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INTRODUCTION TO THE 2014 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 for Academic Programs
Lynn Warner, Ph.D., Associate Dean for Research
School of Social Welfare
University at Albany
State University of New York

OUR VISION

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

OUR MISSION

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

SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WELFARE
RESEARCH GUIDE 2014
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.
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.

• 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.

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

Planning and service delivery activities are being supported by funds from the OASIS Institute and the Corporation for National and Community Service; and by collaborations with the Albany Guardian Society, NYS Department of Health, and Bronx Reach Health and the Berkshire Bank Foundation. In addition, The Health Research Board of Ireland, the Irish Hospice Foundation, The Atlantic Philanthropies, the Dunhill Trust, and the Northern Ireland Research and Development Office fund international research activities with the Center’s partners at Trinity College Dublin and Ulster University.
CENTER FOR HUMAN SERVICES RESEARCH
Director: Rose Greene
Management Team: Ken Robin, 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 and evaluation of social programs;
• Developing and maintaining management information systems to meet the programmatic, administrative, and evaluation needs of agencies, providers and researchers;
• Providing consultation services on program development, evaluation design, data collection, and proposal preparation;
• Strengthening university and community partnerships to advance knowledge about the design and delivery of service programs and practices;
• Promoting scholarship through the dissemination of findings; and
• Fostering research opportunities for scholars and students.
CENTER FOR INNOVATION IN MENTAL HEALTH RESEARCH
Director: Eric Hardiman, 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 hub and model for innovative mental health research, education, and service, the Center seeks to translate and disseminate evidence-based research widely so as to impact clinical practice and policy. An interdisciplinary approach is utilized, in order to maximize collaborative relationships with key partners from related fields of expertise.

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

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.
• 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., L.M.S.W.
Deputy Director Catherine Lawrence, Ph.D.
Educational Specialist Marilyn Rooney

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

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

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

continued next page
NEW YORK STATE SOCIAL WORK EDUCATION CONSORTIUM (CONT.)

PROGRAMS

- **Seven regional groups** develop region-specific programs designed to provide tuition support for employees interested in obtaining a graduate social work degree and training topics which support skill development for caseworkers and supervisors appropriate to their region.

- **The BSW Scholars Program** provides coordination support to match students interested in pursuing a career in child welfare and local districts seeking new employees with enhanced preparation. This program is available statewide. Participating counties offer the student a position upon successful completion of a field placement and graduation. Graduates are asked to make a 2-year commitment to employment in the public child welfare agency.

The **Program Evaluation** staff design and implement program specific evaluations to provide evidence of program effectiveness, identify areas for program modification and test promising practices for future development.
NATIONAL CHILD WELFARE WORKFORCE INSTITUTE
Co-PI’s Mary McCarthy, Ph.D., L.M.S.W. & Katharine Briar-Lawson, Ph.D.

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

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

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

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.

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

COLLABORATION
NCWWI is funded through a cooperative agreement with the Children’s Bureau, Administration for Children & Families, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services. Our partners are six universities committed to principles of collaboration who receive ongoing feedback from a group of national experts.

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NATIONAL CHILD WELFARE WORKFORCE INSTITUTE (CONT.)

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

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

University of Maryland
   Nancy Dickinson (Project Director)

Michigan State University
   Gary Anderson, Cheryl Williams-Hecksel, Suzanne Cross, Joanne Riebschleger & Gretchen Archer

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

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

Children’s Bureau
   Jane Morgan, Capacity Building Division Director
   Randi Walters, NCWWI Federal Project Officer, Capacity Building Division
   Robert Lindecamp, Consultant, ICF International at the Children’s Bureau
THE NATIONAL CENTER FOR EXCELLENCE IN HOMELESS SERVICES
Co PI's John Records, J.D. and Heather Larkin, Ph.D.

PURPOSE
The National Center for Excellence in Homeless Services will identify, create and teach state of the art, evidence based and emerging approaches to transform the lives of all homeless children and adults. This mission will fill a gap in homelessness research and practice. The Center will promulgate Restorative Integral Support (RIS), a holistic, multisystem approach to supporting consumers and staff, improving programs, and developing service systems. Research on effectiveness will include quantitative and qualitative methodologies to address the underlying causes of homelessness and evidence based responses, to be integrated within RIS.

