

University at Albany
School of Social Welfare



2011—2012 Research Guide
www.albany.edu/ssw/

The University at Albany School of Social Welfare 2011—2012 Research Guide is the result of the effort of Brian D. Roland, Ph.D.

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Introduction to the 2011—2012 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, Ph.D., Dean
Anne E. Fortune, Ph.D., Associate Dean
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, Ph.D.

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, Ph.D.

Component Centers:

Center for Excellence in Aging Services & Community Wellness

Directors: Philip McCallion, Ph.D. & Lisa A. Ferretti, L.M.S.W.

Center for Human Services Research & Practice

Director: Rose Greene

Center for Innovation in Mental Health Research

Director: Eric Hardiman, Ph.D.

New York State Social Work Education Consortium

Director: Mary McCarthy, Ph.D.

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.

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 dollars in grants, training, research and service contracts supporting this agenda.

Center for Excellence in Aging Services & Community Wellness

Directors: Philip McCallion, Ph.D. & Lisa A. Ferretti, L.M.S.W.

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.

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.

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.
- Educational outreach to adults regarding financial literacy
Ensuring older adults have access to resources that help them to be knowledgeable about the financial options that are open to them and how to protect their assets during economic transactions.

Center for Excellence in Aging Services & Community Wellness (cont.)

- 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.
- 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.

Federal, state and foundation funded research grants from the U.S. Administration on Aging, 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 and The Atlantic Philanthropies fund international research activities with the Center's partners at Trinity College Dublin.

Center for Human Services Research

Director: Rose Greene

Management Team: Eunju Lee, Ken Robin, LuAnn McCormick, Chris Papas

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 studies including formulating hypotheses, choosing and developing measures, collecting data, analyzing data and presenting findings;
- 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, Ph.D.

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 nationally prominent 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.

The Center operates under the School of Social Welfare's Institute for Human Services Research. Center staff will be comprised of University at Albany School of Social Welfare faculty, doctoral research assistants, and key researchers from the New York State Office of Mental Health to be appointed as Research Faculty. 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.

Priorities

- 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.

Center for Innovation in Mental Health Research (cont.)

- 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 Masters and Doctoral levels opportunities to collaborate with faculty in conducting relevant mental health research.

New York State Social Work Education Consortium

Director: Mary McCarthy, Ph.D., LM.S.W.

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.

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, involving 48 out of 57 counties and New York City.
- Research and evaluation activities designed to develop knowledge about approaches that facilitate retention and support workforce professionalization and implement effective strategies to achieve the goal.

Priorities

The Social Work Education Consortium promotes:

- Public sector-university collaborations that support the education and training of child welfare staff;
- Research driven practice and policy innovations in workforce recruitment and retention;
- Policy and program partnerships with OCFS, the legislature and local district leaders in child welfare; and
- Professionalization activities and workforce development for child welfare workers and those interested in a child welfare career.

New York State Social Work Education Consortium (cont.)

Programs

- Seven regional groups develop region-specific programs designed to promote workforce professionalization and stabilization activities suitable to their area.
- The B.S.W. Scholarship program funds students interested in pursuing a career in child welfare. This pilot program is operating in New York City, the Capital District and Western New York. Graduates must work for 2 years in public child welfare in exchange for the scholarship funding.
- The Program Evaluation staff design and implement program specific evaluations to identify promising practices and areas that require program modifications. The B.S.W. scholarship program is also being evaluated.

Federal funding has been received for The National Child Welfare Workforce Institute, which seeks to build the child welfare workforce through multiple levels of leadership capacity building, to implement sustainable systems change, institutionalize effective workforce practices, and improve outcomes for children and families with a Systems of Care, data driven framework.

National Child Welfare Workforce Institute

PI: Mary McCarthy, Ph.D., L.M.S.W. – Co-PI: Katharine Briar-Lawson, Ph.D.

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

Purpose

To build the capacity of the nation's child welfare workforce and improve outcomes for children and families through activities that support the development of skilled child welfare leaders in public and tribal child welfare systems, and in private agencies that are contracted by the State to provide case management services that are traditionally provided by the public child welfare system.

Goals

To derive promising practices in workforce development, deliver child welfare leadership training for middle managers and supervisors, facilitate B.S.W. and M.S.W. traineeships, engage national peer networks, support strategic dissemination of effective and promising workforce practices, and advance knowledge through collaboration and evaluation.

NCWWI's workforce development activities promote:

Learning: Fostering continuous learning that is interactive, reflective and relevant.

Leading: Cultivating diverse leadership at multiple levels within child welfare systems.

Changing: Supporting change through workforce development and organizational capacity building.

Vision

We envision a committed, competent and high performing child welfare workforce that is:

- strengthened by professional education;
- sustained through leadership development;
- supported by organizational practices that mirror systems of care principles; and
- skilled at delivering promising practices that improve outcomes for children and families.

National Child Welfare Workforce Institute (cont.)

Collaboration

Our partners are nine universities and the National Indian Child Welfare Association. We are committed to principles of collaboration. Our shared values are derived from a Systems of Care philosophy that is collaborative, community-based, inclusive and culturally responsive. Our consensus based approach models what we hope to achieve with others.

Partners:

University at Albany

*Mary McCarthy and
Katharine Briar-Lawson
Co-Principal Investigators*

University of Iowa

Miriam Landsman

University of Denver

Cathryn Potter

University of Southern Maine

Freda Bernotavicz

Michigan State University

Gary Anderson

University of Michigan

Kathleen Faller

Fordham University

Virginia Strand

National Indian Child Welfare Association

Terry Cross

University of Maryland

*Nancy S. Dickinson,
NCWWI Project Director*

Children's Bureau/ACF/DHHS

*Randi Walter
Federal Project Officer*

Portland State University

Katharine Cahn

III. Faculty, Staff, and Ph.D. Student Research

Title: Evaluation of the Equinox, Inc. Transitional Housing Program**Principal Aims:**

To conduct qualitative interviews with youth in Equinox's Transitional Living program in order to understand first-hand the experiences of youth in the program and build on the agency data collection and program evaluation capacity.

Methodology and Software Used:

Youth ages 18-20 who have participated in Equinox's Transitional Living Program are interviewed using an interview protocol created by the primary investigator. A second part of the study is quantitative and explores the effects of an Independent Living Skills Program on At-Risk Youth's Human Capital Accumulation and employs a pre-test and post-test exploratory design. The data collection tool is the NEORHYMIS, a federal data collection form already in use at the agency.

Funding:

Equinox, Inc. (provides incentives and equipment).

Dates of Study: 3/2007 – 11/2012

Progress to Date:

Nine interviews have been completed to date. As for the quantitative plan, data collection is complete and preliminary data analyses have begun. Data have been collected on 108 cases dating back to 2002. Agency staff will continue to use the data base in order to collect data on youth who enter and exit the program.

Anticipated Contributions to Social Work Field:

Allow for the voices of youth who are transitioning to adulthood to be heard for the purpose of improving programs and service delivery to this vulnerable and understudied population. The quantitative part will add to the knowledge of ILP by assessing effectiveness of services provided to youth. It will also provide Equinox, Inc. with the capacity to collect their own data in order to monitor the effectiveness of their program.

SSW Investigator:

Toni Naccarato, Ph.D.

Collaborator:

Equinox, Inc.

Research Support Staff:

Emily DeLorenzo

Title: Evaluation of Safe Schools/Healthy Students

Principal Aims:

The Center for Human Services Research is evaluating the City School District of Albany's Safe Schools/Healthy Student initiative, a federal program designed to create safe school environments, promote pro-social skills and foster healthy child development. The initiative builds on community partnerships to address the needs of the school district's youth and their families.

Methodology and Software Used:

Parent and Youth Surveys: Data are collected on presenting problems and service provision.

Power School: School district database on student activity.

Safe Schools MIS: Data on mental health service provision.

Funding:

U.S. Department of Education: \$586,000.

Dates of Study: 9/2008 – 8/2012

Progress to Date:

Data collection, analysis, and reporting have been conducted on a continual basis to inform local service delivery and meet federal documentation requirements.

Anticipated Contributions to the Social Work Field:

Informed practice to achieve safe school environments and promote healthy child development.

CHSR Investigators:

Kenneth Robin, Psy.D.

Jennifer Bashant, Ph.D.

Corrine Noble

Rose Greene

Title: Evaluation of the New York State Home Visiting Program**Principal Aims:**

Since 1995 the Center for Human Services Research (CHSR) has been conducting a variety of studies of Healthy Families New York (HFNY), 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, and studies on program practices and the work environment.

Methodology and Software Used:

Longitudinal randomized trial: This study has been conducted since 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 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). The study compares these two groups of women and their children over time to assess program outcomes. In addition to survey data, an observational study was conducted that involved videotaping mothers and children to assess the program effects on parent-child interaction and child development. 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. Information is collected on participant characteristics; the intensity, duration and type of services delivered, and select outcomes and program targets. Other Studies: Research includes the Early Enrollment Pilot study, birth outcome study, and the fatherhood initiative. Software: SPSS, MapInfo.

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).

Dates of Study: 10/2005 – 09/2012

Progress to Date:

CHSR has completed data collection for the longitudinal randomized trial. Ongoing work includes revising the MIS, continuing analysis of program data, reporting findings, and publishing papers.

Anticipated Contributions to Social Work Field:

Improved service delivery to prevent child maltreatment.

CHSR Investigators:

Rose Greene

Eunju Lee

John Heck

Jennifer Perella

Devinder Khalsa

Monica Rodriguez

Susan Ehrhard-Dietzel

Chris Papas

Jay Robohn

Matt Vogel

Title: Evaluation of the Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention and Services Program**Principal Aims:**

The Center for Human Services Research (CHSR) designed a web-based management information system for all Adolescent Pregnancy and Prevention and Services (APPS) programs delivered in over 130 communities throughout New York State. The MIS describes the characteristics of program participants and the type and intensity of services they receive. The MIS also calculates program performance indicators. CHSR continues to analyze data and report findings to state administrators and local sites to promote effective practice.

Methodology and Software Used:

Methods: Longitudinal program and participant questionnaires. Software: SPSS, dot net, MapInfo.

Funding: NYS Department of Health: \$686,250.

Dates of Study: 9/2008 – 8/2013

Progress to Date:

Ongoing data collection and analyses.

Anticipated Contributions to Social Work Field:

Improved services in the field of adolescent pregnancy prevention.

CHSR Investigators:

Rose Greene

Chris Papas

Matthew Vogel

Title: 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 and Software Used:

Mixed methods.

Funding: New York State Education Department.

Dates of Study: 2009 – 2014

Progress to Date:

Program will be implemented in Spring 2010.

Anticipated Contributions to 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:

Laura Hopson, Ph.D.

Title: Assessment of Ecological Risk and Protective Factors Associated with School Failure**Principal Aims:**

This FRAP A funded research aims to address ecological risk and protective factors by synthesizing information on risk and protective factors at different ecological levels, school culture characteristics, and academic outcomes.

Methodology and Software Used:

Students in Cohoes Middle and High Schools and Harriet Gibbons High School completed the School Success Profile (SSP), a reliable and valid measure of risk and protective factors at multiple ecological levels. School personnel and administrators at each school completed the School Success Profile-Learning Organization (SSP-LO), a reliable and valid measure of school culture (Bowen, Rose, & Ware, 2006). Within the Cohoes School District, students in grades 7 through 10 (N=485) completed the SSP, and school personnel within the middle school and high schools (N=106) completed the SSP-LO. Preliminary analyses suggest that, in comparison to middle school students and 10th grade students, 9th graders report less engagement in school, less parental academic support, lower grades, more feelings of sadness and isolation, and more problem behavior. Research at Harriet Gibbons High School employs the same measurement strategies, but has taken a different direction because the school's mission is to work intensively with high risk youth during their ninth grade year to increase their chances of a successful transition into the tenth grade at Albany High School. The purpose of the needs assessment in this school is to identify the ecological risk and protective factors among Harriet Gibbons students that are associated with school failure and to examine whether these risk and protective factors change while enrolled at Harriet Gibbons. Students (N=80) completed the SSP at the beginning and end of this academic year 2008-2009, and school personnel and administrators (N=30) completed the SSP-LO.

Funding:

FRAP A.

Dates of Study: 2008 – Present

Progress to Date:

Students and school personnel at both schools have completed the surveys. Data analysis is currently being conducted to examine interactions between risk and protective factors that predict academic outcomes.

Anticipated Contributions to Field:

This study has important implications for broadening the understanding of risk and protective factors for academic outcomes, including factors at the family, neighborhood, and school levels. These data allow school districts to incorporate this broader understanding into school improvement plans so that they can better support students who are at risk for school failure.

SSW Investigator:

Laura Hopson, Ph.D.

Collaborator:

Cohoes School District

Title: Evaluation of the Hartford Internships in Aging Project

Principal Aims:

1. Develop a rotational model of field education to educate M.S.W. 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 and 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.

Dates of Study: 2001 – Present

Progress to Date:

Developed model, and now disseminating it nationally. Completed evaluation of student cohorts graduating in 2001-2007. Published several refereed articles on outcomes and processes.

Anticipated Contributions to Social Work Field:

New rotational model of social work field education; developing leaders for social work practice with older persons.

SSW Investigator:

Anne E. Fortune, Ph.D.

Collaborator:

Linda Mertz, M.S.W.

Title: MAC Grant/Pearls Project

Principal Aims:

Infuse gerontology, mental health, and substance abuse information/learning into the advanced-year M.S.W. program.

Methodology & Software Used:

Surveys; attitudes data to measure effectiveness of modules.

Funding:

CSWE: \$20,000.

Dates of Study: 9/07 – Present

Progress to Date:

Have developed a mental health and aging module for evidenced-based practice in mental health, a substance abuse and aging module for substance abuse practice and are developing a policy module for substance abuse policy class. Modules will be distributed nationally.

Anticipated Contributions to the Social Work Field:

With the aging of the baby-boom generation, social workers will need to have skills to work with older adults as they seek services and supports from health and social service agencies.

SSW Investigator:

Anne E. Fortune, Ph.D.

Collaborator:

Linda Mertz, M.S.W.

Title: 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 and 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:

Under IRB review; questionnaire has been pre-tested

Anticipated Contributions to 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, Ph.D.
Ron Toseland, Ph.D.

Collaborator:

Troy Housing Authority (including M.S.W. interns)

Title: Infusing Gerontology into Social Work Curriculum

Principal Aims:

To evaluate the effect of curricular change on M.S.W. generalist courses.

Methodology and Software Used:

We conducted analysis of course syllabi.

Funding:

School of Social Welfare.

Dates of Study: 2000 – Present

Progress to Date:

The data have been collected.

Anticipated Contributions to the Social Work Field:

Continuous improvement of Social Work education.

SSW Investigator:

Anne E. Fortune, Ph.D.

Collaborators:

Linda Mertz, M.S.W.

Paul Urbanski, M.S.W.

Sarah Maynard, M.S.W.

Dissertation Title: Outpatient Treatment Approaches, Services and Outcomes for Older Addicted Adults**Principal Aims:**

To address key issues relevant to outpatient OASAS licensed clinics across NYS offering treatment to older addicted adults in mixed and same-age group settings. This line of research is focused on identifying the custom-tailored services needed to foster improved treatment outcomes of older addicted adults. Building on the research to date, it will extend the knowledge of effective approaches for the addicted senior population.

Methodology/Software:

The proposed study will consist of a sample of 1,377 patients discharged from 22 outpatient chemical dependency programs across New York State. As such, this is a purposive, non-probability sample. Combining program survey data with client data, the proposed study will be an exploratory, quasi-experimental and ex post facto examination of secondary data exploring the effectiveness of geriatric addictions treatment in community-based outpatient clinics across NYS. Several statistical techniques will be utilized to explore the hypotheses put forth. Initially Chi Square tests including Kramer's V and Phi Chi Square tests will be utilized. Binary logistic regression analyses will be used with this doctoral dissertation study.

Date of Implementation: 2011**Progress to Date:**

A preliminary study was completed entitled, "A Pilot Study of Outpatient Clinics in NYS Offering Services to Older Addicted Patients." The results were analyzed using SPSS software and interpretations of findings and their implications across the older addicted population were reviewed and discussed. The survey data from this preliminary study will be combined with client level data from the OASAS Client Data System for the doctoral dissertation and will soon be under review.

Anticipated Contributions to Social Work Field:

This dissertation is designed to lay the groundwork and provide direction for ongoing research toward the establishment of evidence-based practices and clinical practice guidelines in the area of geriatric addiction treatment. A macro-level aim is to shape the chemical dependency treatment system such that it would include specialized programs and tracks within addiction treatment programs designed to meet the unique needs of the aging population.

Doctoral Student:

Nicole S. MacFarland, L.C.S.W.-R, CASAC
Clinical Director, Senior Hope Counseling Inc.

Committee members:

Philip McCallion, Ph.D. (Chair)
Ricky Fortune, Ph.D.
Barry Loneck, Ph.D.
Bill Rockwood, Ph.D.

Title: 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 and Software Used:

Random sample survey SPSS and or SAS.

Funding:

None.

Dates of Study: 6/2009 – 6/2012

Progress to Date:

Survey completed. Data analyzed and now writing up the results.

Anticipated Contributions to Field:

Increase knowledge about early stage and early onset support groups for caregivers and persons with dementia, training needs assessment.

SSW Investigator:

Ron Toseland, Ph.D.

Title: North Country Network

Principal Aims:

To develop a case finding and referral system for alcoholism, substance abuse and mental health problems among Elderly residents of two counties in upstate New York.

Methodology and Software Used:

A mixed methods quantitative and qualitative study.

Funding:

NYS Health Care Foundation.

Dates of Study: 1/2008 – Present

Progress to Date:

Development of the network, screening and assessment measure and case finding methods. Collection and analysis of data.

Anticipated Contributions to Field:

Coordinating care for the frail elderly with substance abuse and or mental health problems in a very rural area.

SSW Investigator:

Ron Toseland, Ph.D.

Collaborator:

North Country Behavioral Network

Title: The Healthy Hearts on the Hill Program

Principal Aims:

Bring together community partners from the fields of healthcare, faith based and community organizations, neighborhood advocacy groups, and university partners, along with prominent community members to provide greater health improvement and support opportunities in the West Hill, Arbor Hill, and South End neighborhoods of the City of Albany.

Methodology and Software Used:

Uses a participatory action practice approach to build capacity for screenings, evidence-based health promotion, health care access, improved nutrition and exercise opportunities and community transformation.

Funding:

Practice Change Fellow Award (Ferretti), NYS Department of Health & Bronx Health Reach/CDC: \$500,000.

Dates of Study: 10/2007 – 12/2014

Progress to Date:

Successful development of Coalition and delivery of Biggest Winner Intervention; developing safe places for exercise

Anticipated Contributions to the Social Work Field:

Project will offer strategies to increase capacity in health disparities communities.

SSW Investigators:

Lisa A. Ferretti, L.M.S.W.
Philip McCallion, Ph.D.

Collaborators:

Robert Paeglow, MD

Research Support Staff:

Azula Kennedy, M.S.W.

Title: Evidence-Based Health Promotion in New York State

Principal Aims:

To effectively and with fidelity implement evidence based health promotion programs in three areas of New York State.

Methodology and Software Used:

Quality assurance, fidelity checks, and systems change analysis.

Funding:

Administration on Aging, NYS Office for the Aging & Dept. of Health: \$2,150,000.

Dates of Study: 9/2006 – 4/2012

Progress to Date:

Interventions underway.

Anticipated Contributions to Social Work Field:

Positioning of social work in health promotion activities for the elderly.

SSW Investigators:

Philip McCallion Ph.D.
Lisa Ferretti, L.M.S.W.

Collaborator:

Marcus Harazin, NYSOFA

Research Support Staff:

Jwa Kim M.S.W.
Cory Dennis M.S.W.
Mari Brick M.S.
Junrong Shi, M.A.
Sylwia Piatkowska, M.A.

