Ronald is interested in applied gerontological research and research on clinical social work practices and group work. He is the author and co-author of several books including Maintaining Communication with Persons with Dementia (Springer, 1998); Group Work with Older Adults and Their Family Caregivers (Springer, 1995); Effective Work with Administrative Groups (Haworth Press, 1987); An Introduction to Group Work Practice, 7th edition (Pearson, 2012); Family Caregiving (Springer, 2012). His most recent journal articles address issues related to developing and leading support groups for family caregivers.

LYNN WARNER
PROFESSOR
ASSOCIATE DEAN FOR RESEARCH

MPP (1987), Harvard University
MSW (1994), University of Michigan
PhD (1998), University of Michigan
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SPECIALIZATION: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services and Policies

Lynn's research focuses on addressing inequities in behavioral health service delivery to vulnerable populations such as low-income women and children, and Latinos. Current projects emphasize behavioral health workforce development and the consequences of psychotropic medication use at different ages. She was a National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) post-doctoral research fellow at the Institute for Health, Health Care Policy and Aging Research, and her research has been supported by the Alcoholic Beverage Medical Research Foundation, the Annie E. Casey Foundation, and the Health Resources and Services Administration. Lynn is a member of the editorial boards of the Journal of the Society for Social Work and Research, Social Work and Mental Health, and reviews for a range of social work and behavioral health services journals.

BRAD WATTS
SENIOR RESEARCH SCIENTIST
CENTER FOR HUMAN SERVICES RESEARCH

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SPECIALIZATION: Evaluation, Labor and Employment, and Public and Private Service Program Research

Brad joined CHSR in 2012 after spending over a decade conducting research projects on labor and employment issues in Michigan. He currently works on the evaluation of the Healthy Families New York
HFNY is a statewide prevention program designed to improve child health, parenting, and reduce child maltreatment among at risk families. Brad is also the lead evaluator for the SEED Program. Brad’s research interests include programs and policies related to employment and entrepreneurship, as well as the evaluation, monitoring, and improvement of human service programs.

ESTELLA WILLIAMSON  
ASSISTANT DEAN  
DIRECTOR, FIELD EDUCATION

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SPECIALIZATION: Field Education, Mental and Behavioral Health, HIV

Estella’s past experience in social work leadership involved managing programs in child welfare, outpatient mental health and addictions, prenatal services and HIV clinical and preventive care. Her management of clinical programming included the development and implementation of services; program monitoring and evaluation; and the procurement and management of State and Federal grants. She has served as a field instructor, adjunct instructor and speaker on social work practice and theory. Estella is also a therapist in private practice.

JOHN YU  
VISITING ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR  
DIRECTOR, CENTER FOR ADDICTIONS RESEARCH

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SPECIALIZATION: Alcohol and Drug Use Disorder; Substance Abuse Treatment Service Implementation and Evaluation

Before his appointment to the School, John Yu was a senior research scientist with the State Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services, where he directed the agency's efforts in research and development, grants management, criminal justice and policy studies, among many other functions. John Yu has conducted research and published in a wide range of areas including crime and crime control, substance abuse and addictions, driving under the influence of alcohol and its recidivism, substance use among youth and college students, treatment service utilization among ethnic groups, and substance abuse early intervention for at-risk populations. He has more than 25 years of experience in the addictions field and has been principal investigator for many federally and State funded projects working with the LGBT population, STD clinics, veterans, youth, the criminal justice population, and the Asian American community.
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Introduction to the School of Social Welfare

Information about our Research Institutes and Centers

- Institute of Gerontology
- Institute for Social Services Research and Development
  - Center for Excellence in Aging Services & Community Wellness
  - Center for Human Services Research
  - Center for Innovation in Mental Health Research
  - Social Work Education Consortium
- Center for Addictions Research
- The National Center for Excellence in Homeless Services
- The National Child Welfare Workforce Institute

Research currently being conducted

Biographies of Faculty, Staff, and Doctoral Students with Contact Information

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