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

AIMS
Below are descriptions of specific aims:
1. Develop a bi-coastal relationship with COTS to provide training and support in RIS model implementation by homeless service agencies.
2. Adapt Dr. Larkin’s advanced MSW coursework on Homelessness: Prevention & Intervention as continuing education supports for providers and in partnership with other universities.
3. Build collaborative COTS-related research and foster synergies across state legislators, public and private sectors, as well as university researchers.
4. Attract funding for pilot studies, program evaluations, media campaigns, and community education.
5. Create community-based research team partnerships with agencies.
6. Carry out research on use of the RIS model for leadership development.
7. Disseminate knowledge through webinars, certificate and online programs, as well as peer-reviewed publications, conference presentations, and partnerships with national organizations.
8. Mobilize partnerships with other universities to enhance curricular innovations and research on homelessness nationwide and globally.
9. Establish key partnerships with universities to create regional hubs for technical assistance and training for agencies in their region.
III. FACULTY, STAFF, & PH.D. STUDENT RESEARCH

SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WELFARE

RESEARCH GUIDE 2014
IMPACT

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

OPPORTUNITY YOUTH PROMISE NEIGHBORHOODS INITIATIVE

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

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

FUNDING DATE:
$25,000

DATES OF STUDY: 4/2013 - 1/2014

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

SSW INVESTIGATOR:
Lani Jones, Ph.D.
Identify Effective Programs to improve student outcomes in the Albany City School district.

ALBANY SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT GRANT (SIG) EVALUATION

PRINCIPAL AIMS:
The Center for Human Services Research is conducting a process and outcome studies to examine practice and outcomes of various school-based programs to improve student achievement.

METHODOLOGY AND SOFTWARE USED:
Secondary analysis of Power School;
Violent and Disruptive Incident Report (VADIR) statistics;
Teacher surveys; and
Student surveys

FUNDING:
N/A

DATES OF STUDY: N/A

PROGRESS TO DATE:
Ongoing data analysis and reporting

ANTICIPATED CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE SOCIAL WORK FIELD:
Improved practice to foster student achievement

CHSR INVESTIGATORS:
Sandra McGinnis
Kenneth Robin
The effect of transitional programming on homeless and at-risk youth has rarely been studied. Information regarding this vulnerable population and what changes to service delivery and policies is important not only to the Albany community, but to other agencies across New York State.

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 - Present

PROGRESS TO DATE:
Twelve 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.

RESEARCH SUPPORT STAFF:
Emily DeLorenzo, M.S.W.

COLLABORATOR:
Equinox, Inc.
Inform academic advancement in three distressed neighborhoods.

THE ALBANY PROMISE

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

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

FUNDING:

DATES OF STUDY: 2012 - 2014

PROGRESS TO DATE:
Produced the baseline report.

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

CHSR INVESTIGATORS:
Kenneth Robin
Melissa King
Rose Greene
Camille Barnes
Chris Rees
To better understand of risk and protective factors associated with early sexual initiation. Advocacy for collaborative family/home, school, and community based prevention programs. Advocacy for policies that increase paternal time spent with child/adolescent.

**DISSERTATION TITLE:** A MULTILEVEL MODEL OF THE INFLUENCE OF FAMILY AND SCHOOL LEVEL VARIABLES ON EARLY SEXUAL INITIATION

**PRINCIPAL AIMS:**
The purpose of my dissertation is to identify the multisystem (individual, family & school level) risk and protective factors for early sexual initiation (ESI) using appropriate statistical modeling techniques for adolescents clustered within schools, to identify some of the mechanisms (i.e., risk factor interactions & mediation) on the path to ESI, and to determine whether there are sex differences in the mechanisms and predictors of ESI.

**METHODOLOGY AND SOFTWARE USED:**
Quantitative, Longitudinal Methods, Hierarchical Linear Modeling, SPSS and SAS

**DURATION OF STUDY:** 2 years

**PROGRESS TO DATE:**
First draft of the complete dissertation is under review.

**ANTICIPATED CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE SOCIAL WORK FIELD:**
Extending early sexual initiation prevention/intervention literature and improving related local and federal policy (e.g., recognizing the importance of the paternal relationship; informing the content of sexuality education in public schools). Informing family/home, school, and community based prevention programs (e.g., involving peers as leaders and models, increasing father-child closeness, increasing parent-child communication regarding the social consequences of early sex and parental disapproval of ESI). Extending the ecological, resiliency, and relational theoretical literature by examining multiple risk and protective factors across multiple systems of influence.