Title: The Community Living Program in New York**Principal Aims:**

Support consumers' long term care needs and preferences as well as nursing home diversion and Medicaid spend-down prevention through developing rapid response, seamless, self-directed service delivery in 10 AAAs and extension of training to 25% of New York's AAA. Outcomes will address: (1) Diversion of persons at risk for nursing home and for Medicaid spend-down, (2) Realigning funding, (3) Engagement of consumers, (4) Quality Improvement, and (5) Sustainability.

Methodology and Software Used:

Through 10 AAAs representing a range of urban, suburban, and rural communities, over 200 persons at risk for nursing home placement and/or Medicaid spend-down will be screened by NYConnects, linked to AAA supported care coordinators functioning as support brokers, offered a choice of consumer directed or traditional services from a menu of care coordination, personal care (using agency provided and/or participant identified aides) day programs, home delivered meals and nutrition counseling, caregiver support including training, counseling and respite, evidence based health promotion, dementia specific services, transportation, medication management, housekeeping and chore services. The project will also support an on-line learning community.

Funding:

U.S. Administration for the Aging & New York State: \$1.3 million.

Dates of Study: 10/2009 – 9/2012**Progress to Date:**

First phase complete

Anticipated Contributions to the Social Work Field:

Project will increase the use of consumer directed initiatives and contribute to the transformation of aging services delivery in New York State.

SSW Investigators:

Philip McCallion, Ph.D.
Lisa A. Ferretti, L.M.S.W.

Collaborator:

Rina Kitazawa (NYS Office for the Aging)

Title: 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 and Software Used:

A representative sample of 800 persons with intellectual disabilities over age 40 drawn from the National Intellectual Disabilities Database will be followed for 10 years.

Funding:

Health Research Board of Ireland: \$350,000 (First phase).

Dates of Study: 2009 – 2012

Progress to Date:

Pilot of protocol and sample selection completed; wave one data collection underway.

Anticipated Contributions to the Social Work Field:

A better understanding of the aging of people with intellectual disabilities.

SSW Investigator:

Philip McCallion, Ph.D.

Collaborator:

Mary McCarron Ph.D.

Dissertation Title: Perceived Age and Subjective Well-Being in Middle and Later Life: Coping with Spirituality and Religiosity**Principal Aims:**

To investigate the impact of perceived age on subjective well-being, the impact of spiritual and religious factors on perceived age, and the implications of spiritual and religious factors on subjective well-being in middle and later life. Also, to empirically investigate whether spiritual and religious factors play a moderating role in the relationship between perceived age and subjective well-being as a coping mechanism in middle and later life.

Methodology and Software Used:

The study is quantitative, exploratory in nature, and involves the use of secondary data. Subjects aged 40 to 84 will be selected from the Midlife in the United States Survey of 2004-2006 (MIDUS). The impact of spiritual and religious factors based on confirmatory factor analysis will be analyzed by interaction effects. Multiple regression analysis and structural equation modeling will be performed using LISREL.

Funding:

University at Albany Initiatives for Women Grant Award (May 2010).
Graduate Student Organization Grant Award (September 2010).

Date of Implementation: 8/2011**Progress to Date:**

Successful preliminary study was conducted and will be presented at the 65th Gerontological Society of America Conference in November 2010. Dissertation committee members are now reviewing the dissertation proposal.

Anticipated Contributions to the Social Work Field:

Will contribute to knowledge building in the field of social work by linking the studies of perceived age, spirituality and religiosity, and subjective well-being based on stress and coping model as well as cognitive behavioral framework.

Doctoral Student:

Jisung Park, M.S.W., M.A.

Committee Member(s):

Jan Hagen, Ph.D. (Chair)

Carolyn Smith, Ph.D.

Russell Ward, Ph.D. Dept. of Sociology

Title: Evaluation of the Programme to Support Palliative and Hospice Care in the Republic of Ireland**Principal Aims:**

1. To examine the process and impact of the €25 million, multi-year 'End of Life' Programme funded by The Atlantic Philanthropies
2. To determine the strategic learning from the Programme for the field of palliative and end of life care
3. To determine the potential that changes and increased provision from the investment will be sustained.

Methodology and Software Used:

A mixed method approach guided by the RE-AIM framework (Green & Glasgow, 2006) examined the reach, effectiveness, adoption, implementation and maintenance of the programme. This involved:

1. detailed documentary analysis including baseline, current and desired picture of hospice and palliative care in Ireland;
2. interview data analysis drawn from interviews with key stakeholders from the programme and individual projects;
3. in-depth organisational case studies documenting changes in mature and new palliative and hospice care involved organisations;
4. convening of grantees and other key stakeholders to review achievements, assess development of collaborations and potential for sustainability;
5. analysis of policy issues previously identified to be addressed, new issues that have emerged, success and barriers in policy development and implementation and next steps in policy and regulatory approaches

Funding:

\$300,000.

Dates of Study: 2010 – Present

Progress to Date:

All data collection has been completed and the report is being finalized

Anticipated Contributions to Field:

Increases understanding of the steps necessary both to transform service systems and to ensure that changes will be sustained.

SSW Investigator:

Philip McCallion, Ph.D.

Collaborator:

Mary McCarron, Ph.D.

Title: A Technological Support to Person-Centered Care: IN2L.

Principal Aims:

Test the effectiveness of a technology mediated intervention to reduce problem behaviors and increase quality of life for nursing home residents.

Methodology and Software Used:

Quasi experimental design involving two nursing homes

Funding:

Retirement Research Foundation: \$100,000.

Dates of Study: 9/2009 – Present

Progress to Date:

Developed standardized intervention and now implementing in experimental home

Anticipated Contributions to the Social Work Field:

Project will increase programming options for nursing home residents

SSW Investigators:

Philip McCallion, Ph.D.
Lisa A. Ferretti, L.M.S.W.

Collaborator:

Sr. Peter Lillian

Research Support Staff:

Junrong Shi
Sylwia Piatowska

Dissertation Title: Congruence of Nursing Home Resident and Shahbaz Perceptions of Residents' Self-Perceived Autonomy**Principal Aims:**

1. To describe how older adult nursing home residents perceive personal autonomy within institutional settings;
2. To describe how specially trained Certified Nursing Assistant's (Shahbazim) understand the same resident's preferences;
3. To examine the utility of the current federally required measure of resident preferences;
4. To disseminate information collected to stakeholders (residents, administrators and staff) and professional journals.

Methodology and Software Used:

Open-ended, in-depth interviews will be conducted with select residents' and matched Shahbazim. The researcher will bring a phenomenological perspective to the interviews and interview analysis. Quantitative data will also be examined (Minimum Data Set 3.0, Section F) and integrated with the qualitative data. Further analysis will include examination of themes through the use of NVivo qualitative software.

Funding:

No current funding.

Date of Implementation: Fall 2013**Progress to Date:**

Research proposal has been approved by the dissertation committee and the IRB. The student is in the data collection process.

Anticipated Contributions to the Social Work Field:

It is hoped that findings from this study will add important information to the existing knowledge base regarding nursing home residents view their day-to-day preferences and how Shahbazim understand these preferences. This knowledge may provide further benefits by offering insight and guidance on how nursing home services might better ensure the maintenance, or improvement, of a nursing home resident's autonomy and quality of life.

Doctoral Student:

Paul Urbanski, M.S.S.W.

Committee Members:

Anne E. Fortune, Ph.D., Committee Chair

Phillip McCallion, Ph.D.

Julie Novkov, Ph.D. (Rockefeller School of Political Science)

Title: Health Navigation and Improved Discharge Planning in New York

Principal Aims:

Build an enhanced relationship between NY Connects and discharge planners to streamline access to long term care services and empower consumers to consider more informed choices.

Methodology and Software Used:

Work with two New York Counties and New York State Office for the Aging to develop, deliver and evaluate a prototype health navigation program bridging hospital discharge planning and NY Connects information and assistance.

Funding:

U.S. Administration for the Aging & New York State: \$800,000.

Dates of Study: 10/2009 – Present

Progress to Date:

Developed health navigator program and training in two counties

Anticipated Contributions to the Social Work Field:

Project will increase opportunities for aging-in-place.

SSW Investigators:

Philip McCallion, Ph.D.
Lisa A. Ferretti, L.M.S.W.

Collaborator:

Amy Snyder, M.S.W. (NYS Office for the
Aging)

Dissertation Title: **Organizational networking and service performance in community-based organizations serving the elderly: From a social capital perspective**

Principal Aims:

1. To identify structural factors influencing the networking among community based organizations (CBOs) that provide services for the elderly in neighborhood
2. To examine the association between organizational networking and service performance, which can be a kind of social capital for the CBOs that have limited resources

Methodology and Software Used:

Face-to-face interviews of community organizations leaders are planned with structured survey. Quantitative data would be analyzed with statistic software SPSS. Social network data would be analyzed with the software UCINET.

Funding:

Studying abroad scholarship of the Department of Education, Taiwan (2008, 2009).
Assistantship for doctoral students, University at Albany (Aug. 2008-May 2011)..
Project Research Assistantship, University at Albany (Jun. 2011-Dec. 2012)

Date of Implementation: 12/2012 (expected)

Progress to Date:

The doctoral essay serving as partial literature review is approved in September, 2011.

Anticipated Contributions to the Social Work Field:

1. To develop a framework of organizational partnership with social capital theories and the social network perspective
2. To highlight key structural factors at network and organizational levels that have not been well noticed in non-profit organization studies
3. To provide intervention suggestions on inter-organization collaboration for CBOs delivering social services for the elderly.

Doctoral Student:

Yi-Yi Chen

Committee Members:

Loretta Pyles, Ph.D., Chair

Anne Fortune, Ph.D.

Yuan-Shie Hwang, Ph.D., (National Chi Nan University)

Title: Developing Trauma-Informed Systems in Native American Communities

Principal Aims:

Design, implement, Evaluate and scale up models for trauma-informed services in Native American (tribal) communities with particular interest in trauma interventions for children, secondary traumatic stress interventions for adult helping professionals, and the redesign of relationships among child welfare, mental health, and school systems, enabling the institutionalization of evidence-based interventions.

Methodology and Software Used:

A multiple methods design involving design teams and participatory action research with conventional process and outcome evaluation methodologies.

Funding:

The U.S. Children's Bureau, Administration for Children and Families.

Progress to Date:

Grant was awarded in September 2011 and will continue for 5 years. Start-up activities currently are underway, including research and development planning for the first three tribal communities serving as pilot sites.

SSW Investigator:

Hal A. Lawson, Ph.D.

Collaborators:

James Caringi (Co-PI), School of Social Work,
University of Montana, Missoula
Rick Van den Pol (Co-PI), School of Education,
University of Montana, Missoula

Title: 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:

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: 5/2009 – 12/2013

Progress to Date:

Two publications and a national conference.

SSW Investigator:

Robert L. Miller, Jr., Ph.D.

Title: Magnet School Assistance Program Evaluation**Principal Aims:**

The Center for Human Services Research is evaluating the Magnet Schools Assistance Program (MSAP), a federally funded initiative of the City School District of Albany. The goal of the evaluation is to provide comprehensive information on program activities and outcomes.

Methodology and Software Used

The evaluation obtains data from multiple perspectives (students, families, staff, and community) through multiple quantitative and qualitative methods. Data is collected on program implementation and student outcomes.

Funding:

U.S. Department of Education/City School District of Albany: \$600,000.

Dates of Study: 9/2011 – 8/2014**Anticipated Contributions to the Field:**

The evaluation is designed to provide data that will assist the school district in achieving project goals: prevent minority isolation and promote desegregation, improve academic achievement for all students, foster social-emotional growth and support for all students and their families, improve professional capacity of teachers and administrators

CHSR Investigators:

Kenneth Robin, Psy.D.
Jennifer Bashant
Rose Greene
Laura Hopson, Ph.D.

Dissertation Title: Gender Matters in Supported Housing: Empowerment among Women with Psychiatric Disabilities and Histories of Homelessness

Principal Aims:

1. To incorporate gender into a theoretical empowerment model identifying factors contributing to empowerment and subjective quality life among people with psychiatric disabilities;
2. To evaluate how a supporting housing program impacts women in these areas; and
3. To call attention to the potential need for gender-awareness in supported housing services.

Methodology and Software Used:

This research project is a secondary data analysis using quantitative data from a longitudinal study evaluating the effectiveness of, and consumer satisfaction with, a supported housing program located in an urban/rural county in upstate New York. Data are managed and analyzed in SPSS. The analysis plan consists of three parts: 1) a demographic analysis including gender, child custody, age, education, and mental health diagnosis; 2) an exploratory analysis of the relationships between gender, child custody, personal mastery and empowerment, social networks, and subjective quality of life, at baseline and over time, and 3) testing of a multiple regression model grounded in empowerment theory.

Research Support:

Research Associateship, Fall 2009, Five College Women's Studies Research Center at Mt. Holyoke College, South Hadley, MA. (Five College faculty privileges, office space, and supplies are provided to FCWSRC Associates; no funding is attached.)

Progress to Date:

Analysis completed; currently working on discussion section

Anticipated Contributions to the Social Work Field:

Social work, particularly empowerment practice, is aligned with feminist theory in its acknowledgment of oppression and its contributions to efforts to address it on the micro- and macro-levels. This study seeks to explore the potentially compounding effects of psychiatric disability, homelessness, and gender oppression on personal and interpersonal empowerment among women in supported housing. The findings may reveal a need for gender-aware empowerment practice in this and similar programs, to support women in regaining control of their lives and becoming their own best advocates.

Doctoral Student:

Eleanor M. Jaffee, M.S.W.

Committee Members:

Eric Hardiman, Ph.D. (Chair)

Brenda Smith, Ph.D., University of Alabama

Debra Jozefowicz-Simbeni, Ph.D., Wayne State University

Title: Understanding Mental Health and Substance Abuse Treatment Needs Among Women of African Descent: A Focus Group Perspective

Principal Aims:

To modify an existing working manual specifying treatment procedures and a treatment change process grounded in the theoretical rationale of psychosocial competence aimed at decreasing depressive disorders & enhancing one's intentions/motivations to remain drug free.

Methodology and Software Used:

Specific methods to be used include:

1. individual interviews with consumers;
2. focus groups with consumers, and
3. focus groups with service/treatment providers (direct staff, supervisors, administrators).

Funding:

The University at Albany Faculty Research Awards Program (FRAP-B): \$4,500.

Dates of Study: 4/2007 – Present

Progress to Date:

Outreach and recruitment.

Anticipated Contributions to the Social Work Field:

Interviews with consumers and providers will provide critical data in relation to ethnic minority women and their understanding of psychosocial competence, depression, depression etiology, drug abuse treatment, and relevant culturally specific domains.

SSW Investigators:

Lani Jones, Ph.D.
Eric Hardiman, Ph.D.
Lynn Warner, Ph.D.
Laura Hopson, Ph.D.

Collaborators:

Whitney M. Young Jr. Health Center
Trinity Institution-Homer Perkins Center
YWCA Troy

Research Support Staff:

P. Pignard
E. Swagert
Megan Brophy (Ph.D. Student)

Title: The Prevalence of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) Among Homeless People**Principal Aims:**

The specific aims that this project will address are:

1. To determine the prevalence of ACEs among the homeless population;
2. To determine the extent to which ACEs are related to service utilization; and
3. To determine the extent to which ACE prevalence relates to depression, anxiety, substance abuse, and locus of control.

Methodology and Software Used:

Homeless services program participants will be screened for ten ACE categories, which fall under two broader categories of abuse and household dysfunction. Questions adapted from the National Co-Morbidity Survey have also been added to gather data on service utilization history. Front-line agency staff, who are already asking intake questions, generate data to be entered into an agency database, and trained to ask the additional ACE study questions. Initial data analysis steps will include simple frequency analysis as well as bivariate correlation analysis. Multiple regression analysis will be utilized to determine the impact of the independent variable of ACE Score on the dependent variables of length of stay, reasons for leaving, and rates of locus of control, anxiety, depression, and substance use. Relevant control variables will be identified.

Funding:

Faculty Research Award Program A: \$7,284.

Dates of Study: 2007 – Present**Progress to Date:**

The Committee on the Shelterless (COTS) in Petaluma, CA, St. Paul's Center, Catholic Charities, and Interfaith Partnership for the Homeless in Albany, NY have been engaged in this study. Over 150 questionnaires have been collected thus far and administration of these questionnaires continues. Additional agencies will be identified to expand the study. A renewal and modification request has been submitted to the IRB in order to continue collecting data over the next year. Research findings presented at CSWE and article under development.

Anticipated Contributions to the Social Work Field:

This study expands upon the ACE studies that are documented primarily in medical journals, bringing a social work perspective to this important issue, and fills a gap by exploring ACEs with the homeless population. By shedding light on the ACE background of homeless people, cultural victim blaming is likely to be reduced and help may be more forthcoming. The numerous problems associated with ACEs among homeless populations also speak to the need for increasingly integrated service systems that support comprehensive responses to these social problems.

SSW Investigator:

Heather Larkin, Ph.D.

Title: An Evaluation of a Mobile Crisis Team for Children and Adolescents**Principal Aims:**

The Center for Human Services Research evaluated the Parsons' Child and Adolescent Mobile Team (CAMT), including a cost-effectiveness analysis (Phase I). Phase II seeks to disseminate the findings from the evaluation by means of an implementation manual for the practice community and manuscripts and presentations for the research community.

Methodology and Software Used:

Methodology in Phase I included the development of a CAMT logic model which specifies indicators to be used for program monitoring and for measuring program outcomes; collection of data from Parsons' automated and paper files; a systematic review of published and ongoing studies of mobile crisis services to identify model programs and crisis intervention components that have evidence to support their efficacy; interviews with key respondents from other local systems involved in responding to the needs of children and adolescents in crisis in the three counties served by CAMT (Albany, Rensselaer, Schenectady) to obtain information about their crisis-related services and associated costs, and to assess the availability and quality of data on youths served that could be incorporated into a formal cost-effectiveness analysis. SPSS was used to analyze data.

Funding:

The Equinox-Albany Community Foundation & Parsons Child and Adolescent Mobile Team, \$22,000 (Phase I); \$13,140 (Phase II).

Dates of Study: 1/2010 – 1/2011 (Phase I); 1/2011 – 3/2012 (Phase II).

Progress to Date:

Literature review in progress; information for logic model creation has been gathered.

Anticipated Contributions to the Social Work Field:

Evaluation report entitled, "The Capital Region Child and Adolescent Mobile Crisis Team (CAMT) Operated by Parsons Child and Family Center: An Evaluation for the Period April 1, 2009 – March 31, 2010" was completed January 2011. An implementation manual has been drafted. A paper entitled, "The Effectiveness of a Child and Adolescent Mobile Crisis Team in Preventing Psychiatric Hospitalizations" has been accepted for oral presentation at the 2012 Society for Social Work and Research (SSWR) conference.

CHSR Investigators:

Lynn Warner, Ph.D.

Qiang Chen, SSW Doctoral Student

Dissertation Title: Two Sources of Child Care Support and Employment Among Low-Income Mothers**Principal Aims:**

To investigate the two sources of child care assistance for low-income mothers – child care assistance from governmental sources and child care assistance from informal social support networks – and to assess how the two sources of child care assistance are related to low-income mothers' employment.

Methodology and Software Used:

This is a quantitative study using secondary data analysis. The secondary data is from the Fragile Families and Child Well-Being Study. Mainly, year-three data will be used. Descriptive analysis and fixed effect logistic regression analyses are planned for data analyzing. SPSS and SAS software are used for data analysis.

Funding:

N/A.

Date of Implementation: Spring 2012**Progress to Date:**

Data analysis and dissertation writing

Anticipated Contributions to the Social Work Field:

To investigate both the private and public sphere at the same time, and to understand the dynamics between them, which has rarely been done before. It places a special focus on the role of social ties related to maternal employment, which has been studied for long time in the field of sociology, but rarely in the field of social welfare. For policy makers and advocates, this study will help them to better realize the functions and limitations of the current welfare policies; especially child care policies. For social work practitioners whose area includes local or state level community action and planning, this study will provide evidence as how the local policies and community environment are related to maternal employment. For practitioners who work directly with unemployed mothers or welfare mothers, this study will provide more evidence of the major constrains of mother's employment.

Doctoral Student:

Manrong Chen

Committee Members:

Brenda Smith, Ph.D.