**DOCTORAL STUDENT:**
Candace N. White, M.Ed., M.S.

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS:**
Lynn Warner, Ph.D.
Carolyn Smith, Ph.D.
Kathryn Schiller, Ph.D.
Identify Effective Progress to Improve Student outcomes in the Albany City School District.

21ST CENTURY COMMUNITY LEARNING CENTERS EVALUATION

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

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

FUNDING:
$60,000

DATES OF STUDY: 10/2013 - 9/2014

PROGRESS TO DATE:
Ongoing data collection

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

CHSR INVESTIGATORS:
Kenneth Robin
Melissa King
Chris Rees
The Foster in Youth Action model is the only national program for transition age foster youth that is youth led and based on both youth organizing and youth development principles. The rigorous evaluation study of the Action Network program will measure the developmental assets that a total of 300 foster youth in California, Indiana, Mississippi, Nebraska, and Oregon acquire as a result of their participation in the Action Network’s intensive leadership and advocacy trainings in their state.

**FOSTER IN YOUTH ACTION’S (FYA) ADVOCACY TRAININGS PROJECT: A MULTI-STATE EVALUATION OF POSITIVE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT**

**PRINCIPAL AIMS:**
This study will measure the developmental assets that a total of approximately 300 foster youth in California, Indiana, Washington, Nebraska, and Oregon acquire as a result of their participation in the Action Network’s intensive leadership and advocacy trainings in their states.

**METHODOLOGY AND SOFTWARE USED:**
The study will use pre-test, post-test, quasi-experimental design (as there are no control or comparison groups, nor is randomization possible). There will be a total of two waves of data collection.

**FUNDING:**
Stuart Foundation; Zellerbach Family Foundation; California Wellness Foundation

**DATES OF STUDY:** 9/2012 - 8/2014

**PROGRESS TO DATE:**
Wave 1 data analysis complete. Wave 1 final report complete.

**ANTICIPATED CONTRIBUTIONS TO SOCIAL WORK FIELD:**
The ultimate goal of this project is to improve outcomes for foster youth across the United States. This evaluation will likely shape other programs for transition age youth in the United States and could eventually lead to a new standard of practice that encourages all service providers for this population to include youth development components in their programs. This would lead to better outcomes for youth as they transition from the foster care system to independent adulthood.

**SSW INVESTIGATOR:**
Toni Naccarato, Ph.D.

**RESEARCH SUPPORT STAFF:**
Carmen Duncan, M.S.W.

**COLLABORATORS:**
National Foster Youth Action Network
California Youth Connection
Foster youth have many barriers to obtaining health care after they leave the child welfare system. This qualitative study hopes to explore the barriers and enablers of youth obtaining and maintaining their health. This information is needed to provide practitioners, policy makers, and the youth themselves with meaningful themes and information as to what needs to be done to help these youth obtain health care.

ENABLERS AND BARRIERS TO OBTAINING AND MAINTAINING HEALTH CARE FOR YOUTH WHO HAVE TRANSITIONED FROM THE FOSTER CARE SYSTEM: A PILOT STUDY

PRINCIPAL AIMS:
To examine what these young people, service providers, and administrators identify as their primary concerns regarding the youth’s health care by collecting and analyzing qualitative data from three NY counties to answer the following research questions:

1. What are the enablers and barriers that these former foster youth, foster care service providers, and program administrators perceive are associated with obtaining and maintaining health-related services for foster youth in NY State? and;
2. What health care resources exist that youth, foster care service providers, and program administrators are aware of that provide health services to these young people, and for what specific health-related needs in NY State?

METHODOLOGY AND SOFTWARE USED:
A qualitative interview protocol is developed to explore the research questions for common themes. The sampling frame for this study will be obtained from former foster youth ages 18 to 23 from Albany, Montgomery, and Schenectady counties. Snowball sampling will be used.

FUNDING:
Center for the Elimination of Minority Health Disparities; FRAP B - University at Albany

DATES OF STUDY: 10/12 to current

PROGRESS TO DATE:
Approved by the IRB

ANTICIPATED CONTRIBUTIONS TO SOCIAL WORK FIELD:
Little is known about foster youth and health care after this vulnerable population leaves the child welfare system. This pilot study will set the stage for the PI to apply for NIH funding in the future for a larger multi-site study of foster youth and health care.

SSW INVESTIGATOR:
Toni Naccarato, Ph.D.

COLLABORATOR:
Center for the Elimination of Minority Health Disparities

RESEARCH SUPPORT STAFF:
Carmen Duncan
EVALUATION OF THE NEW YORK STATE HOME VISITING PROGRAM

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

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

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 – 9/08); $1,021,584 (10/08 – 09/09); $1,021,584 (10/09 – 09/10); $974,084 (10/10 – 09/11); $1,217,606 (7/1/11 – 9/30/12); $974,088 (10/12 – 9/13); $1,528,176 (10/13 – 9/14).

DATES OF STUDY: 10/2005 - Present

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

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

CHSR INVESTIGATORS:
Rose Greene
Eunju Lee
John Heck
Jennifer Perella
Devinder Khalsa
Corinne Noble

Chun Dar Chen
Chris Papas
Jay Robohn
Bradley Watts
Thomas Dwyer
To advance improved outcomes for high-promise youth by empowering them with resources, skills and supports to succeed, and to graduate from high school.

LIBERTY PARTNERSHIP EVALUATION

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

METHODOLOGY AND SOFTWARE USED:
Mixed methods.

FUNDING: NEW YORK STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT.

DATES OF STUDY: 2009 - 2014

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

EVALUATION OF THE HARTFORD INTERNSHIPS IN AGING PROJECT

PRINCIPAL AIMS:
1. Develop 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 and various small grants and donations

DATES OF STUDY: 2001 - Present

PROGRESS TO DATE:
Developed model, and now disseminating it nationally. Completed evaluation of student cohorts graduating in 2001-2010. 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.
By the year 2015, persons 60 years and older will comprise almost 20% of all New York State residents. Today, nationally there are 5.4 million Americans living with Alzheimer’s disease – 5.2 million aged 65 and over and 200,000 under the age of 65. By 2050, up to 16 million will have the disease (www.alz.org). The need for specialized health, mental health and social services for people with dementia and their caregivers will increase dramatically, challenging the service delivery system. New solutions for care need to be developed. Social workers play a key role in providing these front-line services. The U.S. will require 70,000 social workers who specialize in aging by 2020, a 43% increase from 1987 (National Institute of Aging). There is a shortage of professional social workers who are trained in working with older adults. IAP addresses the shortage of aging-trained social workers in New York State.

INTERNSHIPS IN AGING PROJECT

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

METHODOLOGY AND SOFTWARE USED: NA

FUNDING: SSW program

DATES OF STUDY: 1999 - Present

PROGRESS TO DATE:
As of 2013, there are 154 alumni. Approximately 60% of IAP graduates have chosen to work in New York’s Capital Region and 75 % of the IAP graduates work in New York State.

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

SSW INVESTIGATORS:
Anne E. Fortune, Ph.D.
Linda Mertz, M.S.W.
Findings can be translated to policy and program designs that increase access and supports for older adults with backgrounds of early adversity.

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

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

METHODOLOGY 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:
Data collection has been completed and is currently being analyzed. An article is in development.

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 MSW interns)
This study offers greater insight into critical elements of age-specific services targeting older addicted adults. It also provides guidance for the development of age-tailored services to improve outpatient treatment outcomes for older addicted adults.

**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.

**Methodology and Software Used:**
This study consisted of a sample of 1,456 patients discharged from 22 outpatient chemical dependency programs across NYS. Combining program survey data with client data, this study was an exploratory and ex post facto examination of secondary data exploring the effectiveness of geriatric addictions treatment in community-based outpatient clinics across NYS. Binary logistic regression analyses were conducted using SPSS software.

**Funding:** None

**Duration of Study:** 2 years

**Progress to Date:**
A preliminary study was completed. 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 was combined with client level data from the OASAS Client Data System for my doctoral dissertation and is currently 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 MacFarland (8th year)

**Committee Members:**
Philip McCallion, Ph.D. (Chair)
Ricky Fortune, Ph.D.
Barry Loneck, Ph.D.
Bill Rockwood, Ph.D.
This study will help to determine what groups are being completed for caregivers and persons with mild and moderate dementia, and what populations (ex. early onset persons with dementia) are not receiving help. It will also identify training needs for group leaders, the extent of use of telephone, video and internet groups, and training needs in that area. It will also collect needed data about how well racial/ethnic minorities are being served.

A SURVEY OF EARLY STAGE ALZHEIMER’S GROUPS

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

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

FUNDING:
None.

DATES OF STUDY: 6/2009 - Present

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

ANTICIPATED CONTRIBUTIONS TO 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.
Advancing empowerment and addressing access, prevention and community building in Health Disparity Communities

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: $600,000

DATES OF STUDY: 10/2007 - 12/2015

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.