Eunju Lee, Ph.D.

Lawrence Raffalovich, Ph.D.

Title: The National Child Welfare Workforce Institute**Principal Aims:**

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 in public and tribal child welfare systems, and in private agencies that are contracted by the State to provide case management services that are traditionally provided by the public child welfare system.

Funding:

U.S. Children's Bureau: 5-year, \$16.5 million project (\$3.3 million per year) with a supplemental award for 4 years totaling \$1.92 million. An additional supplemental award was received for 2011-12 totaling \$600,000.

Progress to Date:

Awarded October 1, 2008. Completion of national literature scan for leadership curriculum and relevant articles. Work now entails a continuous scan of the literature on the workforce and leadership. Completion of on-line Introductory module for all training participants. Completion and implementation of 5 on-line courses for supervisors. Development and implementation of a state based model for supervisor training with 4 pilot initiatives underway. Completion and implementation of a 5 day residential training for middle managers, training five cohorts annually nationwide. Development of a coaching model for pre and post LAMM work, including a new residential coaching program for tribal managers that will be offered in 2012. Implementation of peer networks for middle managers upon completion of residential training for 3 cohorts. Issuance of national RFP for B.S.W. and M.S.W. Traineeship awards. Selection of 9 recipients with all programs up and running in September 2009. Selection of 3 additional awards with all programs up and running in September 2010 The new supplemental award will support enhancements to tribal scholarship programs. Completion and implementation of evaluation protocol for supervisor training and peer networks, middle managers institute, executive committee evaluation of collaboration, and traineeship evaluations, which will be used across all 12 programs. Implementation of peer networks for faculty and students in traineeship cohorts, participants in residential training cohort, and supervisors in states with the new model program.

Anticipated Contributions to the Social Work Field:

This grant builds on the Children's Bureau Recruitment and Retention grant that was awarded 5 years ago. The Institute provides a national focus on leadership development within child welfare in support of workforce development, for middle managers, supervisors and for those in schools of social work preparing for employment in child welfare.

SSW Investigators:

Mary McCarthy, Ph.D., LM.S.W.
Katharine Briar-Lawson, Ph.D.
University at Albany (SSW-lead)

Collaborators:

University of Maryland; University of Denver
University of Iowa; University of Michigan
University of Southern Maine; Fordham
University; Michigan State University; Portland
State University The National Indian Child Welfare
Association

Title: Evaluation of In-Service Programs for County Child Welfare Workers

Principal Aims:

To evaluate the usefulness of in-service programs for child welfare staff.

Methodology and Software Used:

Survey of all workers participating in any in-service program being funded by the Social Work Education Consortium across New York State.

Funding:

New York State Office of Children & Family Services: \$60,000.

Dates of Study: 1/2006 – Present

Progress to Date:

Surveys have been collected from programs in NYC since 2006 and will be collected from all programs funded by the Consortium beginning in 2007. The instrument is also being validated by our colleagues from Yeshiva.

Anticipated Contributions to the Social Work Field:

This in-service evaluation process is one step in an effort to develop tools to understand whether child welfare workers who attend in-service programs learn new skills and more importantly bring those skills back into their practice setting.

SSW Investigator:

Nancy Claiborne, Ph.D.

Collaborator:

Susan Mason, Yeshiva University

Research Support Staff:

Yi-Yi Chen

Title: Understanding Parent Engagement to Enhance Mentoring Outcomes

Principal Aims:

The Center for Human Services Research is partnering with Big Brothers/Big Sisters of the Capital Region to evaluate the effects of parent engagement on mentoring outcomes.

Methodology and Software Used:

The evaluation will utilize a quasi-experimental design to evaluate this demonstration. The study will assign 100 families who enroll in the mentoring program to a parent engagement intervention which consists of the usual mentoring program plus parent orientation training, a parent handbook, enhanced match support, and the opportunity to participate in family events. Their outcomes will be compared to a treatment-as-usual group of 100 families who will receive only standard mentoring services.

Funding:

U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention:
\$497,000.

Dates of Study: 10/2011 – 9/2013

Progress to Date:

Finalized study design and sample selection.

Anticipated Contributions to Field:

The demonstration will measure the effects of the parent engagement model on increasing parental support of mentoring, enhancing the mentoring relationship (quality, intensity and duration) and reducing the precursors to juvenile delinquency

CHSR Investigators:

Lara Kaye
Carolyn Smith
Jennifer Bashant
Alexa Hanus
Rose Greene

Title: B.S.W. Scholarship Program Evaluation**Principal Aims:**

This study is a program evaluation of the workforce initiative for professionalizing and retaining skilled child welfare workers in New York State. Bachelors in social work students choose a field placement in a child welfare unit. At the end of the year the option for continuing work in child welfare is provided. Students also receive a specialized course related to child welfare practice.

Methodology and Software Used:

Student education is evaluated by a pre-post test during their specialized child welfare course. The student self-efficacy is evaluated by a survey during their field placement. Once the student becomes employed as a child welfare caseworker, all caseworkers in the unit are surveyed for self and collective efficacy. The supervisor assesses the student/caseworker's functioning as a child welfare caseworker. Caseworker and supervisor data are collected for two years. SPSS will be used.

Funding:

NYS Office of Children and Family Services.

Dates of Study: Fall 2008 – Present**Progress to Date:**

Data continues to be collected for the cohorts of students re: pre/post course knowledge and self-efficacy, and follow-up with students after they are employed in child welfare agencies.

Anticipated Contributions to the Social Work Field:

Identify if providing field placements and specialized courses will improve the skills and retain caseworkers in child welfare settings.

SSW Investigator:

Nancy Claiborne, Ph.D.
Social Work Education Consortium

Collaborator:

Mansoor Kasi, Ph.D., University at Buffalo

Research Support Staff:

Qiang Chen

Title: New York State Child Welfare Workforce Initiative (NYS – CWWI)**Principal Aims:**

A comprehensive workforce intervention that targets private agencies in New York State who serve children and families in the public child welfare system. UA/SSW, Social Work Education Consortium and Council of Family and Child Caring Agencies (COFCCA) partnership will build a statewide collaboration of government networks, agency leaders and family and youth representatives to guide an organizational intervention comprised of 1) a comprehensive workforce assessment; 2) a comprehensive workforce plan based on Glisson's ARC model; 3) a child welfare scholarship program; and 4) an evaluation of the project's outcomes.

Methodology:

Mixed method design will evaluate impact of organizational intervention and traineeship program on the professional child welfare workforce.

Funding:

U.S. Children's Bureau.

Dates of Study: 10/2008 – 9/2012

Progress to Date:

1. Seven agencies engaged in pilot of the intervention;
2. Fifteen employees at the two agencies will receive scholarships to attend school, 13 in pursuit of M.S.W. degree and 2 in pursuit of B.S.W.s; and
3. Completed a comprehensive assessment of the state's voluntary child welfare workforce.
4. Completed baseline surveys for 4 agencies.

Anticipated Contributions to the Social Work Field:

This project will result in sustainable system changes that strengthen and support the professional child welfare workforce to better meet the needs of children and families and improve safety, permanency and well-being outcomes.

SSW Investigator:

Nancy Claiborne, Ph.D., Co-PI
Catherine Lawrence, Ph.D., Co-PI

Collaborators:

James Purcell, Executive Director,
Council of Family & Child Caring
Agencies

Research Support Staff:

Charles Auerbach, Ph.D., Yeshiva University
Brenda McGowan, Ph.D., Columbia University
Anne Marie Gamese, Research Assistant

Title: Evaluation of SAMSHA System of Care; Orange County, New York**Principal Aims:**

The Center for Human Services Research (CHSR) is evaluating Orange County's System of Care for Children's Mental Health. The system of care is a coordinated network of community-based services and supports that are organized to meet the challenges of children and youth with serious mental health needs and their families. *Family Matters of Orange County*, is a collaborative effort headed by Orange County's Department of Mental Health.

Methodology and Software Used:

Descriptive Study: collects demographic characteristics, social and functional characteristics, mental health diagnoses and presenting problems on all children and youth entering the system of care. Longitudinal Child and Family Outcome Study: uses a combination of questionnaires and standardized instruments regarding: children's emotional and behavioral status, strengths, educational performance, criminal justice system involvement, living environments, caregiver strain, family functioning, service utilization, and child and family satisfaction with services. Through computer-assisted in-person interviews, a sample of families and youth are interviewed at intake into the system of care and every 6 months, up to 36 months. National Outcomes Measures: adult caregivers and youth will be administered the Consumer Outcome Measures at intake, 6-month follow-up, and discharge. Implementation Studies: Stakeholder interviews, observation of wraparound meetings; and a supplemental satisfaction survey.

Software Used: SPSS, QuickSAT, MS Office, Visio, Visual Foxpro.

Funding:

Center for Mental Health Services of the U.S. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration (SAMHSA): \$1,199,142.

Dates of Study: 10/2008 – 9/2014

Progress to Date:

Efforts are focused on logic model development and data collection. Periodic data reports prepared for stakeholders.

Anticipated Contributions to the Field:

Enhanced knowledge and understanding of the issues families and youth face; more informed practice serving these families.

CHSR Investigators:

LuAnn McCormick, Ph.D.

Ann Cleary

Micky Cruz

Evelyn Carrasquillo

Dissertation Title: The Lived Experience of Caregivers for Children with Asthma**Principal Aims:**

The purpose of this study was to describe the meaning of the lived experiences for caregivers of rural asthmatic children.

Methodology and Software Used:

The proposed study plan was qualitative and used descriptive phenomenology to illustrate the day-to-day lived experience of caregivers of children with asthma utilizing in-depth open-ended interviewing techniques. The caregivers were encouraged to describe in detail from their perspective day-to-day family life with a child with moderate-to-severe asthma. ATLAS.ti 5.2 software was used.

Funding:

Self-funded

Date of Implementation: Present**Progress to Date:**

Currently in the process of revising the dissertation draft which has been reviewed by the all committee members. At this time I am focusing on the final chapter of the dissertation which will include implications for practice, further research, and policy.

Anticipated Contributions to the Social Work Field:

Understanding the caregiving phenomenon within a psychosocial context in this rural population will facilitate the development of more effective interventions and support mechanisms to address the issues affecting asthma management for families. Specifically, it is anticipated that the increased understanding of the developmental biopsychosocial approach will enhance the development of more effective interventions and outcomes for children with asthma. The study is focusing on the biological, social, and environmental factors that are affecting the child with asthma and the child's caregivers. It also anticipated that more effective support and educational programs targeted for the rural populations will address the specific issues that they have.

Doctoral Student:

Caroline Dawson

Committee Members:

Ronald W. Toseland, Ph.D.

Hal Lawson, Ph.D.

Hendricka Maltby, Ph.D. (University of Vermont)

Title: Evaluation of the New York State Home Visiting Program**Principal Aims:**

Since 1995 the Center for Human Services Research (CHSR) has been conducting a variety of studies of Healthy Families New York (HFNY), 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, and studies on program practices and the work environment.

Methodology and Software Used:

Longitudinal randomized trial: This study has been conducted since 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 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). The study compares these two groups of women and their children over time to assess program outcomes. In addition to survey data, an observational study was conducted that involved videotaping mothers and children to assess the program effects on parent-child interaction and child development. 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. Information is collected on participant characteristics; the intensity, duration and type of services delivered, and select outcomes and program targets. Other Studies: Research includes the Early Enrollment Pilot study, birth outcome study, and the fatherhood initiative. Software: SPSS, MapInfo

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).

Dates of Study: 10/2005 – 09/2012.

Progress to Date:

CHSR has completed data collection for the longitudinal randomized trial. Ongoing work includes revising the MIS, continuing analysis of program data, reporting findings, and publishing papers.

Anticipated Contributions to Social Work Field:

Improved service delivery to prevent child maltreatment.

CHSR Investigators:

Rose Greene	Monica Rodriguez
Eunju Lee, Ph.D.	Susan Ehrhard-Dietzel
John Heck	Chris Papas
Jennifer Perella	Jay Robohn
Devinder Khalsa	Matt Vogel

Title: 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 and 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).

Dates of Study: 7/2005 – 9/2012

Progress to Date:

Ongoing data analysis and reporting.

Anticipated Contributions to Social Work Field:

Improved service delivery to families to prevent child maltreatment.

CHSR Investigators:

Sara Rain
Chris Papas
Rose Greene

Title: Eligibility-Based Psychotropic Polypharmacy Trends and Patterns Among Youth Enrolled in Ohio Medicaid, 2002-2008

Principal Aims:

Ohio Medicaid claims data are used to examine trends in polypharmacy over a 7 year period (2002-2008) for the population of Medicaid enrolled youths under 18 who were prescribed any psychotropic medications, and to investigate if the trends differ with respect to children's Medicaid category of assistance (children whose family income is at or below 200% of the federal poverty level; children with a disabling condition whose family income is at or below 64% of the federal poverty level; and children in foster care.

Methodology and Software Used:

Generalized Estimation Equations (GEE); SAS

Funding:

Unfunded.

Dates of Study: 8/2010 – Present

Progress to Date:

Manuscript in preparation for *Archives of Pediatrics & Adolescent Medicine*

Anticipated Contributions to Field:

May contribute to best prescribing practices and development of quality of care indicators for vulnerable youth.

SSW Investigator:

Lynn Warner, Ph.D.

Collaborator:

Cynthia Fontanella (Ohio State University)

Title: Health Care Thoughts and Concerns from the Perspective of Youth who Have Transitioned from the Foster Care System: A Pilot Study

Principal Aims:

To conduct telephone interviews to elucidate the primary concerns young people have about their ability to obtain health care and to maintain their health.

Methodology and Software Used:

This will utilize a convenience sample of young adults between the ages of 18 and 25 who transitioned to independence from care. These young adults will be invited to participate in individual telephone interviews regarding health care issues. Young adults from New York State will be asked to contact the PI for inclusion to the study. The one-time telephone interviews will be conducted via PI's office phone for approximately 60 minutes (N=12-15). The data will be analyzed utilizing SPSS.

Funding:

None.

Dates of Study: 12/2011 – 12/2012

Progress to Date:

Application being reviewed by the IRB

Anticipated Contributions to Social Work Field:

To elucidate the primary concerns young people have about their ability to obtain health care and to help them maintain their health.

SSW Investigator:

Toni Naccarato, Ph.D.

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 and Software Used:

Mixed methodology using SPSS, and ATLAS.ti software.

Funding:

N/A.

Date of Implementation: 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, Ph.D.

Dana Peterson, Ph.D.

Katharine Briar-Lawson, Ph.D.

Title: 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 and Software Used:

FamSys: Customized software to collect client, service, and outcome data.

Funding:

Prevent Child Abuse New Jersey: \$299,375.

Dates of Study: 6/2008 – 6/2012

Progress to Date:

Continued MIS development and reporting.

Anticipated Contributions to the Social Work Field:

Improved service delivery to prevent child maltreatment.

CHSR Investigators

John Heck
Jay Robohn
Chris Papas

Title: NYS Omnibus Survey

Principal Aims:

Looking at Adverse Childhood Experience's (ACE) prevalence along with neighborhood risk and protective factors in a representative sample of 800 New Yorkers.

Methodology and Software Used:

Phone interviews at SUNY Stony Brook.

Funding:

Council on Children and Families.

Dates of Study: Fall 2009 – Present

Progress to Date:

Questions have been developed for phone survey.

Anticipated Contributions to Field:

N/A

SSW Investigator:

Heather Larkin, Ph.D.

Title: Chemung County School Readiness Project

Principal Aims:

The Center for Human Services Research is evaluating the effects of early childhood services on school readiness.

Methodology and Software Used:

Data analysis focuses on comparing 2007 – 2008 (baseline) with 2011 – 2012 (post-intervention) kindergarten classes on comprehensive measures of school readiness. Data sources include the Child Observation Record, Teacher-Child Rating Scale, Parent’s Appraisal of Children’s Experiences, and parent surveys

Funding:

Community Foundation of Elmira-Corning and the Finger Lakes: \$43,482.

Dates of Study: 9/2010 – 12/2012

Progress to Date:

Refining design of study and collecting data from stakeholders.

Anticipated Contributions to the Social Work Field:

Inform the development of early childhood develop services.

CHSR Investigators:

Kenneth Robin, Psy.D.
Rose Green
Michael Barton

Collaborator:

Community Foundation of Elmira-Corning
& the Finger Lakes

Title: Service Outcomes Action Research (SOAR)**Principal Aims:**

To collaborate with community-based residential treatment centers for youth in the development of continuous improvement mechanisms to apply self-generated data to practice.

Methodology and Software Used:

Employing a Theory-of-Change approach to evaluation, the research partnership developed a pilot study and constructed a detailed residential logic model for both residential programs to test a theory of residential treatment as espoused by the practitioners in the two agencies. The study applied a data-rich, multi-informant measurement strategy to document clients' residential treatment careers. Data were collected through structured interview with both close-ended quantitative and open-ended qualitative questions, in which youths were interviewed at four points in time: four weeks after admission to the agencies (Wave 1); halfway through the stay (Wave 2); within four weeks prior to discharge (Wave 3); and three months after discharge (Wave 4). Comparative and supplemental measures were obtained from three additional sources: (1) interviews with each youth's parent or primary caregiver at Waves 1 and 4; (2) questionnaires completed by each youth's education coordinator, child-care/unit manager, and clinician at Waves 2 and 3; and, (3) case records.

Dates of Study: 2007 – Present

Progress to Date:

Pilot data have been collected. University and agency partners have discussed initial findings and next steps.

Anticipated Contributions to the Social Work Field:

The importance of improving practice and outcomes for youth and their families requires creativity and diligence in mapping a new effective means for improving practice. In this vision, RTCs generate data from their own clients and practices and engage in their own research on the practices they implement. Outcomes *and* treatment processes are tracked at the individual case level, program level and agency level. Working with researchers, service providers and program planners generate and evaluate their own data to address questions such as: What are the characteristics of our clients? What services do particular clients receive? What do services/treatments/interventions entail for any particular client? What outcomes do particular clients (having received particular services) attain? Which client outcomes are consistent with expectations of practice and which conflict with expectations?

SSW Investigators:

Heather Larkin, Ph.D.
Laura Hopson, Ph.D.
Amanda Nickerson, Ph.D.

Collaborators:

David Dufee, Ph.D.
Dana Peterson, Ph.D.

Research Support Staff:

Camela Steinke
Raquel Monarty

Title: An Evaluation of the CPS/DV Collaborative**Principal Aims:**

The Center for Human Services Research is evaluating the effects of placing Domestic Violence Advocates in Child Protection Services (CPS) Offices on improving safety to DV victims and their children. The evaluation consists of a process study and a quasi-experimental outcome study.

Methodology and Software Used:

Phone interviews with NYS Directors of Services; Focus groups with CPS workers in collocation sites; interviews with DV advocates and Child Welfare Administrators; case record reviews of intervention and comparison counties; and an electronic survey of all NYS CPS workers (outside of NYC).

Funding:

New York State Office of Children and Family Services: \$306,900.

Dates of Study: 7/2011 – 8/2012**Progress to Date:**

Phone interviews with all NYS Directors of Services have been completed. Focus groups and interviews are being scheduled.

Anticipated Contributions to Field:

Gain an in-depth understanding of program practices to inform model replication and improvement; develop a classification model of types of CPS/DV Collaborative practices; determine the effectiveness of the CPS/DV collocation in identifying the presences of DV in CPS families, providing services, and improving the safety of victims and their children.

CHSR Investigators:

Ellen Unruh
Sarah Horan
Rose Greene
Corinne Noble
Sarah Rain
Eunju Lee, Ph.D.

Collaborators:

Joanne Ruppel
Pam Jobin (OCFS)

Title: Developmental and Intergenerational Paths to Partner Violence and Child Maltreatment**Description and Principal Aims:**

This research will examine two types of family violence – intimate partner violence and child maltreatment – in a longitudinal, intergenerational context. Our core objective is to identify the developmental pathways and social circumstances that lead to the perpetration of these behaviors, as well as to identify protective factors that generate resilience.