RESEARCH SUPPORT STAFF:
Madeline Kennedy, M.S.W.

COLLABORATOR:
Robert Paeglow, M.D.
Building understanding of the unique aging issues and challenges for people with intellectual disabilities and informing related public policy development.

THE INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY SUPPLEMENT TO THE IRISH LONGITUDINAL STUDY ON AGING

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

METHODOLOGY AND SOFTWARE USED:
A representative sample of 753 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: $800,000

DATES OF STUDY: 2009 - 2015

PROGRESS TO DATE:
Wave 1 and Wave 2 data collection completed

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

SSW INVESTIGATOR:
Philip McCallion, Ph.D.

COLLABORATOR:
Mary McCarron, Ph.D.
This study offers greater insight into critical elements of age-specific services targeting older addicted adults. It also provides guidance for the development of age-tailored services to improve outpatient treatment outcomes for older addicted adults.

CHRONIC DISEASE SELF-MANAGEMENT EDUCATION IN NEW YORK STATE

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

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

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

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

DATES OF STUDY: 9/2006 - 8/2015

PROGRESS TO DATE:
Interventions underway in English and Spanish.

ANTICIPATED CONTRIBUTIONS TO 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.

RESEARCH SUPPORT STAFF:
Mari Brick, M.S.
Junrong Shi, M.A.
Sang Ah Chang, M.A.
Man-Chun Chang, M.S.
Lauren Benoit

COLLABORATOR:
Laurie Pferr, NYS OFA
Building statewide capacity in health promotion delivery and changing community-clinical linkages in ways supportive of the intent of the Affordable Care Act and consistent with the community, self-management and activated patient aspects of the chronic care model.

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

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

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

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

DATES OF STUDY: 2012 - 2017

Progress to Date:
Ongoing delivery of programs. Building of new capacity in Diabetes Prevention Program, Walk with Ease and Active Living Every Day

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

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

RESEARCH SUPPORT STAFF:
Mari Brick
Junrong She
Sang Ah Chun
Elaine Escobales
Danielle LaRaia
Rebecca Giardino

COLLABORATORS:
Laurie Pferr, NYS OFA
Theresa Paeglow, NYS DOH
Susan Middleton, NYS DOH
Danielle McFee, NYS DOH
Building new relationships between the aging services network, health care, disability services and dementia care in ways that develop new models for maintaining older adults and persons with disabilities in the community.

QUALITY AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE CENTER, SYSTEMS INTEGRATION PROJECT

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

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

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

DATES OF STUDY: 2011 - 2014

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

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

SSW INVESTIGATORS:
Philip McCallion, Ph.D.
Lisa A. Feretti, L.M.S.W.

RESEARCH SUPPORT STAFF:
Susan Pike
Patricia Maxon

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

LIBERTY PARTNERSHIP EVALUATION

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

METHODOLOGY AND SOFTWARE USED:
Mixed methods.

FUNDING: New York State Education Department.

DATES OF STUDY: 2009 - 2014

PROGRESS TO DATE:
Program was 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:
Lani Jones, Ph.D.
The U.S. Census reports that Asians are one of the largest immigrant groups in the US, and also the fastest aging. This study explores how acculturation is defined for Asian elders, and aims to provide a road map to understanding the relationship of acculturation to well-being for this population.

ETHNIC DIFFERENCES IN ACCULTURATION AND HEALTH FOR OLDER ASIAN AMERICANS

PRINCIPAL AIMS:
The principal aims of this study are to 1) rigorously examining the measurement properties of two scales capturing health for Asian Americans as a pan-ethnic group, particular in regards to its reliability and validity (functional disability and psychological distress); 2) testing the reliability and validity of these measures for major Asian American subgroups and their comparability across these cultures; and 3) testing the ethnic differences in the relationship of disability and psychological distress.

METHODOLOGY AND SOFTWARE USED:
Data from the 2009 American Community Survey and the National Latino and Asian American Study were used to examine large-scale population characteristics of Asian American elderly. A broad view of health (physical, mental, Activities of Daily Living (ADLs) and Instrumental Activities of Daily Living (IADLs)) was examined using items capturing functional disability. Psychological health was examined using the Kessler Psychological Distress Scale (K10).

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

DATES OF STUDY: 7/2011 - Present

PROGRESS TO DATE:
Data has been analyzed, and results have been presented at the 2013 CSWE APM. The study will be submitted for publication by December 2013.

ANTICIPATED CONTRIBUTION TO FIELD:
This study provided key insights into the applicability and measurement invariance of two key measures of health for older Asian Americans. The results suggest confounds for this population, which may be due to perceptions of disability, language, immigration status, social networks, health insurance status, and access to services. Policies should emphasize the development of culturally-specific services for Asian American elders.

SSW INVESTIGATOR:
Keith Chan, Ph.D.

COLLABORATORS:
Thanh Van Tran, M.S.W., Ph.D. (Boston College)
Thuc-Nhi Nguyen, M.S.W. (Boston College)
Identify Effective Progress to Improve Student outcomes in the Albany City School District

21ST CENTURY COMMUNITY LEARNING CENTERS EVALUATION

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

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

FUNDING:
$60,000

DATES OF STUDY: 10/2013 - 9/2014

PROGRESS TO DATE:
Ongoing data collection.

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

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

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

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

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

FUNDING:
N/A.

DATES OF STUDY: 5/2014 - 12/2020

PROGRESS TO DATE:
Two publications and a national conference.

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

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

**PRINCIPAL AIMS:**

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

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

**FUNDING:** NIMHD K-22 (3 years)

**DATES OF STUDY:** 8/2012 - 7/2015

**PROGRESS TO DATE:**
Phase 1 & 2 are underway. Data collection in CA and NY is moving forward.

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

**SSW INVESTIGATOR:**
Julia F. Hastings, Ph.D.
The development of new models and strategies to address place-based disadvantage, including education, health, and mental health disparities.

A COMPLEX COMMUNITY SCHOOL MODEL FOR TURNAROUND

PRINCIPAL AIMS:
Design, implement, evaluate and disseminate findings from an innovative multi-service community school design in the Lincoln Elementary School, Schenectady, NY.

METHODOLOGY AND SOFTWARE USED:
Case study methodology with multiple methods.

FUNDING:
New York State Department of Education, $2,500,000

DATES OF STUDY: 1/2013 - 6/2018

PROGRESS TO DATE:
Awarded in December 2012. Design and implementation founded by innovative logic models and a unique theory of change.

ANTICIPATED CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE SOCIAL WORK FIELD
Knowledge about, and complex theories of change for, neighborhoods, schools, families, and children impacted by multiple disparities. New designs for community schools.

SSW INVESTIGATOR:
Hal Lawson, Ph.D.

COLLABORATORS:
Dr. Rebecca Gardner, Capital Area School Development Associations
Dr. Jenn Bashant, Capital Area School Development Associations
Selected UA faculty from the School of Public Health (TBA)
Schenectady School District Leaders
(e.g., Lori McKenna & Pedro Roman)
Reduce delinquency and violence of at-risk youth.

EVALUABILITY ASSESSMENT OF THE YOUTH AND POLICE INITIATIVE

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

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

FUNDING:
$163,302

DATES OF STUDY: 10/2013 - 9/2014

PROGRESS TO DATE:
N/A

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

CHSR INVESTIGATORS:
Bradley Watts
Victoria Schall

COLLABORATOR:
Heather Washington, Ph.D.
THE ALBANY PROMISE

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

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

FUNDING:

DATES OF STUDY: 2012 - 2014

PROGRESS TO DATE:
Produced the baseline report.

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

CHSR INVESTIGATORS:
Kenneth Robin
Melissa King
Rose Greene
Camille Barnes
Chris Rees
Identify effective programs to improve student outcomes in the Albany City School District

ALBANY SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT GRANT (SIG) EVALUATION

PRINCIPAL AIMS:
The Center for Human Services Research is conducting a process and outcome studies to examine practice and outcomes of various school-based programs to improve student achievement.

METHODOLOGY AND SOFTWARE USED:
Secondary analysis of Power School;
Violent and Disruptive Incident Report (VADIR) statistics;
Teacher surveys; and
Student surveys

FUNDING:
N/A

DATES OF STUDY: N/A

PROGRESS TO DATE:
Ongoing data analysis and reporting

ANTICIPATED CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE SOCIAL WORK FIELD:
Improved practice to foster student achievement

CHSR INVESTIGATORS:
Sandra McGinnis
Kenneth Robin
IMPACT
Inform the delivery of programs to advance academic achievement in the city school district of Albany.

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:

DATES OF STUDY: 10/2010 - 9/2014

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
Melissa King
Rose Greene
Chris Rees
Findings can be translated to policy and program designs that increase access and supports for older adults with backgrounds of early adversity.