Specific aims:

1. To examine intergenerational continuities in both intimate partner violence and child maltreatment.
2. To identify developmental pathways that lead to the perpetration of intimate partner violence and child maltreatment and that are potential mediators of the level of intergenerational continuity observed in Aim 1.
3. To identify both common and unique pathways to intimate partner violence and to child maltreatment.
4. To identify protective factors that reduce the likelihood that individuals with identified risk factors actually engage in intimate partner violence or in child maltreatment.

Methodology and Software Used:

Secondary data analysis of The Rochester Youth Development Study data. Multiple methodologies, using mainframe UNIX and SAS programming, also MPlus.

Funding:

\$430,000 over three years (CDC – Centers for Disease Control) (Subcontract for Carolyn Smith, P.I.).

Dates of Study: 8/2009 – 8/2012

Progress to Date:

Funded, study underway, several publications

Anticipated Contributions to Field:

Better clarity on developmental pathways leading to family violence, information on gender differences in precipitating personal and social precipitants. Information on interruptible risk factors.

SSW Investigator:

Carolyn Smith, Ph.D.

Collaborators:

Timothy Ireland, University of Niagara
Terence Thornberry, University of Colorado

Research Support Staff:

Rochester Youth Development Study
project staff
Laura Elwyn, Ph.D.
Aely Park, Ph.D

Dissertation Title: Team Cohesion in Child Welfare Teaming

Principal Aims:

1. To explore the experience of frontline child welfare workers and their supervisors as they implement a team-based approach to casework practice.
2. To gain greater understanding of antecedents to team cohesion.

Methodology and Software Used:

This comparative case study employs semi-structured individual and group interviews with frontline and administrative child welfare staff and training consultants to explore respondent perceptions of factors that enable or impede the emergence of team cohesion. Interview protocols draw from Hackman's Team Effectiveness Model (Hackman, 2000), and extend Hackman's model to the case of child welfare teaming units.

Funding:

N/A.

Date of Implementation: Spring 2011

Progress to Date:

Data collection for all participating counties completed October, 2011. Eighty percent of interviews transcribed. First level coding in process.

Anticipated Contributions to the Social Work Field:

1. A better understanding of conditions and behaviors that enable child welfare workers to coalesce as a team whose members function interdependently.
2. Dissemination of findings to inform ongoing implementation of a Teaming Model in NYS Child Welfare.

Doctoral Student:

T. Maureen Sinclair

Committee Members:

Nancy Claiborne, Ph.D.

Catherine Lawrence, Ph.D.

Larson Rogers, Ph.D. (Benjamin Franklin
Institute of Technology)

Title: Developing Trauma-Informed Systems in Native American Communities

Principal Aims:

Design, implement, Evaluate and scale up models for trauma-informed services in Native American (tribal) communities with particular interest in trauma interventions for children, secondary traumatic stress interventions for adult helping professionals, and the redesign of relationships among child welfare, mental health, and school systems, enabling the institutionalization of evidence-based interventions.

Methodology and Software Used:

A multiple methods design involving design teams and participatory action research with conventional process and outcome evaluation methodologies.

Funding:

The U.S. Children's Bureau, Administration for Children and Families.

Progress to Date:

Grant was awarded in September 2011 and will continue for 5 years. Start-up activities currently are underway, including research and development planning for the first three tribal communities serving as pilot sites.

SSW Investigator:

Hal A. Lawson, Ph.D.

Collaborators:

James Caringi (Co-PI), University of Montana, Missoula

Rick Van den Pol (Co-PI), University of Montana, Missoula

Title: Social Cognition and Interaction Training (SCIT) Program**Principal Aims:**

To evaluate social-cognitive abilities before and after a 10-week group intervention; subjects include both inpatient and outpatient deaf patients with schizophrenia from Rockland Psychiatric Center in Orangeburg, New York.

Methodology and 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] Penn et al., 2007) will be implemented for 10 weeks. Pretest and post-test measures include:

1. Word Memory – The Signed Paired Associates Test ([SPAT]: Pollard Rediess & DeMatteo, 2005);
2. Visuospatial memory – The Complex Figure Test (Osterrieth, 1944; Visser, 1970);
3. Facial affect processing – The Facial Emotion Identification Task (Kerr & Neale, 1993);
4. Theory of mind – The Hinting Task (Corcoran, Mercer, & Frith, 1995);
5. Scale to Assess Unawareness of Mental Disorder ([SUMD]: Amador et al., 1994); and,
6. Illness severity – Brief Psychiatric Rating Scale (Ventura et al., 1993). Data to be analyzed using SPSS.

Dates of Study: 8/2010 – 8/2012

Progress to Date:

Data collection is ongoing.

Contributions to 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, Ph.D.

Collaborator:

Rebecca Leland, Ph.D.

Title: 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 and 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). Manuscript is under review with *JADARA*. Follow-up meeting with Focus Group participants is pending.

Anticipated Contributions to 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, Ph.D.

Collaborators:

Hee Chul Kim
Marley Mills

Title: Perception and Cognition in the Deaf: Sequelae among Subjects with and without Schizophrenia**Principal Aims:**

Previous research by Dr. Horton investigated deaf and hearing subjects with schizophrenia in order to determine functional differences explained by hearing status (Horton & Silverstein, *in press*; 2005; 2007; Horton, 2010). The current study extends this work to investigate 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 and Software Used:

A convenient sample of deaf people with and without schizophrenia will be recruited (respectively) from Rockland Psychiatric Center's outpatient clinic and the deaf community in the capitol district region. 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: TBD**Progress to Date:**

FRAP A grant awarded, IRB application in process.

Anticipated Contributions to 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, Ph.D.

Title: 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:

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: 5/2009 – 12/2013

Progress to Date:

Two publications and a national conference.

SSW Investigator:

Robert L. Miller, Jr., Ph.D.

Title: Health and Health Education among Latina family caregivers

Principal Aims:

N/A

Methodology and Software Used:

Quantitative methods

Funding:

Center for the Elimination of Minority Health Disparities.

Dates of Study: 3/2010 – Present

Progress to Date:

Survey development

Latino community partnerships to facilitate data collection

Anticipated Contributions to Field:

N/A

SSW Investigator:

Blanca M Ramos, Ph.D.

Collaborator:

Akiko Hosler

Research Support Staff:

Young Do

Randy Stetson

Daniela Andrade

Health

Title: 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 and Software Used:

FamSys: Customized software to collect client, service, and outcome data.

Funding:

Prevent Child Abuse New Jersey: \$299,375.

Dates of Study: 6/2008 – 6/2012

Progress to Date:

Continued MIS development and reporting.

Anticipated Contributions to the Social Work Field:

Improved service delivery to prevent child maltreatment.

CHSR Investigators:

John Heck
Jay Robohn
Chris Papas

Health

Title: Adirondack Rural Health Network Logic Model Development and Technical Assistance Project

Principal Aims:

The Center for Human Services Research is working with the Adirondack Rural Health Network to assist mini-grant recipients to develop logic models and evaluation plans for their local projects to increase physical activity and access to nutritious foods in the Adirondack Region

Methodology and Software Used:

Researchers are reviewing documents and developing logic models using graphics software.

Funding:

Adirondack Health Institute: \$5,000.

Dates of Study: 6/2011 – Present

Progress to Date:

Development of logic models for all mini-grantees

Anticipated Contributions to Field:

Well-articulated and evaluated projects to increase physical activity and access to nutritious foods in the Adirondack Region

CHSW Investigator:

LuAnn McCormick, Ph.D.

Collaborators:

Vicki Wheaton

Penny Ruhn (Adirondack Health Institute)

Health

Title: 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 and Software Used:

A representative sample of 800 persons with intellectual disabilities over age 40 drawn from the National Intellectual Disabilities Database will be followed for 10 years.

Funding:

Health Research Board of Ireland: \$350,000 (First phase).

Dates of Study: 2009 – 2012

Progress to Date:

Pilot of protocol and sample selection completed; wave one data collection underway.

Anticipated Contributions to the Social Work Field:

A better understanding of the aging of people with intellectual disabilities.

SSW Investigator:

Philip McCallion, Ph.D.

Collaborator:

Mary McCarron Ph.D.

Title: Health Navigation and Improved Discharge Planning in New York

Principal Aims:

Build an enhanced relationship between NY Connects and discharge planners to streamline access to long term care services and empower consumers to consider more informed choices.

Methodology and Software Used:

Work with two New York Counties and New York State Office for the Aging to develop, deliver and evaluate a prototype health navigation program bridging hospital discharge planning and NY Connects information and assistance.

Funding:

U.S. Administration for the Aging & New York State: \$800,000.

Dates of Study: 10/2009 – 9/2011

Progress to Date:

Developed health navigator program and training in two counties

Anticipated Contributions to the Social Work Field:

Project will increase opportunities for aging-in-place.

SSW Investigators:

Philip McCallion, Ph.D.
Lisa A. Ferretti, L.M.S.W.

Collaborator:

Amy Snyder, M.S.W. (NYS Office for the Aging)

Title: Evidence-Based Health Promotion in New York State

Principal Aims:

To effectively and with fidelity implement evidence based health promotion programs in three areas of New York State.

Methodology and Software Used:

Quality assurance, fidelity checks, and systems change analysis.

Funding:

Administration on Aging, NYS Office for the Aging & Dept. of Health: \$2,150,000.

Dates of Study: 9/06 – 4/12

Progress to Date:

Interventions underway.

Anticipated Contributions to Social Work Field:

Positioning of social work in health promotion activities for the elderly.

SSW Investigators:

Philip McCallion Ph.D.
Lisa Ferretti, L.M.S.W.

Collaborator:

Marcus Harazin, NYSOFA

Research Support Staff:

Jwa Kim M.S.W.
Cory Dennis M.S.W.
Mari Brick M.S.
Junrong Shi, M.A.
Sylwia Piatkowska, M.A.

Title: Menu Labeling Evaluation Project

Principal Aims:

The Center for Human Services Research is evaluating the impact of calorie postings and a media campaign on food choices in several NYS counties.

Methodology and Software Used:

A quasi-experimental design to collect survey data on customer knowledge, attitudes, and behaviors.

Funding:

Health Research Inc.: \$111,000.

Dates of Study: 8/2010 – Present

Progress to Date:

Data collection completed, entering data for analysis.

Anticipated Contributions to the Social Work Field:

Contribute to public health practice and policy to impact on the growing problems of overweight and obesity in NYS.

CHSR Investigators:

Corrine Noble
Rose Greene

Collaborator:

Ann Lowenfels, HRI

HIV/AIDS**Title: 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:

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:

Completed data collection and analysis, developing four manuscripts for publication.

Anticipated Contributions to 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., Ph.D

Collaborators:

Olga Grinstead, Ph.D.

Judith Barker, Ph.D., University of California

Hector Carrillo, Ph.D., San Francisco State University

Title: Gender Difference in Adherence to Highly Active Antiretroviral Therapy**Principal Aims:**

To better understand gender differences in adherence to highly active anti-retroviral therapy (HAART).

Methodology and Software Used:

A longitudinal study utilizing both qualitative and quantitative methods will be conducted in two phases. In Phase I, a qualitative method will be used to explore and identify principal dimensions around problem use, relationship support, and behaviors around adherence. The results of Phase I will be used to inform a quantitative and qualitative study in Phase II which will test specific hypotheses regarding the impact of inter-personal variables over time. The data will be analyzed using specialized multivariate methods, and in conjunction with a statistical consultant.

Funding:

Pending.

Dates of Study: TBD.**Progress to Date:**

Proposal submitted.

Anticipated Contributions to the Social Work Field:

Will contribute to efforts to improve medication adherence rates in people living with HIV/AIDS.

SSW Investigator:

Starr Wood, Ph.D.

International**Title: Transforming Rural Haiti through Sustainable Grassroots Development****Principal Aims:**

This participatory action research assesses the capacities and needs of rural communal sections in Haiti. Assessment of capacities and barriers to achieving sustainable rural livelihoods are of particular importance in this research. The research also attempts to clarify the impact of the January 12 earthquake on the capacities of communities and organizations, particularly as it relates to building on existing networks, working with elected officials and the role of international support.

Methodology and Software Used:

Participatory Action Research, Ethnographic research, Qualitative research

Funding:

School of Social Welfare and UAlbany's Initiatives for Women Award.

Dates of Study: Spring 2010 – Present**Progress to Date:**

Interviewers were trained and 79 interviews have been conducted in the rural sectors of Haiti. Data analysis is ongoing.

Anticipated Contributions to Field:

Contributions will be in the areas of disaster recovery, rural community development and international social work.

SSW Investigator:

Loretta Pyles, Ph.D.

Collaborator:

SEKONAPA

Research Support Staff:

Stephany Mondesir

Title: 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 their influences on the capabilities of disaster-affected individuals.

Methodology and 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 – 2014**Progress to Date:**

Working on instrument development and identification of media sample

Anticipated Contributions to 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, Ph.D.

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)

Tentative Title: The Worth and Dignity of all Communities: Implications for Services in Global Rural Areas**Principal Aims:**

The principal aim of this research is to secure information for a book. The vision for the research and book is to: assess 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. Library research, surveys, focus group meetings will be designed and implemented in order to: determine how the term rural is defined; identify the socio-economic and cultural issues in rural areas, note the scope of the issues/ concerns and the national and global differences and similarities regarding these issues/concerns. The research will help identify policies and programs that have been effectively formulated and implemented to address rural issues/concerns, as well as, highlight the role (s) of helping professionals in rural areas.

Methodology and Software Used:

Library research , questionnaires, focus group meetings, collective dialogues will be used to secure quantitative and qualitative information. Sustainable dialogs will be used to secure case studies and action plans.

Funding:

Indirect and direct funding is being explored.

Dates of Study: 10/2010 – 10/2012

Progress to Date:

Library research is presently being conducted. Application to University at Albany Office of Research for approval for formal research activity is being submitted (i.e. focus group meetings and surveys).

Anticipated Contributions to Field:

1. Educate the general public (globally) about rural issues and concerns.
2. Highlight the benefits of rural areas
3. Provide information for local, regional, national and international governments about rural issues and rural residents' needs.
4. Promote social and economic justice for rural areas and their residents.
5. Encourage collaborative partnerships (urban/rural, local, regional, national, international) for change and development.
6. Better educate and train helping professionals to work in rural areas and to help bring about global community change and development.

SSW Investigators:

Shirley J. Jones, Ph.D.
Catherine J. Schenck, Ph.D.

Collaborator:

Jill Harve

Title: Evaluation of the Programme to Support Palliative and Hospice Care in the Republic of Ireland**Principal Aims:**

1. To examine the process and impact of the €25 million, multi-year 'End of Life' Programme funded by The Atlantic Philanthropies
2. To determine the strategic learning from the Programme for the field of palliative and end of life care
3. To determine the potential that changes and increased provision from the investment will be sustained.

Methodology and Software Used:

A mixed method approach guided by the RE-AIM framework (Green & Glasgow, 2006) examined the reach, effectiveness, adoption, implementation and maintenance of the programme. This involved:

1. Detailed documentary analysis including baseline, current and desired picture of hospice and palliative care in Ireland;
2. Interview data analysis drawn from interviews with key stakeholders from the programme and individual projects;
3. In-depth organisational case studies documenting changes in mature and new palliative and hospice care involved organisations;
4. Convening of grantees and other key stakeholders to review achievements, assess development of collaborations and potential for sustainability;
5. Analysis of policy issues previously identified to be addressed, new issues that have emerged, success and barriers in policy development and implementation and next steps in policy and regulatory approaches

Funding:

\$300,000.

Dates of Study: 2010 – 2011

Progress to Date:

All data collection has been completed and the report is being finalized

Anticipated Contributions to Field:

Increases understanding of the steps necessary both to transform service systems and to ensure that changes will be sustained.

SSW Investigator:

Philip McCallion, Ph.D.

Collaborator:

Mary McCarron, Ph.D.

Title: Preparing Helping Professionals Working in a Global Society**Principal Aims:**

The principal aim of this research is to secure information for a book. The vision for the research and book is to: assess socio-economic and cultural issues in rural communities globally; 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. Surveys, focus meetings and library research will be designed and implemented in order to: determine a precise, standard definition of the term rural, the socio-economic and cultural issues in rural areas, the scope of the concerns and the national and global differences and similarities regarding these issues. The research will help identify policies and programs that have been effectively formulated and implemented to address rural issues, as well as, highlight the role (s) of helping professionals in rural areas and the problems they face. Recommendations will be provided for preparing helping professionals to advocate for social and economic justice in rural areas globally.

Methodology and 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 funding.

Dates of Study: 10/2009 – 11/2012

Progress to Date:

Developed vision for book and research methodology, identified co-investigator and collaborators. (Identified potential funder).

Anticipated Contributions to Field:

1. Educate the general public (globally) about rural issues and concerns globally.
 1. Provide information for local, regional, national and international governments about rural issues and rural residents’ needs.
 2. Promote social and economic justice for rural areas and their residents.
 3. Encourage collaborative partnerships (urban/rural, local, regional, national, and international) for change and development.
 4. 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, Ph.D.
Catherine J. Schenck, Ph.D.

Collaborator:

Jill Harvey

Dissertation Title: An Exploration of the Influence of Social Supports and Culture on the Development of Posttraumatic Growth in Adult Haitian Immigrants

Principal Aims:

1. To expand the understanding of posttraumatic growth in response to surviving a natural disaster.
2. To explore similarities and differences in the presentation of posttraumatic growth by collecting and analyzing both quantitative and qualitative data. To explore how cultural factors and social supports influence the development or lack of development of posttraumatic growth in the sample of Haitian adults.

Methodology and Software Used:

A mixed method design will be used with a sample size of approximately 30 adults. Semi structured face to face interviews will be conducted. Participant's interviews will be analyzed individually and then a cross case analyses will be conducted to explore common themes or patterns between the interviews. Quantitative measures including the Posttraumatic Growth Inventory, the Auckland Individualism-Collectivism Scale, a Social Support tool designed from questions on the Social Support Behaviors Scale and the Inventory of Socially Supportive Behaviors scale, a demographics questionnaire and the Trauma History Questionnaire will be completed. NVivo will be used to aid in the qualitative analysis. The demographics and scales will be entered into SPSS. Univariate analysis will be used to explore any relationships and the direction of the relationship that may exist between the variables. Similarities and differences between the qualitative and quantitative data will be examined.

Funding: N/A.

Date of Implementation: Fall/Winter 2011

Progress to Date:

Preparing for Proposal Defense 11/2011

Anticipated Contributions to the Social Work Field:

The goals of this study are to increase the awareness and understanding of the concept of posttraumatic growth. Research with diverse populations who have endured a natural disaster can help increase social workers' awareness about the variety of responses to trauma including the possibilities of growth. Expanding the understanding of different cultural responses to traumatic events, help seeking behaviors and use of social supports will lead to better policies, programs and service delivery to people who have endured a trauma.

Doctoral Student:

Patricia Weldon, M.S.W.

Committee Members:

Heather Horton, Ph.D.

Loretta Pyles, Ph.D.

James Caringi, Ph.D. (University of Montana)

Title: 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 and 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: \$54,996.

Dates of Study: 9/2011 – 8/2012

Anticipated Contributions to the 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:

Eunju Lee
Woojae Han

Title: Age-Based Variation in Receipt of Outpatient Mental Health Services in the United States

Principal Aims:

To describe clinical profiles and types of services received by adults in the U.S. mental health services system, and investigate if there are significant differences for adults in three groups (pre-retirement, retirement, and post-retirement).

Methodology and Software Used:

Secondary data analysis; SUDAAN

Funding:

Unfunded.

Dates of Study: 8/2011 – Present

Progress to Date:

Manuscript on preparation for *Aging and Mental Health*

Anticipated Contributions to Field:

May highlight inequities in access to mental health services for older adults

SSW Investigators:

Lynn Warner, Ph.D.
NaKyoung Song (Ph.D. Student)

Collaborator:

Kathleen Pottick (Rutgers University)

Title: North Country Network

Principal Aims:

To develop a case finding and referral system for alcoholism, substance abuse and mental health problems among Elderly residents of two counties in upstate New York.

Methodology and Software Used:

A mixed methods quantitative and qualitative study.