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

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

METHODOLOGY 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:
Data collection has been completed and is currently being analyzed. An article is in development.

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 MSW interns)
The 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 raising awareness about recruitment, selection and retention of a professionally trained workforce; regional collaborations between local social service districts and social work education programs across NYS; and the evaluation activities designed to develop knowledge about approaches that facilitate retention and support workforce professionalization and implement effective strategies.

THE NATIONAL CHILD WELFARE WORKFORCE INSTITUTE

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


PROGRESS TO DATE:
Work plans are under development with the Children’s Bureau. Funding has just been awarded for the following integrated program components: 1) University Partnerships (UP)-up to 11 awards for 5 years; 2) Leadership Academy for Deans/Directors/Chairs of social work programs and Directors of State/County/Tribal Child Welfare Agencies (LADD); 3) Leadership Academy for child welfare Supervisors (LAS); 4) Leadership Academy for child welfare Middle Managers (LAMM); 5) Organizational Interventions (OI)-up to 4 state/regional/Tribal; 6) Knowledge Development and Dissemination (LINKD); and Comprehensive Evaluation.

ANTICIPATED CONTRIBUTIONS TO SW FIELD:
This award continues the work carried out from 2008-2013 through the National Child Welfare Workforce Institute. The new funding builds on the knowledge gained from the work of the Leadership Academies for Middle Managers (LAMM) and Supervisors (LAS) and the BSW and MSW Traineeships. We anticipate new curriculum and field education models which show evidence of preparing social workers for a career in child welfare. We anticipate evidence that working with leaders and facilitating an organizational intervention focused on recruitment, selection or retention will result in agencies retaining skilled workers prepared to provide effective services which result in quality outcomes for families and children.

SSW INVESTIGATORS:
Mary McCarthy, Ph.D.
Katharine Briar-Lawson, Ph.D.
University at Albany, SSW-lead

COLLABORATORS:
University of Maryland
University of Denver
University of Southern Maine
Michigan State University
Portland State University
The current TSAT instrument was modified and appears to have strong validity as a level 1 training evaluation which provides information on participant satisfaction with a particular training course. We have used the findings to identify trainers who are effective at engaging participants in the training content and providing information for participants which is perceived as useful and aligned with the objectives of the training course. A level 1 evaluation provides information about the lowest level of impact in the training transfer continuum; participant satisfaction.

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, Ph.D. (Yeshiva University)

RESEARCH SUPPORT STAFF:
Tana James
Inform the development of future mentoring programs.

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 utilizes a quasi-experimental design to evaluate this demonstration. The study assigned 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 families who will receive only standard mentoring services.

FUNDING:
U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention: $497,095.

DATES OF STUDY: 10/2011 - 3/2015

PROGRESS TO DATE:
Recruited sample and conducting follow-up interviews.

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
Meredith Nardi
Patricia Cabrera
Rose Greene
Contribute to informing improved service delivery to prevent child maltreatment.

MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEM FOR HEALTHY FAMILIES NEW JERSEY

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

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

FUNDING:
Prevent Child Abuse New Jersey: $476,970.

DATES OF STUDY: 6/2008 - 6/2014

PROGRESS TO DATE:
Continued MIS development and reporting.

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

CHSR INVESTIGATORS:
Chris Papas
Jay Robohn
Contribute to informing improved service delivery to prevent child maltreatment.

MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEM FOR HEALTHY FAMILIES NEW JERSEY

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

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

FUNDING:
Prevent Child Abuse New Jersey: $476,970.

DATES OF STUDY: 6/2008 - 6/2014

PROGRESS TO DATE:
Continued MIS development and reporting.

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

CHSR INVESTIGATORS:
Chris Papas
Jay Robohn
Disparities in mental health service delivery between youth in foster care and other youth are of national concern. A comparative analysis of correlates of psychotropic medication, and the array of services received in conjunction with medication, provides an additional perspective on disparities in care that has not been studied previously, and that can help inform the development of quality of care standards.

OUTPATIENT PSYCHOTROPIC MEDICATION USE IN THE U.S.: A COMPARISON BASED ON FOSTER CARE STATUS

PRINCIPAL AIMS:
To examine hypotheses related to overmedication of youth in foster care compared to other youth in outpatient mental health services in the U.S.

METHODOLOGY AND SOFTWARE USED:
Secondary data analysis; SUDAAN

FUNDING:
Unfunded.