Funding:

NYS Health Care Foundation.

Dates of Study: 1/2008 – Present

Progress to Date:

Development of the network, screening and assessment measure and case finding methods. Collection and analysis of data.

Anticipated Contributions to Field:

Coordinating care for the frail elderly with substance abuse and or mental health problems in a very rural area.

SSW Investigator:

Ron Toseland, Ph.D.

Collaborator:

North Country Behavioral Network

Title: Evaluation of SAMSHA System of Care; Orange County, New York**Principal Aims:**

The Center for Human Services Research (CHSR) is evaluating Orange County's System of Care for Children's Mental Health. The system of care is a coordinated network of community-based services and supports that are organized to meet the challenges of children and youth with serious mental health needs and their families. *Family Matters of Orange County*, is a collaborative effort headed by Orange County's Department of Mental Health.

Methodology and Software Used:

Descriptive Study: collects demographic characteristics, social and functional characteristics, mental health diagnoses and presenting problems on all children and youth entering the system of care. Longitudinal Child and Family Outcome Study: uses a combination of questionnaires and standardized instruments regarding: children's emotional and behavioral status, strengths, educational performance, criminal justice system involvement, living environments, caregiver strain, family functioning, service utilization, and child and family satisfaction with services. Through computer-assisted in-person interviews, a sample of families and youth are interviewed at intake into the system of care and every 6 months, up to 36 months. National Outcomes Measures: adult caregivers and youth will be administered the Consumer Outcome Measures at intake, 6-month follow-up, and discharge. Implementation Studies: Stakeholder interviews, observation of wraparound meetings; and a supplemental satisfaction survey.

Software Used: SPSS, QuickSAT, MS Office, Visio, Visual Foxpro.

Funding:

Center for Mental Health Services of the U.S. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration (SAMHSA): \$1,199,142.

Dates of Study: 10/2008 – 9/2014

Progress to Date:

Efforts are focused on logic model development and data collection. Periodic data reports prepared for stakeholders.

Anticipated Contributions to the Field:

Enhanced knowledge and understanding of the issues families and youth face; more informed practice serving these families.

CHSR Investigators:

LuAnn McCormick, Ph.D.

Ann Cleary

Micky Cruz

Evelyn Carrasquillo

**Dissertation Title: The Integration of Cultural Competency in the Delivery of
Mental Health Services to Latinos**

Principal Aims:

To identify and compile information regarding the extent to which provider knowledge, awareness, perception of relevancy and organizational and individual level supports and resources impact the delivery of culturally competent mental health service delivery to Latinos. To identify existing barriers and opportunities to the integration of culturally competent practice skills in the delivery of mental health services.

Methodology and Software Used:

This study will employ a quantitative method; more specifically, this study will consist of the administration of a quantitative survey focused on the assessment of provider perspective on individual and organizational strengths and weaknesses in relation to the integration of cultural competency in the delivery of mental health services. The analyses will include basic descriptive statistics, such as frequencies and percentages. A multiple regression analysis will be performed using SPSS.

Date of Implementation: 12/2010

Anticipated Contributions to the Social Work Field:

This study will provide a social work perspective on the individual provider and organizational level barriers and opportunities for integrating cultural competency in the delivery of mental health services to Latino populations and may in part provide insight to serving other diverse population groups. This study has the potential to inform training needs, strategic planning in this area and existing challenges in integrating cultural competency into service delivery systems of care.

Doctoral Student:

Jacqueline Richardson-Melecio

Committee Members:

Blanca Ramos, Ph.D. (Chair)

Lynn Videka, Ph.D.

James Jaccard

Title: Stress, Coping, and Mental Health Among Puerto Rican Women in Upstate New York

Principal Aims:

To identify stress, coping, and mental health symptoms in a community dwelling sample of Puerto Rican women in upstate New York.

Methodology and Software Used:

Quantitative methods

Funding:

Center for Puerto Rican Studies (CENTRO).

Dates of Study: 5/2010 – Present

Progress to Date:

Survey development; Latino community partnerships to facilitate data collection

Anticipated Contributions to the Social Work Field:

Findings can inform culturally responsive mental health interventions and social service programs and policies that target Latino populations.

SSW Investigator:

Blanca M Ramos, Ph.D.

Research Support Staff:

Young Do (Ph.D. Student)

Yong Li (Ph.D. Student)

Title: Understanding Mental Health and Substance Abuse Treatment Needs among Women of African Descent: A Focus Group Perspective**Principal Aims:**

To modify an existing working manual specifying treatment procedures and a treatment change process grounded in the theoretical rationale of psychosocial competence aimed at decreasing depressive disorders & enhancing one's intentions/motivations to remain drug free.

Methodology and Software Used:

Specific methods to be used include:

1. Individual interviews with consumers;
2. Focus groups with consumers, and
3. Focus groups with service/treatment providers (direct staff, supervisors, administrators).

Funding:

The University at Albany Faculty Research Awards Program (FRAP-B): \$4,500.

Dates of Study: 4/2007 – Present

Progress to Date:

Outreach and recruitment.

Anticipated Contributions to the Social Work Field:

Interviews with consumers and providers will provide critical data in relation to ethnic minority women and their understanding of psychosocial competence, depression, depression etiology, drug abuse treatment, and relevant culturally specific domains.

SSW Investigators:

Lani Jones, Ph.D.
Eric Hardiman, Ph.D.
Lynn Warner, Ph.D.
Laura Hopson, Ph.D.

Collaborators:

Whitney M. Young Jr., Health Center
Trinity Institution-Homer Perkins Center
YWCA Troy

Research Support Staff:

P. Pignard
E. Swagert
Megan Brophy, Ph.D. Student

Title: Perception and Cognition in the Deaf: Sequelae among Subjects with and without Schizophrenia**Principal Aims:**

Previous research by Dr. Horton investigated deaf and hearing subjects with schizophrenia in order to determine functional differences explained by hearing status (Horton & Silverstein, *in press*; 2005; 2007; Horton, 2010). The current study extends this work to investigate 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 and Software Used:

A convenient sample of deaf people with and without schizophrenia will be recruited (respectively) from Rockland Psychiatric Center's outpatient clinic and the deaf community in the capitol district region. 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: TBD**Progress to Date:**

FRAP A grant awarded, IRB application in process.

Anticipated Contributions to 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, Ph.D.

Title: The Prevalence of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) Among Homeless People**Principal Aims:**

The specific aims that this project will address are:

1. To determine the prevalence of ACEs among the homeless population;
2. To determine the extent to which ACEs are related to service utilization; and
3. To determine the extent to which ACE prevalence relates to depression, anxiety, substance abuse, and locus of control.

Methodology and Software Used:

Homeless services program participants are screened for ten ACE categories, which fall under two broader categories of abuse and household dysfunction. Questions adapted from the National Co-Morbidity Survey have also been added to gather data on service utilization history. Front-line staff have been provided an IRB-approved Project Specific Training to administer the informed consent and questionnaire, introducing the study after completion of routine intake procedures. The survey was administered in a private space and temporarily stored in a locked file cabinet on-site, then transferred to the University office of the principal investigator and entered into the database. Initial data analysis steps will include simple frequency analysis as well as bivariate correlation analysis. Multiple regression analysis will be utilized to determine the impact of the independent variable of ACE Score on the dependent variables of length of stay, reasons for leaving, and rates of locus of control, anxiety, depression, and substance use. Relevant control variables will be identified.

Funding:

Faculty Research Award Program A, \$7,284.

Dates of Study: 2007 – Present

Progress to Date:

The Committee on the Shelterless (COTS) in Petaluma, CA, St. Paul's Center, Catholic Charities, and the Interfaith Partnership for the Homeless in Albany, NY have been engaged in this study. Over 200 questionnaires have been collected thus far. Additional agencies will be identified to expand the study. Research findings presented at CSWE and an article is in press with Families in Society.

Anticipated Contributions to the Social Work Field:

This study expands upon the ACE studies that are documented primarily in medical journals, bringing a social work perspective to this important issue, and fills a gap by exploring ACEs with the homeless population. By shedding light on the ACE background of homeless people, cultural victim blaming is likely to be reduced and help may be more forthcoming. The numerous problems associated with ACEs among homeless populations also speak to the need for increasingly integrated service systems that support comprehensive, "ACE-informed" responses to these social problems.

SSW Investigator:

Heather Larkin, Ph.D.

Title: 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 and 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). Manuscript is under review with *JADARA*. Follow-up meeting with Focus Group participants is pending.

Anticipated Contributions to 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, Ph.D.

Collaborators:

Hee Chul Kim
Marley Mills

Title: 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 and 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, Ph.D.

Title: 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 methods for therapeutic process.

Methodology and 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 method.

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, Ph.D.

Research Support Staff:

Brian D. Roland, Ph.D.
Erica Dean

Title: 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 and 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:

Analysis of 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:

Ideally, 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, Ph.D.

Collaborators:

Bruce Way
Ernest Bonaparte
Steven Banks (deceased)

Title: 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:

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: 5/2009 – 12/2013

Progress to Date:

Two publications and a national conference.

SSW Investigator:

Robert L. Miller, Jr., Ph.D.

Title: Evaluation of the Hartford Internships in Aging Project

Principal Aims:

1. Develop a rotational model of field education to educate M.S.W. 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 and 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.

Dates of Study: 2001 – Present

Progress to Date:

Developed model, and now disseminating it nationally. Completed evaluation of student cohorts graduating in 2001 – 2007. Published several refereed articles on outcomes and processes.

Anticipated Contributions to Social Work Field:

New rotational model of social work field education; developing leaders for social work practice with older persons.

SSW Investigator:

Anne E. Fortune, Ph.D.

Collaborator:

Linda Mertz, M.S.W.

Title: MAC Grant/Pearls Project

Principal Aims:

Infuse gerontology, mental health, and substance abuse information/learning into the advanced-year M.S.W. program.

Methodology & Software Used:

Surveys; attitudes data to measure effectiveness of modules.

Funding:

CSWE: \$20,000.

Dates of Study: 9/2007 – Present

Progress to Date:

Have developed a mental health and aging module for evidenced-based practice in mental health, a substance abuse and aging module for substance abuse practice and are developing a policy module for substance abuse policy class. Modules will be distributed nationally.

Anticipated Contributions to the Social Work Field:

With the aging of the baby-boom generation, social workers will need to have skills to work with older adults as they seek services and supports from health and social service agencies.

SSW Investigator:

Anne E. Fortune, Ph.D.

Collaborator:

Linda Mertz, M.S.W.

Title: Infusing Gerontology into Social Work Curriculum

Principal Aims:

To evaluate the effect of curricular change on M.S.W. generalist courses.

Methodology and Software Used:

We conducted analysis of course syllabi.

Funding:

School of Social Welfare.

Dates of Study: 2000 – Present

Progress to Date:

The data have been collected.

Anticipated Contributions to the Social Work Field:

Continuous improvement of Social Work education.

SSW Investigator:

Anne E. Fortune, Ph.D.

Collaborators:

Linda Mertz, M.S.W.

Paul Urbanski, M.S.W.

Sarah Maynard, M.S.W.

Title: Education Satisfaction and Career Accomplishments of Graduates of the B.S. and M.S.W. 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 and 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 (1994 – 2000) were asked about their post-graduate employment, professional activities, evaluation of delivery of curriculum content and of the quality of their education.

Progress to Date:

The data are collected and annually reported to faculty for B.S. and M.S.W. graduates 2002 – 2005

Funding:

School of Social Welfare.

Dates of Study: 2003 – Present

Anticipated Contributions to the Social Work Field:

Accreditation of School of Social Welfare.

SSW Investigator:

Anne E. Fortune, Ph.D.

Collaborator:

Crystal Rogers, Ph.D.

Research Support Staff:

Mi Jin Choi

Title: Evaluation of Social Work Students' Attainment of Educational Outcomes by Graduation

Principal Aims:

Evaluate students' self-reported attainment of generalist and (for M.S.W.) advanced concentration objectives and satisfaction with education, for graduating B.S. and M.S.W. students.

Methodology and 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.

Progress to Date:

Data is collected and an annual report given to faculty and curriculum committees.

Funding:

School of Social Welfare.

Dates of Study: 2003 – Present

Anticipated Contributions to Social Work Field:

This will contribute to the reaccreditation of SSW.

SSW Investigator:

Anne E. Fortune, Ph.D.

Research Support Staff:

Mi Jin Choi

Title: B.S.W. Scholarship Program Evaluation**Principal Aims:**

This study is a program evaluation of the workforce initiative for professionalizing and retaining skilled child welfare workers in New York State. Bachelors in social work students choose a field placement in a child welfare unit. At the end of the year the option for continuing work in child welfare is provided. Students also receive a specialized course related to child welfare practice.

Methodology and Software Used:

Student education is evaluated by a pre-post test during their specialized child welfare course. The student self-efficacy is evaluated by a survey during their field placement. Once the student becomes employed as a child welfare caseworker, all caseworkers in the unit are surveyed for self and collective efficacy. The supervisor assesses the student/caseworker's functioning as a child welfare caseworker. Caseworker and supervisor data are collected for two years. SPSS will be used.

Funding:

NYS Office of Children and Family Services.

Dates of Study: Fall 2008 – Present**Progress to Date:**

Data continues to be collected for the cohorts of students re: pre/post course knowledge and self-efficacy, and follow-up with students after they are employed in child welfare agencies.

Anticipated Contributions to the Social Work Field:

Identify if providing field placements and specialized courses will improve the skills and retain caseworkers in child welfare settings.

SSW Investigator:

Nancy Claiborne, Ph.D., Social Work
Education Consortium

Collaborator:

Mansoor Kazi, Ph.D., University at Buffalo

Research Support Staff:

Qiang Chen

Title: New York State Child Welfare Workforce Initiative (NYS – CWWI)**Principal Aims:**

A comprehensive workforce intervention that targets private agencies in New York State who serve children and families in the public child welfare system. UA/SSW, Social Work Education Consortium and Council of Family and Child Caring Agencies (COFCCA) partnership will build a statewide collaboration of government networks, agency leaders and family and youth representatives to guide an organizational intervention comprised of 1) a comprehensive workforce assessment; 2) a comprehensive workforce plan based on Glisson's ARC model; 3) a child welfare scholarship program; and 4) an evaluation of the project's outcomes.

Methodology and Software Used:

Mixed method design will evaluate impact of organizational intervention and traineeship program on the professional child welfare workforce.

Funding:

U.S. Children's Bureau.

Dates of Study: 10/2008 – 9/2012**Progress to Date:**

1. Seven agencies engaged in pilot of the intervention;
2. Fifteen employees at the two agencies will receive scholarships to attend school, 13 in pursuit of M.S.W. degree and 2 in pursuit of B.S.W.s; and
3. Completed a comprehensive assessment of the state's voluntary child welfare workforce.
4. Completed baseline surveys for 4 agencies.

Anticipated Contributions to the Social Work Field:

This project will result in sustainable system changes that strengthen and support the professional child welfare workforce to better meet the needs of children and families and improve safety, permanency and well-being outcomes.

SSW Investigators:

Nancy Claiborne, Ph.D., Co-PI
Catherine Lawrence, Ph.D., Co-PI

Collaborators:

James Purcell, Executive Director,
Council of Family and Child Caring
Agencies

Research Support Staff:

Charles Auerbach, Ph.D., Yeshiva University
Brenda McGowan, Ph.D., Columbia University
Anne Marie Gamese, Research Assistant

Title: A Multi-Site Case Study of Evidence-Guided Improvement Planning**Principal Aims:**

1. To explore how the three participating school districts use evidence in decision-making;
2. To evaluate the effectiveness of how assessment strategies that provide evidence related to school climate and risk and protective factors among students.

Methodology and Software Used:

Mixed methods consisting of:

1. Interviews;
2. Focus groups;
3. Document analysis; and
4. Multivariate analysis of survey data.

Funding:

FRAP B.

Dates of Study: 9/2010 – Present

Progress to Date:

Three school districts are administering surveys to students and faculty. I am currently interviewing principals in one of the participating districts.

Anticipated Contributions to Field:

The findings from this study have implications for developing partnerships between districts and universities that develop capacity for improving the data available to school districts and applying those data to school improvement plans.

SSW Investigators:

Laura Hopson, Ph.D.

Hal Lawson, Ph.D

Title: Evaluation of Safe Schools/Healthy Students**Principal Aims:**

The Center for Human Services Research is evaluating the City School District of Albany's Safe Schools/Healthy Student initiative, a federal program designed to create safe school environments, promote pro-social skills and foster healthy child development. The initiative builds on community partnerships to address the needs of the school district's youth and their families.

Methodology and Software Used:

1. Parent and Youth Surveys: Data are collected on presenting problems and service provision.
2. Power School: School district database on student activity.
3. Safe Schools MIS: Data on mental health service provision.

Funding:

U.S. Department of Education: \$586,000.

Dates of Study: 9/2008 – 8/2012

Progress to Date:

Data collection, analysis, and reporting have been conducted on a continual basis to inform local service delivery and meet federal documentation requirements.

Anticipated Contributions to the Social Work Field:

Informed practice to achieve safe school environments and promote healthy child development.

CHSR Investigators:

Kenneth Robin, Psy.D.
Jennifer Bashant
Corrine Noble
Rose Greene

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 components that lead to the described transformational experience in a way that identifies 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 fertile change environment and will describe them in a translatable manner to facilitate implementation in other higher education settings.

Methodology and 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.

Date of Implementation: Fall 2011

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. 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, L.M.S.W

Committee Members:

Loretta Pyles, Ph.D. (Chair)

Hal Lawson, Ph.D.

Glenn Deane, Ph.D.

Title: Chemung County School Readiness Project

Principal Aims:

The Center for Human Services Research is evaluating the effects of early childhood services on school readiness.

Methodology and Software Used:

Data analysis focuses on comparing 2007 – 2008 (baseline) with 2011 – 2012 (post-intervention) kindergarten classes on comprehensive measures of school readiness. Data sources include the Child Observation Record, Teacher-Child Rating Scale, Parent’s Appraisal of Children’s Experiences, and parent surveys

Funding:

Community Foundation of Elmira-Corning and the Finger Lakes: \$43,482.

Dates of Study: 9/2010 – 12/2012

Progress to Date:

Refining design of study and collecting data from stakeholders.

Anticipated Contributions to the Social Work Field:

Inform the development of early childhood develop services.

CHSR Investigators:

Kenneth Robin, Psy.D.
Rose Greene
Michael Barton

Collaborator:

Community Foundation of Elmira-Corning
& the Finger Lakes

Title: 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 and Software Used:

Mixed methods.

Funding:

New York State Education Department.

Dates of Study: 2009 – 2014

Progress to Date:

Program will be implemented in Spring 2010.

Anticipated Contributions to 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:

Laura Hopson, Ph.D.

Title: Assessment of Ecological Risk and Protective Factors Associated with School Failure**Principal Aims:**

This FRAP A funded research aims to address ecological risk and protective factors by synthesizing information on risk and protective factors at different ecological levels, school culture characteristics, and academic outcomes.

Methodology and Software Used:

Students in Cohoes Middle and High Schools and Harriet Gibbons High School completed the School Success Profile (SSP), a reliable and valid measure of risk and protective factors at multiple ecological levels. School personnel and administrators at each school completed the School Success Profile-Learning Organization (SSP-LO), a reliable and valid measure of school culture (Bowen, Rose, & Ware, 2006). Within the Cohoes School District, students in grades 7 through 10 (N=485) completed the SSP, and school personnel within the middle school and high schools (N=106) completed the SSP-LO. Preliminary analyses suggest that, in comparison to middle school students and 10th grade students, 9th graders report less engagement in school, less parental academic support, lower grades, more feelings of sadness and isolation, and more problem behavior. Research at Harriet Gibbons High School employs the same measurement strategies, but has taken a different direction because the school's mission is to work intensively with high risk youth during their ninth grade year to increase their chances of a successful transition into the tenth grade at Albany High School. The purpose of the needs assessment in this school is to identify the ecological risk and protective factors among Harriet Gibbons students that are associated with school failure and to examine whether these risk and protective factors change while enrolled at Harriet Gibbons. Students (N=80) completed the SSP at the beginning and end of this academic year 2008 – 2009, and school personnel and administrators (N=30) completed the SSP-LO.

Funding: FRAP A.

Dates of Study: 2008 – Present

Progress to Date:

Students and school personnel at both schools have completed the surveys. Data analysis is currently being conducted to examine interactions between risk and protective factors that predict academic outcomes.

Anticipated Contributions to Field:

This study has important implications for broadening the understanding of risk and protective factors for academic outcomes, including factors at the family, neighborhood, and school levels. These data allow school districts to incorporate this broader understanding into school improvement plans so that they can better support students who are at risk for school failure.

SSW Investigator:
Laura Hopson, Ph.D.

Collaborator:
Cohoes School District

Title: Empowering Parents and Building Organizational Capacities to Prevent Obesity in Young Children

Principal Aims:

Articulate and test in innovative, complex intervention for obesity prevention in preschool children.

Methodology and Software Used:

A unique combination of community-based, participatory research and conventional public health research and involving a community-based organization and a new advisory board as co-leaders.

Funding:

The National Institutes of Health.

Progress to Date:

Grant was awarded in September 2009. Current work involves publication of findings and the development of new proposals.

SSW Investigators:

Hal Lawson, Ph.D.
Juliana Svistova, Ph.D. Student

Collaborators:

Kirsten Davison, Ph.D., (Co-PI), School of Public Health
Janine Jurkowski, Ph.D., (Co-PI), School of Public Health
Lawrence Schell, Ph.D., Director of the Center for Health Disparities, University at Albany

**Title: Promoting Economic Development through Social Entrepreneurship
in Upstate New York****Principal Aims:**

Design and test a demonstration project providing economic development through social entrepreneurship in upstate New York. This proposal involves a cross-disciplinary and collaborative community-building partnership involving University at Albany partners (School of Social Welfare, School of Business, and the Small Business Development Center) and community partners (United Way, banking institutions, municipalities, and higher educational institutions). The initiative involves the following main components: a revolving microenterprise loan fund to provide seed money for the creation of new businesses within distressed communities; strong collaboration with existing state and federal programs; capacity building, business development, and social support services including mentorship, technical assistance, education and training; targeted outreach in the Capital Region and surrounding counties; and an evaluation.

Methodology and Software Used:

The goal is to test economic and social development microloan strategies in distressed communities in New York State's Capital Region and surrounding counties by fostering microenterprises, conducting outreach and offering related technical and social supports to jobless and underemployed workers and their families. In addition, an evaluation will be conducted in order to provide for scale up and further program development and enhancements as well as possible new courses programs at the University at Albany, School of Business and School of Social Welfare; based on study findings and interdisciplinary connections.

Funding Date: 2010 – Present**Progress to Date:**

Pilot of the proposed model underway.

SSW Investigator:

Rose Greene

Collaborators:

Donald S. Siegel, Ph.D., Dean & Professor, School of Business

Paul Miesing, Ph.D., School of Business

William E. Brigham, Small Business Development Center

Bruce Stanley, United Way of the Greater Capital Region

Katharine Briar-Lawson, School of Social Welfare

Eric Hardiman, School of Social Welfare

Title: Supervision Support System Evaluation

Principal Aims:

Evaluate the effectiveness of the supervision support system implementation.

Methodology and Software Used:

SPSS; ATLAS.ti software.

Funding:

New York State Office Children and Family Services.

Dates of Study: 10/2010 – 10/2013

Progress to Date:

Initiated.

Anticipated Contributions to the Social Work Field:

Insights into agency actions and policies that impact the implementation for supporting supervisors in public child welfare organizations.

SSW Investigator:

Nancy Claiborne, Ph.D.

Collaborator:

Gail Haulenbeek, OCFS

Research Support Staff:

Yi-Yi Chen (Ph.D. Student)

Yong Li (Ph.D. Student)

Title: The National Child Welfare Workforce Institute**Principal Aims:**

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 in public and tribal child welfare systems, and in private agencies that are contracted by the State to provide case management services that are traditionally provided by the public child welfare system.

Funding:

U.S. Children's Bureau: 5-year, \$16.5 million project (\$3.3 million per year) with a supplemental award for 4 years totaling \$1.92 million. An additional supplemental award was received for 2011 – 12 totaling \$ 600,000.

Progress to Date:

Awarded October 1, 2008. Completion of national literature scan for leadership curriculum and relevant articles. Work now entails a continuous scan of the literature on the workforce and leadership. Completion of on-line Introductory module for all training participants. Completion and implementation of 5 on-line courses for supervisors. Development and implementation of a state based model for supervisor training with 4 pilot initiatives underway. Completion and implementation of a 5 day residential training for middle managers, training five cohorts annually nationwide. Development of a coaching model for pre and post LAMM work, including a new residential coaching program for tribal managers that will be offered in 2012. Implementation of peer networks for middle managers upon completion of residential training for 3 cohorts. Issuance of national RFP for B.S.W. and M.S.W. Traineeship awards. Selection of 9 recipients with all programs up and running in September 2009. Selection of 3 additional awards with all programs up and running in September 2010 The new supplemental award will support enhancements to tribal scholarship programs. Completion and implementation of evaluation protocol for supervisor training and peer networks, middle managers institute, executive committee evaluation of collaboration, and traineeship evaluations, which will be used across all 12 programs. Implementation of peer networks for faculty and students in traineeship cohorts, participants in residential training cohort, and supervisors in states with the new model program.

Anticipated Contributions to SW Field:

This grant builds on the Children's Bureau Recruitment and Retention grant that was awarded 5 years ago. The Institute provides a national focus on leadership development within child welfare in support of workforce development, for middle managers, supervisors and for those in schools of social work preparing for employment in child welfare.

SSW Investigators:

Mary McCarthy, Ph.D., LM.S.W.
Katharine Briar-Lawson, Ph.D.
University at Albany (SSW-lead)

Collaborators:

University of Maryland; University of Denver;
University of Iowa; University of Michigan;
University of Southern Maine; Michigan State
University; Fordham University; Portland State
University; The National Indian Child Welfare
Association

Title: Teaming Model Evaluation**Principal Aims:**

The “Teaming” concept re-structures individualized casework to that of teamwork in child welfare. In order to make this transition, the organizational culture of individual responsibility toward caseload is transformed to that of the team’s responsibility. The supervisor is integral to this shift in behavior and must model strong leadership and promote, coach and monitor the accomplishment of child protective and child welfare casework through teamwork. The individual caseworker sheds their isolation and total case/family responsibility and takes on joint decision-making, and shifting responsibilities depending on case needs and team assignments. This fundamental restructuring of the supervisor and caseworker job requires training targeted to teamwork, group dynamics and supervision. The basic premise of team casework and group supervision is that supervisors can focus more on facilitating and providing quality assurance for decisions than in making them and focus more on coaching case practice than “doing” case practice, while the “team” takes on more responsibility toward case decision making and management.

Methodology and Software Used:

Multiple case study and comparison group designs will be utilized. Data collected will include caseworker surveys of Team Membership, Job Satisfaction, Intention to Leave, Future Plans, Professional Quality of Life, Self-Efficacy, and Perception of Supervision. Supervisors will complete the same surveys except instead of Perception of Supervision — they will complete Supervision Caseworkers.

Funding:

NYS Office Children and Family Services: \$100,000/yr.

Dates of Study: 3/2007 – 12/2011**Progress to Date:**

The evaluation will be completed by 12/2011.

Anticipated Contributions to the Social Work Field:

Improved caseworker satisfaction and retention therefore reducing erratic workload shifts and unstable caseload sizes; improving service delivery to clients receiving child welfare services.

SSW Investigator:

Nancy Claiborne, Ph.D.

Collaborator:

Gail Haulenbeek, New York State OCFS

Research Support Staff:

Maureen Sinclair (Ph.D. Student)

Title: Service Outcomes Action Research (SOAR)**Principal Aims:**

To collaborate with community-based residential treatment centers for youth in the development of continuous improvement mechanisms to apply self-generated data to practice.

Methodology and Software Used:

Employing a Theory-of-Change approach to evaluation, the research partnership developed a pilot study and constructed a detailed residential logic model for both residential programs to test a theory of residential treatment as espoused by the practitioners in the two agencies. The study applied a data-rich, multi-informant measurement strategy to document clients' residential treatment careers. Data were collected through structured interview with both close-ended quantitative and open-ended qualitative questions, in which youths were interviewed at four points in time: four weeks after admission to the agencies (Wave 1); halfway through the stay (Wave 2); within four weeks prior to discharge (Wave 3); and three months after discharge (Wave 4). Comparative and supplemental measures were obtained from three additional sources: (1) interviews with each youth's parent or primary caregiver at Waves 1 and 4; (2) questionnaires completed by each youth's education coordinator, child-care/unit manager, and clinician at Waves 2 and 3; and, (3) case records.

Dates of Study: 2007 – Present

Progress to Date:

Pilot data have been collected. University and agency partners have discussed initial findings and next steps.

Anticipated Contributions to the Social Work Field:

The importance of improving practice and outcomes for youth and their families requires creativity and diligence in mapping a new effective means for improving practice. In this vision, RTCs generate data from their own clients and practices and engage in their own research on the practices they implement. Outcomes *and* treatment processes are tracked at the individual case level, program level and agency level. Working with researchers, service providers and program planners generate and evaluate their own data to address questions such as: What are the characteristics of our clients? What services do particular clients receive? What do services/treatments/interventions entail for any particular client? What outcomes do particular clients (having received particular services) attain? Which client outcomes are consistent with expectations of practice and which conflict with expectations?

SSW Investigators:

Heather Larkin, Ph.D.
Laura Hopson, Ph.D.
Amanda Nickerson, Ph.D.

Collaborators:

David Dufee, Ph.D.
Dana Peterson, Ph.D.

Research Support Staff:

Camela Steinke
Raquel Monarty

Dissertation Title: What influence do College Student Service Learners have on the Nonprofit Workforce?

Principal Aims:

Gain an understanding of employees' perspectives of how college students in a Community and Public Service Program (CPSP) service-learning course influence the workplace. This study will take into consideration how factors of employee burnout, public service motivation, social involvement with students and organization volunteer/service learner management influence overall employee perception.

Methodology and Software Used:

The study uses a multi-site case study design with embedded quantitative measures. Two organizations that are partnered with the CPSP will be selected. Employees will be surveyed gathering information on personal demographics, burnout and public service motivation. Approximately 10 employees from each site will engage in one-on-one interviews. To get a complete understanding CPSP students and CPSP faculty/staff will also be interviewed for their perspective which will be compared to employees to see how and where they align and diverge. Qualitative data will be analyzed using NVivo software and quantitative data will be analyzed using SPSS.

Funding:

N/A.

Date of Implementation: Projected Winter 2011/2012

Progress to Date:

Preparing for Proposal Defense November 2011

Anticipated Contributions to the Social Work Field:

It is hoped that this study will broaden awareness of how college students influence the workplace and what factors contribute to successful college student involvement in nonprofit organizations. This information will enhance social work administrators' ability to make informed decisions about how to incorporate college students into the workplace, as well as what supports need to be in place, such as volunteer management infrastructure, service-learning partnerships, and university-community collaborations.

Doctoral Student:

Elisa Martin, LM.S.W.

Committee Members:

Loretta Pyles, Ph.D., Chair

Eunju Lee, Ph.D.

Yvonne Harrison, Ph.D., Rockefeller
School of Public Administration

Title: Meditation as a Coping Intervention for Treatment of Addiction**Principal Aims:**

1. To refine a group intervention to teach mindfulness meditation (MM) and develop a treatment manual;
2. To test the feasibility of conducting this group intervention to teach MM to clients in treatment for drug or alcohol abuse;
3. To obtain preliminary data on adherence with the intervention; and
4. To obtain preliminary qualitative and quantitative pilot data on the impact of the MM group intervention.

Methodology and Software Used:

Qualitative interviews of participants and staff.

Funding:

N/A.

Progress to Date:

We are in the second stage of data analysis and plan to write our second article (first was conceptual).

Anticipated Contributions to the Social Work Field:

In this way, the study begins to explore the efficacy of an innovative intervention, laying the groundwork for more rigorous, large-scale intervention research that is likely to appeal to external funders interested in the development of comprehensive substance abuse treatment protocols.

SSW Investigator:

Heather Larkin, Ph.D.

Collaborators:

Bonnie Carlson, Ph.D.

Eric Hardiman, Ph.D.

Title: 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 and 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: 54,996.

Dates of Study: 9/2011 – 8/2012

Anticipated Contributions to the 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:

Eunju Lee
Woojae Han

Dissertation Title: Comparing Collocated and Non-Collocated Licensed Substance Abuse Outpatient Clinics in New York State: A Program Level Analysis

Principal Aims:

Examine differences in program and caseload characteristics between substance abuse programs as a function of collocation status with mental health outpatient programs. Examine collocation as possible variable related to substance abuse program service outcomes. Discuss the implications of the findings with respect to systems integration and service delivery.

Methodology and Software Used:

A descriptive study utilizing a large statewide dataset of secondary data. Statistical tests included correlation, bivariate analysis, logistic and linear regression using SPSS v16.

Funding:

N/A.

Date of Implementation: 11/2008

Progress to Date:

Completed, defense scheduled for 12/2011

Anticipated Contributions to the Social Work Field:

Social work has a history of exploring issues affecting individuals in the context of larger systems. Social Workers represent about 60% of all mental health staff in NYS, yet only about 10% of Substance abuse treatment staff. The collocation problem examines the systemic and clinical quagmire of the consumer with co-occurring substance abuse and mental health problem within those respective service delivery systems. Given that 80% of behavioral health Medicaid expenditures are spent on about 20% of recipients, and that nearly all of these ‘high utilizers’ are persons with co-occurring disorders, the ramifications of understanding the issue of collocation and how social workers can improve services for those with co-occurring disorders is a critical policy, fiscal, administrative, and clinical objective.

Doctoral Student:

Bradley White

Committee Members:

Lynn Warner, Ph.D.

Heather Larkin, Ph.D.

Frank McCorry (NYS-OASAS – Retired)

Title: North Country Network

Principal Aims:

To develop a case finding and referral system for alcoholism, substance abuse and mental health problems among Elderly residents of two counties in upstate New York.

Methodology and Software Used:

A mixed methods quantitative and qualitative study.

Funding:

NYS Health Care Foundation.

Dates of Study: 1/2008 – Present

Progress to Date:

Development of the network, screening and assessment measure and case finding methods. Collection and analysis of data.

Anticipated Contributions to Field:

Coordinating care for the frail elderly with substance abuse and or mental health problems in a very rural area.

SSW Investigator:

Ron Toseland, Ph.D.

Collaborator:

North Country Behavioral Network

Dissertation Title: The Effect of Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT) on Driving While Intoxicated Offenders

Principal Aims:

1. To evaluate the effectiveness of Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT) on recidivist DWI offenders.
2. To provide an empirically based treatment modality for court mandated individuals who are in the precontemplative stage of change.

Methodology and Software Used:

A secondary data analysis is being conducted using data collected from individuals who received CBT and those who received traditional treatment to identify changes in pre – to posttest scores on several standardized instruments. The measures used are Global Assessment of Functioning (GAF), Coping Resources Inventory (CRI), Treatment Outcome Profile System (TOPS), and Level of Service Inventory – Revised (LSI-R). Statistical analysis using SPSS will include *t* tests, chi square, and regression.

Funding:

N/A.

Date of Implementation: 2007

Progress to Date:

Research is complete. Dissertation has been submitted to Committee for approval.

Anticipated Contributions to the Social Work Field:

To contribute to a framework regarding societal decisions about DWI policies; and provide empirical evidence of the effectiveness of CBT among recidivist DWI offenders.

Doctoral Student:

Thomas P. Quinn, L.C.S.W.

Committee Members:

Barry Loneck, Ph.D.

Lynn Warner, Ph.D.

Ben Hayden, Ph.D.

Dissertation Title: Social Work Perceptions of the Substance Abuse Recovery Process: Practitioner Attitudes towards Client Centeredness and Client-Centered Practice

Principal Aims:

To quantify practitioner attitudes towards client-centeredness and client-centered practice within the context of substance abuse recovery process. Utilizing a newly designed Client-Centered Practice scale as the study's dependent variable, social workers' attitudes towards client-centeredness will be measured and correlated against professional proximity, practice environment, non-professional contact with mental illness, and other selected independent variables.

Methodology and Software Used:

An 8-page survey questionnaire was developed to collect data including basic demographic information, professional proximity, practice area, years of post-degree practice, non-professional contact with mental illness, and recovery status (from either mental health or substance misuse issues). These independent variables will be correlated against the Client Centered Practice scale, the dependent variable designed specifically for this study. Multiple regression analysis and SPSS will be utilized to present a quantitative view of key factors that could potentially explain why some social workers appear more likely to be client-centered while others do not. This study will utilize a national random sample of 200-250 respondents.

Funding:

Self-funded.

Date of Implementation: 2/2010

Progress to Date: Successfully defended dissertation proposal, attained candidacy status.

Anticipated Contributions to the Social Work Field:

Aside from the clear importance of this topic for the advancement of knowledge in social work education and practice, this study has critical implications for emerging debates between clinicians, scholars, and policymakers across several disciplines. The results and observations of this study will impact policymakers, researchers, and theoreticians in many of the helping professions, informing practice, research, and policy within the context of the postmodern realities that continue to present perplexing challenges to the most basic tenets of social work and other interested social sciences.

Doctoral Student:

Sal Cesare

Committee Members:

Lynn Videka, Ph.D. (Chair)

Nancy Claiborne, Ph.D.

Henry Vandenburg

Dissertation Title: 12-Step Cultural Competence and the Referral Process**Principal Aims:**

To study treatment factors associated with best 12-Step program referral practices.

Methodology and Software Used:

This study employs a naturalistic design. The sample includes clinical directors and clinicians providing substance abuse treatment in outpatient and residential settings within New York State (N=284). Participants completed an online survey composed of and adapted from various existing instruments, including questions developed by the researcher. Structural equation modeling is used to examine hypothesized relationships.

Funding:

N/A.

Date of Implementation: Spring 2011**Progress to Date:**

Currently analyzing the data

Anticipated Contributions to the Social Work Field:

It is anticipated that this project will contribute to a better understanding of clinical referrals to 12-Step programs, which are a major component of many professional substance abuse treatment programs. This includes understanding whether the 12-Step program familiarity of referring clinicians influences the referral process. Thus, laying the groundwork for future efforts to more clearly define and implement best 12-Step program referral practices in the treatment setting.

Doctoral Student:

Cory B. Dennis

Committee Members:

Barry Loneck, Ph.D. (Chair)

Philip McCallion, Ph.D.

Mitchell Earleywine, Ph.D.

Title: Understanding Mental Health and Substance Abuse Treatment Needs Among Women of African Descent: A Focus Group Perspective

Principal Aims:

To modify an existing working manual specifying treatment procedures and a treatment change process grounded in the theoretical rationale of psychosocial competence aimed at decreasing depressive disorders & enhancing one's intentions/motivations to remain drug free.

Methodology and Software Used:

Specific methods to be used include:

- 1) individual interviews with consumers;
- 2) focus groups with consumers, and
- 3) focus groups with service/treatment providers (direct staff, supervisors, administrators).

Funding:

The University at Albany Faculty Research Awards Program (FRAP-B): \$4,500.

Dates of Study: 4/2007 – Present

Progress to Date:

Outreach and recruitment.

Anticipated Contributions to the Social Work Field:

Interviews with consumers and providers will provide critical data in relation to ethnic minority women and their understanding of psychosocial competence, depression, depression etiology, drug abuse treatment, and relevant culturally specific domains.

SSW Investigators:

Lani Jones, Ph.D.
Eric Hardiman, Ph.D.
Lynn Warner, Ph.D.
Laura Hopson, Ph.D.

Collaborators:

Whitney M. Young Jr. Health Center
Trinity Institution-Homer Perkins Center
YWCA Troy

Research Support Staff:

P. Pignard
E. Swagert
Megan Brophy (Ph.D. Student)

Title: The Prevalence of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) Among Homeless People**Principal Aims:**

The specific aims that this project will address are:

1. To determine the prevalence of ACEs among the homeless population;
2. To determine the extent to which ACEs are related to service utilization; and
3. To determine the extent to which ACE prevalence relates to depression, anxiety, substance abuse, and locus of control.

Methodology and Software Used:

Homeless services program participants will be screened for ten ACE categories, which fall under two broader categories of abuse and household dysfunction. Questions adapted from the National Co-Morbidity Survey have also been added to gather data on service utilization history. Front-line agency staff, who are already asking intake questions, generate data to be entered into an agency database, and trained to ask the additional ACE study questions. Initial data analysis steps will include simple frequency analysis as well as bivariate correlation analysis. Multiple regression analysis will be utilized to determine the impact of the independent variable of ACE Score on the dependent variables of length of stay, reasons for leaving, and rates of locus of control, anxiety, depression, and substance use. Relevant control variables will be identified.

Funding:

Faculty Research Award Program A: \$7,284.

Dates of Study: 2007 – Present

Progress to Date:

The Committee on the Shelterless (COTS) in Petaluma, CA, St. Paul's Center, Catholic Charities, and Interfaith Partnership for the Homeless in Albany, NY have been engaged in this study. Over 150 questionnaires have been collected thus far and administration of these questionnaires continues. Additional agencies will be identified to expand the study. A renewal and modification request has been submitted to the IRB in order to continue collecting data over the next year. Research findings presented at CSWE and article under development.

Anticipated Contributions to the Social Work Field:

This study expands upon the ACE studies that are documented primarily in medical journals, bringing a social work perspective to this important issue, and fills a gap by exploring ACEs with the homeless population. By shedding light on the ACE background of homeless people, cultural victim blaming is likely to be reduced and help may be more forthcoming. The numerous problems associated with ACEs among homeless populations also speak to the need for increasingly integrated service systems that support comprehensive responses to these social problems.

SSW Investigator:

Heather Larkin, Ph.D.

Title: 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 and 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, Ph.D.

Title: An Evaluation of the CPS/DV Collaborative**Principal Aims:**

The Center for Human Services Research is evaluating the effects of placing Domestic Violence Advocates in Child Protection Services (CPS) Offices on improving safety to DV victims and their children. The evaluation consists of a process study and a quasi-experimental outcome study.

Methodology and Software Used:

Phone interviews with NYS Directors of Services; Focus groups with CPS workers in collocation sites; interviews with DV advocates and Child Welfare Administrators; case record reviews of intervention and comparison counties; and an electronic survey of all NYS CPS workers (outside of NYC).

Funding:

New York State Office of Children and Family Services: \$306,900.

Dates of Study: 7/2011 – 8/2012**Progress to Date:**

Phone interviews with all NYS Directors of Services have been completed. Focus groups and interviews are being scheduled.

Anticipated Contributions to Field:

Gain an in-depth understanding of program practices to inform model replication and improvement; develop a classification model of types of CPS/DV Collaborative practices; determine the effectiveness of the CPS/DV collocation in identifying the presences of DV in CPS families, providing services, and improving the safety of victims and their children.

CHSR Investigators:

Ellen Unruh
Sarah Horan
Rose Greene
Corinne Noble
Sarah Rain
Eunju Lee, Ph.D.

Collaborators:

Joanne Ruppel
Pam Jobin (OCFS)

Title: Albany Operation SNUG / CeaseFire Program**Principal Aims:**

This is a demonstration project to test Operation SNUG which seeks to reduce shootings and killings by implementing a number of core strategies in communities experiencing disproportionately high rates of gun violence over a several year period. Communities are faced with growing street violence that impacts a community at every level. Violence not only threatens personal safety, it dramatically affects the psyche of a community and discourages things such as economic development and job creation. The people living in these communities find themselves caught up in a cycle of violent crime and despair that is very difficult to overcome. Programs like Operation SNUG provide them with the tools they need to reduce violence and improve their quality of life. Operation SNUG – guns spelled backwards – is based on the CeaseFire Chicago model and takes a public health approach to eradicating violence, by stopping the incidence of violence at its source. This is accomplished at the community level through direct intervention as a result of community partnerships, programs and education. Besides saving lives, Operation SNUG saves money, as every violent incident comes with a monetary, as well as human cost. For example, on average, a violent act results in \$15,000 to \$25,000 in hospital costs and \$40,000 per year in jail costs.

Methodology and Software Used:

The project has three core elements which outline the goals and activities for a systematic testing process to:

1. Street violence interruption and prevention;
2. Hospital-based violence intervention and trauma treatment; and
3. Education and positive youth development. Partnerships with community mobilization groups, faith-based leaders, outreach workers, violence interrupters, educators, and those in the criminal justice sector are crucial.

Funding Date:

NYS appropriation for \$500,000 (2010 – 2011).

Dates of Study: 2010 – 3/2012**Anticipated Contributions to the Social Work Field:**

1. Understanding benefits of peer-based intervention.
2. Testing models for prevention.
3. Designing Return On Investment (ROI) outcome data.

SSW Investigators:

Lani Jones, Ph.D.
Eric Hardiman, Ph.D.

Collaborator:

Barbara Smith

Title: Building Bridges Participatory Action Research**Principal Aims:**

This research is a participatory action research study that is a collaboration between a group of activist women survivors of gender-based violence called “Building Bridges,” Equinox Domestic Violence Services and the University at Albany. The purpose of this research is to learn about the ways that survivors of gender-based violence engage in community change activities. The research is concerned with the factors that facilitate or impede the ability of a group of women survivors to advocate for changes in the domestic violence service delivery system.

Methodology and Software Used:

Qualitative, case study, critical ethnographic methods, participatory action research.

Funding:

Equinox Domestic Violence Services and Albany Bar Association.

Dates of Study: 5/2009 – Present**Progress to Date:**

We have completed about 2.5 years of fieldwork to date. We have published a journal article and a book chapter.

Anticipated Contributions to Field:

Innovations in the areas of constituent-driven community change work.

SSW Investigator:

Loretta Pyles, Ph.D.

Collaborators:

Building Bridges

Jaclyn DeChiro

Equinox Domestic Violence Services

Title: Developmental and Intergenerational Paths to Partner Violence and Child Maltreatment**Description and Principal Aims:**

This research will examine two types of family violence – intimate partner violence and child maltreatment – in a longitudinal, intergenerational context. Our core objective is to identify the developmental pathways and social circumstances that lead to the perpetration of these behaviors, as well as to identify protective factors that generate resilience.

Specific aims:

1. To examine intergenerational continuities in both intimate partner violence and child maltreatment.
2. To identify developmental pathways that lead to the perpetration of intimate partner violence and child maltreatment and that are potential mediators of the level of intergenerational continuity observed in Aim 1.
3. To identify both common and unique pathways to intimate partner violence and to child maltreatment.
4. To identify protective factors that reduce the likelihood that individuals with identified risk factors actually engage in intimate partner violence or in child maltreatment.

Methodology and Software Used:

Secondary data analysis of The Rochester Youth Development Study data. Multiple methodologies, using mainframe UNIX and SAS programming, also MPlus.

Funding:

\$430,000 over three years (CDC – Centers for Disease Control) (Subcontract for Carolyn Smith, P.I.).

Dates of Study: 8/2009 – 8/2012

Progress to Date:

Funded, study underway, several publications

Anticipated Contributions to Field:

Better clarity on developmental pathways leading to family violence, information on gender differences in precipitating personal and social precipitants. Information on interruptible risk factors.

SSW Investigator:

Carolyn Smith, Ph.D

Collaborators:

Timothy Ireland, University of Niagara
Terence Thornberry, University of Colorado

Research Support Staff:

Rochester Youth Development Study
project staff
Laura Elwyn, Ph.D.
Aely Park, Ph.D

IV. Faculty, Staff, and Ph.D. Student Biographies

Jennifer Bashant
Research Scientist
Center for Human Services Research

B.A., Psychology and Criminal Justice, SUNY Oswego
M.S.W./M.A. in Social Work and Criminal Justice, University at Albany
Ph.D., Social Welfare, University at Albany
E-mail: jbashant@albany.edu
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***Specialization:** Education, Social Work, Criminal Justice

Jennifer Bashant is evaluating the City School District of Albany's Magnet School grant, which examines the impact of the High School's conversion into four separate academies. Jennifer's previous research experience includes working on an evaluation of the adult mental health services in New York State at the Office of Mental Health, and work on a meta-analysis of interventions for people with dementia. Jennifer has also directed an agency that provided training and consulting to school districts and special education agencies. Jennifer is a licensed social worker.

Katharine H. Briar-Lawson
Dean & Professor

M.S.W. (1968), Columbia University
Ph.D. (1976), University of California, Berkeley
E-mail: kbriarlawson@albany.edu
Telephone: (518) 442-5324

***Specialization:** Child and family welfare, poverty and unemployment, community collaboration & service integration.

Dr. Briar-Lawson is an experienced academic administrator and national expert on family focused practice and child and family policy. Among her books (co-authored) are *Family-Centered Policies & Practices: International Implications* (2001), and (co-edited) *Innovative Practices with Vulnerable Children and Families* (2001), *Evaluation Research in Child Welfare* (2002), *Charting the Impacts of University-Child Welfare Collaboration* (2003), *Social Work Research* (2010), *Social Work Practice Research* (2010), and *Globalization, Social Justice and the Helping Professions* (2011). She co-chairs the Gerontological Task Force for the National Association for Deans and Directors and served as a past president. In addition, she is a Co-PI of the National Child Welfare Workforce Institute.

Sal Cesare
Ph.D. Candidate

B.A. (2000), University at Albany
M.S.W. (2002), University at Albany

Sal Cesare is a doctoral candidate in social welfare who presents with a strong clinical background as a seasoned clinician, program director, and clinical manager with over sixteen years of field-tested expertise in mental health, substance misuse, traumatic brain injury, geriatrics, adolescent/family counseling, domestic violence, and homeless delivery systems. Sal moved to London, England in 2005 and has been certified to practice as a social worker in UK. Since arriving in the UK, he has been employed by Bexley Council's East Child Care Unit, located in Bexleyheath, Kent, Newham Council's Criminal Justice Intervention Team in Stratford/East London, Goldsmith's College, University of London in New Cross Gate/South London, and is currently employed as a Clinical Manager for Hackney Council's Children and Young Peoples' Service.

Manrong Chen
Ph.D. Candidate

B.A. Social Work (1998), Xiamen University, China
M.S.W. (2003), Gothenburg University, Sweden
M.L. Sociology (2004), Fudan University, China

***Specialization:** Child Welfare Policy, Welfare System, Family and Children.

Yi-Yi Chen
Ph.D. Candidate

Bachelor in Economics (1999), National Taiwan University
M.A. Social Welfare (2002) National Chun-Cheng University

***Specialization:** Non-profit organization management, program design and evaluation, social policy analysis, community practice

Yi-Yi Chen is interested in non-profit organization study and implementation science. Her career goal is to apply research methods as tools supporting social workers and social services agencies to articulate, implement, and evaluate their work. She is a Licensed Social Worker in Taiwan. Before coming to the United States, Yi-Yi worked as a research specialist on the National Health Insurance planning team, the Director of Research and Planning Section of the Taiwan Foundation of Rare Disorders, and as a research assistant at National Taiwan University. In the years studying in University at Albany, she has been involved in New York State policy research through the evaluation of barriers to food stamps, analysis of factors affecting workforce retention in child welfare services, and development of supervision models in social service agencies.

Nancy Claiborne
Associate Professor
Director of Social Work Education Consortium Evaluation

Ph.D. (1999), University of Houston
M.S.W. (1982), University of Southern California
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Telephone: (518) 442-5349

***Specialization:** Human Service Organizations and NGO design and delivery of service systems that integrate empirical care and build capacity.

Dr. Claiborne is an Associate Professor at the School of Social Welfare, University at Albany, State University of New York and also serves as the Director of Evaluation for the Social Work Education Consortium. She is a management specialist, whose research interests include human service organizational functioning and change, as well as teambuilding/collaboration and program evaluation. She is specifically interested in service system design and delivery, including the system facilitators and barriers to innovative services that achieve results. Dr. Claiborne is particularly interested in studying models that attempt to integrate empirically based care and outcomes measurement into services. These interests include investigating the impact of organizational factors on the delivery of services, management and related system functions. Her experience includes 17 years' as a clinician, clinical director, community linkage agent, and senior administrator in inpatient and outpatient health and mental health settings.

Emily DeLorenzo
Ph.D. Candidate

B.A. English (1996) University at Albany
M.S.W. (1999) Columbia University

Emily DeLorenzo'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.

Cory B. Dennis
Ph.D. Candidate

B.S., Sociology (2002), University of Utah
M.S.W., Social Work (2005), Brigham Young University
Ph.D., Social Welfare (Current), University at Albany
E-mail: cbdnns@gmail.com

***Specialization:** Addiction, 12-Step Programs, Self-help, Best Practices

Prior to pursuing a doctoral degree, Cory Dennis provided substance abuse treatment to clients in a residential and outpatient setting. His research interests primarily stem from that work. Cory currently works as a graduate assistant for a research center within the School of Social Welfare, and provides clinical services to individuals, couples, and families for a range of issues.

Susan Ehrhard-Dietzel
Senior Research Support Specialist
Center for Human Services Research

B.A. in Sociology, State University of New York at Geneseo

M.A. and Ph.D., Criminal Justice, University at Albany

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Specialization: Criminal Justice

Susan Ehrhard-Dietzel 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.

Lisa Ferretti

Co-Director for the Center for Excellence in Aging Services & Community Wellness

B.A. Social Work, University at Albany

M.S.W, University at Albany

E-mail: lferretti@albany.edu

Telephone: (518) 442-5832

Lisa Ferretti is Public Service Professor and Co-Director of the Center for Excellence in Aging & Community Wellness at the University at Albany School of Social Welfare. An Atlantic Philanthropies/John A. Hartford Foundation Practice Change Leader in Geriatric Care, Lisa advanced a Participatory Action Practice model in a diverse upstate New York inner-city community. 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 Lead Trainer and the primary developer of a translation of the Stanford University Prevention Research Center's Active Choices program. She is also a Master Trainer of the Matter of Balance Program, Healthy Eating for Successful Living for Older Adults and the Arthritis Foundation Exercise Program. Lisa's current projects include the promotion and expansion of evidence-based health promotion interventions in New York State (NYS), building significant service opportunities through the Center's Civic Engagement Resource Center and ExcelleShare Project, and creating community capacity building opportunities for individual behavior change in health disparity communities. 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.

Anne E. Fortune
Associate Dean, Professor

A.M. (1975), University of Chicago
Ph.D. (1978), University of Chicago
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***Specialization:** Aging, Short-term Treatment and Social Work Education

Dr. Fortune teaches research and social work practice at the undergraduate and graduate levels. Anne's research is in the areas of task-centered practice, termination of social work treatment, aging, and field education. She is editor of *Task-Centered Practice with Families and Groups* (1985), co-author (with William J. Reid) of *Social Work Research* (1999), and co-editor of *Aging and Social Work: The Changing Landscapes* (2000) and of *Multicultural Issues in Social Work* (1998), and co-editor of *Social Work Practice Research for the 21st Century* (2010). She is past editor of *The Journal of Social Work Education* and of *Social Work Research*, and served as President of the Society for Social Work and Research.

Rose Greene
Public Service Professor and Senior Research Scientist
Director Center for Human Services Research

B.A. (1976) in Psychology, City University of New York, Queens College
M.A. (1979) in Sociology, University at Albany
E-mail: rgreene@albany.edu
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***Specialization:** Children and family services, program evaluation, service integration

Rose Greene 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.

Jan L. Hagen
Distinguished Teaching Professor

M.S.W. (1972), Washington University
Ph.D. (1982), University of Minnesota
E-mail: hagen@albany.edu
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***Specialization:** Social Welfare Policy, Women and Social Policy.

Dr. Hagen has research interests in public welfare, welfare employment programs, and battered women. Her publications encompass the subjects of welfare employment programs, welfare "reform", income maintenance workers, battered women, and homelessness. Jan holds a joint appointment in the Public Policy Program and an affiliated appointment in the Department of Women's Studies. In 2003, she received the Presidential Award for Excellence in Social Work Research from the National Association of Social Workers (NASW). Dr. Hagen has served as consulting editor for several social work journals. She has also been active in NASW, including serving as President of The New York State Chapter (2000-2002).

Eric R. Hardiman
Associate Professor
Director of the Center for Innovation in Mental Health Research

M.S.W. (1993), University of Georgia
Ph.D. (2001), University of California, Berkeley
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Telephone: (518) 442-5705

***Specialization:** Mental Health

Dr. Hardiman conducts research on the consumer delivery of mental health services, psychiatric recovery, and homelessness/housing models, particularly those for persons with serious psychiatric disabilities. His scholarly interests include peer support and various mechanisms of mutual aid. He has also studied mental health responses and disaster relief in New York City following September 11, 2001 and in Indonesia in response to the 2004 tsunami. He is currently completing an evaluation of the Albany SNUG (guns spelled

backwards) program, designed to prevent gun violence using a public health model of intervention.

John Heck
Project Staff Associate
Center for Human Services Research

M.S.W., University at Albany
B.S., Wittenberg University
E-mail: jheck@albany.edu
Telephone: (518) 442-5719

Specialization: Human Services Management Information Systems

John Heck works with information systems for human service models and currently supports the data collection system for the Healthy Families New York. He joined CHSR in the fall of 1994 when he supervised the technology unit of the Neighborhood Based Alliance Initiative (NBA). Previously he has worked with NYS information systems in the areas of teen pregnancy prevention, crisis intervention, and case management. He has 15 years' experience working in human service agencies that serve mental health, mental retardation and developmental disability populations and 20 plus years' experience improving information gathering for human services.

Laura M. Hopson
Assistant Professor

M.S.S.W., (1998) Columbia University School of Social Work
Ph.D., (2006) University of Texas at Austin
E-mail: lhopson@albany.edu
Telephone: (518) 591-8787

***Specialization:** Social Work Services in Schools, Prevention of Youth Risk Behaviors, and Evidence-Based Practice.

Dr. Hopson is interested in interventions that reduce risk and build protective factors for youth, especially in school settings. Current research examines risk and protective factors associated with academic and behavioral outcomes and the influence of school climate.

Heather K. Horton
Assistant Professor

M.S. (1991), University of Arizona
A.M. (2000), University of Chicago
Ph.D. (2005), University of Chicago

E-mail: hhorton@albany.edu
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Webpage: <http://www.heatherkhorton.com/>

***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.

Eleanor M. Jaffee
Ph.D. Candidate

B.A. (1996), Binghamton University
M.S.W. (2003), University at Albany

***Specializations:** Housing, Welfare Policy, Feminist Research.

Eleanor Jaffee is interested in the relationship between gender and poverty within the American sociopolitical framework. Eleanor seeks to better understand how constructions of gender and poverty are linked to both day-to-day and historic outcomes on the personal, program, and political levels. For her dissertation research, Eleanor is currently exploring some of these themes in the context of supported housing services for adults with psychiatric disabilities. Eleanor is also enjoying the exciting cross-pollination of ideas with feminist scholars from diverse cultural and disciplinary backgrounds as a Fall 2009 Research Associate at the Five College Women's Studies Research Center at Mt. Holyoke College in western Massachusetts.

Lani V. Jones
Associate Professor

M.S.W. (1992), Boston College
Ph.D. (2000), Boston College
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Telephone: (518) 442-5167

***Specialization:** Evidenced Based Practice, Psychosocial Competence, Group Work and Mental Health in Urban Communities.

Dr. Jones'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 evaluation of a culturally, specific group intervention aimed at enhancing Psychosocial competence among Black women and; the exploration of factors that contribute to the achievement of Psychosocial competence among Black women with psychiatric disabilities who utilize peer support services in mental health settings.

Shirley J. Jones
Distinguished Service Professor

M.A. (1954), New York University
M.S.W. (1964), New York University
D.S.W. (1977), Columbia University
E-mail: sjones@albany.edu
Telephone: (518) 442-5330

***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 entitled, 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 two papers in press: Globalization and Africa: Development, Challenges and Implications for Helping Professionals and Action Research: An Intervention for Change, Development and Advocacy in a Global Society. Dr. Jones is presently looking at rural social and economic development and their implications for preparing helping professionals to work in a global society and for fostering better global development and security.

Devinder Khalsa
Programmer
Center for Human Services Research

M.S., Statistics, University of Illinois
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Devinder Khalsa is a lead programmer at CHSR. He works on the Healthy Family New York web based application. His experience includes Systems Development Life Cycle (SDLC), or Software Development Life Cycle in systems engineering, information systems and software engineering. Before joining CHSR, Devinder was a Senior Software Engineer at Davis Vision for 12 years.

Lara Kaye

Research Scientist and Assistant Research Professor
Center for Human Services Research

M.S.W. at Hunter College, City University of New York

Ph.D. in Social Welfare at the University at Albany

Postdoctoral Fellowship in Clinical Services Training Research at U. of California, San Francisco

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***Specialization:** Health, Behavioral Health, Education, Public Health, Social Work and Psychology.

Dr. Kaye is presently the Principal Investigator of the U.S. 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.

Heather Larkin

Assistant Professor

M.S.W. (1994), Boston University

Ph.D. (2006), The Catholic University of America

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***Specialization:** Restorative Integral Support (RIS), adverse childhood experiences (ACE), healthy environments and relationships that support (HEARTS), Service Outcomes Action Research (SOAR), Post-Trauma Wellness.

Dr. Larkin facilitates the implementation of “Restorative Integral Support” (RIS), which draws on Integral theory (Wilber, 2000) for a comprehensive, whole person response to “adverse childhood experiences” (ACE). This involves the intentional development of “Healthy Environments and Relationships That Support” (HEARTS) within which individually-oriented evidence-based-supported interventions (ESIs) and emerging practices can be integrated. “Service Outcomes Action Research” (SOAR), developed by Duffee

(2010), evaluates the effectiveness of ESIs and brings emerging practices to research within complex agency context.

Catherine K. Lawrence
Assistant Research Professor

M.S.W. (1997), University at Albany

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***Specialization:** Social Welfare Policy, Poverty & Disparity, Cultural Competency, Mixed Methods Research Design.

Dr. Lawrence'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. Dr. Lawrence 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, her 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.

Hal A. Lawson
Professor

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***Specialization:** School-Family-Community Partnerships, Child Welfare, and Interprofessional Collaboration.

Dr. Lawson 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:
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Eunju Lee

Senior Research Scientist and Assistant Research Professor
Center for Human Services Research

M.A. (1990), University at Albany

Certificate (1997), Women and Public Policy, University at Albany

Ph.D. (2003), University at Albany

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***Specialization:** Child Welfare, Immigration, and Program Evaluation.

Dr. Lee received her bachelor's degree from Ewha Women's University in Korea and studied issues related to gender equity, family policy, race and ethnicity, and immigrant adaptation in the Sociology department of the University at Albany. Since 1999, she has been conducting evaluations of programs and policies related to child welfare with the Center for Human Services Research using both qualitative and quantitative methods. Currently, Dr. Lee's research focuses primarily on two projects: A randomized trial of the effectiveness of a child abuse prevention program and a process and outcome evaluation study of People Advancing through Treatment and Housing (PATH).

Barry Loneck

Associate Professor

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Ph.D. (1985), Case Western Reserve University

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***Specialization:** Alcohol and Drug Dependence Treatment, Mental Health Treatment.

Dr. Loneck 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.

Nicole MacFarland
Ph.D. Candidate

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***Specialization:** Geriatric Addictions, Co-Occurring Disorders in Later Life, Program Administration, Program Development and Clinical Practice for Older Addicted and Mentally Ill Adults.

Nicole MacFarland is the Clinical Director of Senior Hope Counseling, Inc. This is the only free-standing, outpatient, non-intensive, OASAS-licensed clinic in upstate New York catering exclusively to the 50+ population suffering from addictions. Nicole is currently a Ph.D. candidate and has lectured locally and nationally over the past several years. Nicole authored a chapter in the book, *Days in the Lives of Gerontological Social Workers: 44 Professionals Tell Stories from 'Real-Life' Social Work Practice with Older Adults*. Her chapter is entitled, "A Social Work Perspective on Geriatric Addictions." Nicole is the recipient of a Hartford Doctoral Fellows Pre-Dissertation Award and of the 2009 Individual of Distinction in Addictions Education and Training Award for NYS. In 2010, Nicole was honored as Social Worker of the Year for NYS by the NYS Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers. In the past, Nicole has also earned her Chemical Dependency Certificate Program (1999) and Certificate in Nonprofit Management and Leadership (2008).

Elisa Martin
Ph.D. Candidate

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M.S.W. (2000), New Mexico Highlands University
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AAS (1991), Cazenovia College
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***Specialization:** Management and supervision, developing evidence of effective practice in organizations, social work leadership development, social work public service motivation and burnout, community-university engagement, service-learning, volunteers and service-learning students in the workplace.

Elisa Martin's primary interests are in enhancing the effectiveness of management with the goal of providing enhanced support to employees and improved service delivery. As a research assistant she has worked with the Community and Public Service Program (CPSP) and worked with the CPSP team to strengthen curriculum for three service based/service-learning courses, develop a program mission and vision used to create a five-year strategic plan. Elisa also volunteered on the SOAR (Service Outcome Action Research) project

assisting two local nonprofits develop strategies and infrastructure for effective evidence based practice implementation and evaluation. Elisa co-authored a paper on examining agency policy and procedure on record keeping practices in preparation for evidence based practice, and co-authored a paper on social worker's role in the university-community engagement movement.

Philip McCallion

Director, Center for Excellence in Aging & Community Wellness
Institute for Social Services Research and Development

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Ph.D. (1993), University at Albany

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***Specialization:** Aging and Developmental Disabilities.

Dr. McCallion is 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. His research has been supported by grants and awards from the National Institute on Drug Abuse, the U.S. Administration on Aging, 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 Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities, Office for Children and Family Services and Developmental Disabilities Planning Council. Dr. McCallion has over 80 publications on interventions with caregivers of frail elderly, and with persons with Alzheimer's disease, and persons with intellectual/developmental disabilities.

LuAnn L. McCormick

Senior Research Scientist and Assistant Research Professor
Center for Human Services Research

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***Specialization:** Qualitative Research Methods, Children's Mental Health, Maternal and Child Health

Dr. McCormick is Principal Investigator and the Evaluation Team Leader for the Orange County System of Care for Children's Mental Health, part of a national program funded by

SAMHSA. Other research projects have included an evaluation of a federal Children's Bureau project to train New York State child welfare workers on culturally competent, family centered practice; the implementation of NYS OCFS Integrated County Planning; and an evaluation of NYS Family Resource Centers. LuAnn has extensive experience in research and evaluation in many areas of the health and human services field, including maternal and child health, mental health, HIV/AIDS, family homelessness, traumatic brain injury, and women's health.

Mary McCarthy

Lecturer

Director Social Work Education Consortium
Co PI National Child Welfare Workforce Institute
Assistant Dean for School Advancement

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***Specialization:** Child Welfare and Political Social Work

Dr. McCarthy's practice experience as a caseworker and administrator in child welfare and education frames her interest in public policy for children, families, and oppressed groups. She is the Co-PI for the National Child Welfare Workforce Institute and Director for the Social Work Education Consortium. The National Child Welfare Workforce Institute is a multi-university and agency 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 (2009 – 2012) National Board Representative from Region III. 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.

Linda K. P. Mertz

Project Coordinator, Internships in Aging Project

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***Specialization:** Geriatrics, Mental Health, Field Education.

Linda Mertz is the Coordinator of the Internships in Aging Project – one of several model programs in the nation for training of social workers to work with older adults. Linda's interests include gerontology, especially caregiving, wellness, intergenerational programming, mental health and community building. Linda also teaches in the clinical practice sequence.

Robert L. Miller, Jr.
Associate Professor

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Ph.D. (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.

Dr. Miller 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. Dr. Miller teaches Micro Practice One and Two; Cultural Diversity in Social Work; and Spirituality and Social Work Practice. He is an active participant in the U.S.–Africa Partnership for Building Stronger Communities.

Toni Naccarato
Assistant Professor

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***Specialization:** Child Welfare, Economics and Social Policy (with emphasis on analysis and reform)

Dr. Naccarato's research focuses on emancipation, welfare, and human capital accumulation of adolescents; social and economic policies and reforms; and, research methods for

increasing social and political changes in the Social Work arena. She has direct practice experiences in California and New York, and applied research experiences at the policy level in Georgia, California, New York and Washington, DC. Dr. Naccarato is currently collaborating with the New York State Office of Children and Family Services, to better integrate research and data management emphasizing child welfare practitioners.

Corinne Noble

Senior Research Support Specialist
Center for Human Services Research

B.S. and M.S. in Psychology, Universidad Argentina J. F. Kennedy – Buenos Aires

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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
Center for Human Services Research

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M.B.A., University at Albany

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Specializations: 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.

Jisung Park
Ph.D. Candidate

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***Specialization:** Aging, Program Evaluation, Well-Being in Middle and Later Life, Spiritual Coping, Early-Stage Dementia.

Jisung Park's primary interests are in exploring the key factors and coping resources to enhance happiness among vulnerable individuals who suffer from chronic illness, depression, or other threats from life transitions in middle and later years. Jisung had worked for both public and private institutions in Korea for five years and has participated in various research projects to date. As a research assistant at Social Work Education Consortium in University at Albany, Jisung has been working on the teaming model evaluation project with the New York State Office of Children and Family Services.

Loretta Pyles
Associate Professor
Director, Community and Public Service Program

M.A. (1994), Philosophy, University of Kansas
Ph.D. (2005), Social Work, University of Kansas

***Specialization:** Community Organizing/Development, Global Justice, Intersections of Gender-Based Violence and Women's Poverty, Disaster Recovery and Inequity, University-Community Engagement

Dr. Pyles'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: A Critical Approach for a Globalizing World* (Routledge, 2009).

Thomas P. Quinn
Ph.D. Candidate

M.S.W. (1988), Adelphi University

***Specialization:** Chemical dependency and mental health; PTSD treatment for combat veterans

Thomas Quinn provided community based mental health and substance abuse treatment for 22 years and has been an adjunct professor for Adelphi University, School of Social Work since 1994. Currently, Thomas is the Director of Danbury Vet Center, a readjustment counseling service for combat veterans. Thomas is also a Licensed Clinical Social Worker (L.C.S.W.).

Sarah Rain
Senior Research Support Specialist

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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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***Specialization:** Clinical Social Work Practice, Latinas, Mental Health, Intimate Partner Violence, Gerontology, Multiculturalism, International Social Work, Immigrants.

Dr. Ramos's scholarly interests are centered on health disparities, international social work, gerontology, and domestic violence with a focus on U.S. Latinos. She holds an affiliate appointment in the Department of Latin American and Caribbean Studies 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 and with the national association of social workers in Peru. Dr. Ramos serves on a variety of local, regional, and national boards and commissions and has extensive experience as a practitioner and community organizer. She 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. Dr. Ramos served in the editorial board of Social Work and the NASW National Committee on Inquiry. She is originally from Piura, Peru.

Jacqueline Richardson-Melecio
Ph.D. Candidate

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***Specialization:** Cultural Competency and Diversity Training, Human Service Quality Enhancement; Organizational Behavior, Social Policy, Strategic Planning, Leadership Development, Board Development), Executive Level Management

Jacqueline Richardson-Melecio has over 15 years of experience in administration/management and service delivery in the provision of human services within minority communities as well as experience in statewide mental health advocacy initiatives. Jacqueline is an experienced trainer with her own consulting business “New Heights Consulting” providing workshops on cultural competency, workforce development, parenting, board and organizational development workshops. In addition to serving as the Assistant Executive Director for the New York State Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers for the past nine years, Jacqueline is a member of the Multicultural Advisory Committee of the New York State Office of Mental Health and a Ph.D. candidate focusing on the delivery of culturally competent care. Throughout her career Jacqueline has dedicated her efforts to supporting the enhancement of the quality and access to services for under-represented populations and underserved communities. Jacqueline has experience teaching Sociology of Minority Groups and Spanish to undergraduate students and Multicultural Counseling and Mental Health Policy to graduate students.

Kenneth Robin

Senior Research Scientist and Assistant Research Professor
Center for Human Services Research

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Psy.M. (2002), Rutgers University
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***Specialization:** Education, Assessment, and Program Evaluation.

Dr. Robin 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. Dr. Robin also wrote policy briefs, conducted cost estimates, and provided research-based advice to policy makers, educators, and media. He is a licensed school psychologist.

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 Robohn 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 statewide 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.

William Roth
Vincent O'Leary Professor

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***Specialization:** Public and Social Policy, Disability Studies.

Dr. Roth has research interests that include disability, children, and critical social policy. He was the recipient of a grant by the Federal Department of Educators for his work on computer access for people with disabilities. His most recent books include: *Movement: A Memoir of Disability, Cancer, and the Holocaust* (McFarland & Co. Inc., 2008), *Letters to Daniel* (Creative Arts Book Company, 2002), *The Assault on Social Policy* (Columbia University Press, 2002), and with Katharine Briar-Lawson, *Globalization, Social Justice and the Human Services* (SUNY Press, 2010). Dr. Roth is currently working with co-author Susan Peters, Michigan State University, retired, on the Second Edition of *The Assault on Social Policy*.

T. Maureen Sinclair
Ph.D. Candidate

B.A. Psychology (1981), University at Stony Brook
M.S.W. (1985), University at Stony Brook

***Specialization:** Translation of psychological and spiritual theory into practice through curriculum design and development.

Maureen Sinclair's primary interests include social work education and training and spirituality in social work. Maureen's goal is to develop novel ways to teach, train, mentor and coach the next generation of social welfare professionals. Maureen has earned *Phi Beta Kappa (with Highest Honors)* at University at Stony Brook (1981), a New York State Licensed Certified Social Worker (1985), New York State Certified School Social Worker (1985), Advanced Training Certificate in Psychosynthesis Psychotherapy (1988), New Jersey Certified School Social Worker (1990), New Jersey State approved Clinical Supervisor (1997), EMDR Certification: Levels 1 & 2 (2000), NYS Licensed Master Social Worker (2006), and New York State Clinical Supervisor (2007).

Carolyn Smith
Professor

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***Specialization:** Delinquency and High Risk Youth, Child Maltreatment and Family Violence.

Dr. Smith's primary research and publications are in the family etiology of delinquency and other problem behaviors, as well as the consequences of family violence. She is a federally funded investigator on the Rochester Youth Development Study, a national longitudinal and intergenerational study of delinquency. She is currently on the editorial board as Social Work Research. She has had fifteen years' international practice experience in child and family mental health and delinquency prevention. Dr. Smith teaches in the areas of social work theory, child and adolescent problems, and research methods.

Sharon Stevens
Ph.D. Candidate

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L.M.S.W. (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 Steven'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.

Ronald W. Toseland
Professor
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***Specialization:** Gerontology and Social Work Practice.

Dr. Toseland 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.

Ellen Unruh
Research Scientist

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***Specialization:** Evaluation and Research in Human Services, Community Health Evaluation

Ellen Unruh joined CHSR in 2011 to lead the CPS/DV co location study. Ellen has worked in a variety of research settings, including university and government evaluation departments both in the United States and Australia. Prior to coming to CHSR, Ellen served as an independent evaluation consultant in Minnesota. She has worked across topic areas including human services systems and coordination, health care access for the underserved, health improvement initiatives, and disability and mental health services. She has experience with a number of quantitative and qualitative data collection and analysis methods, as well as skills in program planning and policy development.

Paul E. Urbanski
Ph.D. Candidate

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B.F.A. (1976), University of Michigan
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***Specialization:** Gerontology, Long-Term Care Facilities, Qualitative Research Methods, Autonomy

Paul Urbanski is interested in long-term care facilities influence on resident autonomy and quality of life. He is currently an adjunct faculty member at Skidmore College where he is teaching Social Policy and Justice. Prior to beginning his doctoral studies, he completed a research internship at the New York State Psychiatric Institute with the Child Psychiatric Epidemiology Research Group working with researchers studying childhood exposure to trauma.

Matt Vogel
Research Scientist
Center for Human Services Research

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***Specialization:** Criminology, Mental Health, Quantitative Methods

Matt Vogel has worked on the evaluations of the Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention Program, Albany County System of Care, and Healthy Families New York. His primary research interest is the interaction between situational and individual factors in the etiology of delinquency. Matt has a strong background in quantitative statistical methods and has presented a symposium on spatial statistics at the SAMHSA-funded National Children's Mental Health conference in Tampa, Florida. He is currently a doctoral candidate in the Department of Sociology.

Lynn Warner
Associate Professor

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***Specialization:** Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services and Policies

Dr. Warner's research focuses on understanding the relationship between substance abuse and mental illness, and identifying inequities in behavioral health service delivery to vulnerable populations such as low-income women and Latinos. Current projects emphasize environmental influences on the development and treatment of psychosocial problems, including organizational predictors of psychotropic medication use for youths, and country-of-origin influences on the risk for substance abuse among Latinos. 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 and the Annie E. Casey Foundation. Dr. Warner is a member of the editorial board of *Social Work and Mental Health*, and reviews for a range of social work and behavioral health services journals.

Caroline Weiss Dawson
Ph.D. Candidate

B.S. Nursing (1963), University of Wisconsin
M.S. in Nursing (1975), Boston University
MPA (1994), University at Albany

***Specialization:** Public Health.

Caroline Weiss Dawson is currently working as an injury data analyst for the Vermont Department of Health. Caroline is especially interested in health care reform, social and health disparity issues. More recently Caroline has gained an interest in the genetic and environmental factors affecting child development.

Patricia Weldon
Ph.D. Candidate

M.S.W. (1991), Boston College
B.A. (1988), Boston University

***Specialization:** Psychological trauma, Disaster mental health, Crisis Intervention,

Patricia Weldon's primary interests are connected to mental health theories, interventions and outcomes. A main area of interest is in the various responses to traumatic events ranging from crisis intervention to posttraumatic stress disorder to resilience and posttraumatic growth. Her recent work experience includes crisis evaluation services and case management. Patricia's current work involves critical incident stress management and consultation with organizations that have suffered a traumatic event. As a Senior Instructor, Patricia has had the opportunity to teach Human Behavior and the Social Environment II and Disaster Mental Health at different universities.

Bradley White
Ph.D. Candidate

B.A. (1988), University at New Paltz
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C.A.S. (1995), University at Oneonta
Ph.D. (2011), University at Albany
L.M.H.C., (2006), State of New York
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***Specialization:** Mental Health and Substance Abuse Direct Practice and Policy, Implementing Services for Persons with Co-Occurring Mental Health and Substance Use Disorders.

Starr Wood
Associate Professor

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***Specialization:** Intergenerational Trauma.

Dr. Wood has extensive training and experience in the areas of mental health and substance abuse intervention with a focus on traumatic stress. Her research and teaching is informed by a significant amount of social work intervention work in inpatient and outpatient mental health and substance abuse treatment facilities. Dr. Wood held a leadership position in a large federal needs assessment for best practices in delivery of health care services to HIV-positive substance users. This study culminated in the first national standards of care for HIV-positive substance users. She also conducted a needs assessment for HIV-positive women caring for children under 18 years of age for the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, HIV/AIDS Bureau. In her doctoral dissertation, she examined psychological factors in treatment outcomes in 5 methadone maintenance programs in 2 states. Her recent work with gender difference in medication to highly active anti-retroviral therapy is an extension of her past research on AIDS/HIV and health care delivery. Dr. Wood's current funded study on maternal-child obesity is closely related to her training on intergenerational trauma and its impact on child development. She teaches traumatic stress, dynamic and family psychotherapy, and a wide range of specialized crisis intervention strategies for working with individuals and families.

University at Albany School of Social Welfare

2011—2012 Research Guide

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
- New York State Social Work Education Consortium
- The National Child Welfare Workforce Institute

Research currently being conducted

Biographies of Faculty, Staff, and Ph.D. students with Contact Information



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