DATES OF STUDY: 8/2012 - Present

PROGRESS TO DATE:
Manuscript in press at the Journal of Child and Family Studies

ANTICIPATED CONTRIBUTIONS TO FIELD:
May highlight reasons for disparities in psychotropic medication use.

SSW INVESTIGATORS:
Lynn Warner, Ph.D.
NaKyoung Song (Ph.D. Student)

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

**TAPESTRY OF CHAUTAUQUA’S SYSTEMS OF CARE GRANT**

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

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

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

**DATES OF STUDY:** 10/2008 - 9/2015

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

**ANTICIPATED CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE FIELD:**
We plan to publish and disseminate findings with each of the many agencies we have worked with, including a book that will be published with Lyceum Books in 2014. The contributions will include the development of the realist evaluation paradigm that has been applied, as well as developments in the methods of data analysis, e.g. the use of binary logistic regression, with data from the agencies’ management information systems.

**SSW INVESTIGATOR:**
Mansoor A. F. Kazi, Ph.D.

**RESEARCH SUPPORT STAFF:**
Anne Bartone
Savra Frounfelker
Paulette Giarratano
Yeongbin Kim

**COLLABORATOR:**
Katharine Briar-Lawson, Ph.D.
This research project will include all 55 upstate New York State counties, expanding at the rate of 12 or more counties in each of four years. All mental health services, as well as participating department of social services, school districts, probation services and not-for-profit human service agencies in each county will be continuously evaluating all services. The impact will be felt beyond New York State, demonstrating that robust evaluation research strategies can be integrated into the daily practice of all human service agencies, to continuously evaluate what interventions work and in what circumstances.

UPSTATE NEW YORK SYSTEM OF CARE EXPANSION PROJECT

PRINCIPAL AIMS:
The purpose of this grant is to expand the system of care across the 55 upstate counties in New York State in order to improve the behavioral health outcomes of children and youth with serious emotional disturbances and their families; and to integrate the continuous evaluation strategy into the practice of the county mental health services and the other agencies involved in the system of care cooperative agreements. The overall aim of the evaluation is to investigate what interventions work and for whom.

METHODOLOGY AND SOFTWARE USED:
We have developed an approach that combines epidemiology and effectiveness research traditions to help make the best use of data already collected by agencies, including regression analysis to identify predictors for positive outcomes. After investigating the baseline data of the last several years, all data are analyzed in partnership with each agency in each county in three-month intervals for the following three years. This analysis of findings is done with and for each agency in the county, and each agency decides how to utilize the evaluation to improve effectiveness.

FUNDING: $4,000,000; $741,934 for evaluation, Funded by SAMHSA—Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Center for Mental Health Services.

DATES OF THE STUDY: 10/2012 - 9/2016

PROGRESS TO DATE:
Data has been analyzed in 10 counties, including data from mental health agencies, DSS, school districts, probation, chemical dependency and other human services.

ANTICIPATED CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE FIELD:
We plan to publish and disseminate findings, including a book proposal with NASW Press. The contributions will include the development of the realist evaluation paradigm that has been applied, as well as developments in the methods of data analysis, e.g. the use of binary logistic regression, with data from the agencies’ management information systems. Contributions will also be made to knowledge with findings in relation to what interventions work and for whom in mental health, education, probation, DSS and other human services.

SSW INVESTIGATOR: Mansoor A. F. Kazi, Ph.D.
RESEARCH SUPPORT STAFF: Anne Bartone, Natalie Bartone, Yeongbin Kim, Elizabeth Coursen
COLLABORATOR: Katharine Briar-Lawson, Ph.D.
Asthma is the most common chronic illness in children and can be life-threatening. There is an increasing awareness of the psychosocial impacts for the child with asthma, the child’s caregivers, and society. Twenty-four percent of children have activity limitations. It is the most common reason for school absences which in turn impacts developmental and psychological growth. This then has psychosocial impacts within families and with families and their communities. Children with asthma and their caregivers may also experience increased stress and be have mental health diagnoses. Research based interventions may increase both the child’s and family functioning, increased health outcomes, and ultimately have an impact upon the community.

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

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

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

**FUNDING:** Study expenses have been self-funded.

**DATE OF IMPLEMENTATION:** 2003

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

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

**DOCTORAL STUDENT:**
Caroline W. Dawson

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS:**
Philip McCallion, Ph.D. (Chair)
Hal Lawson, Ph.D.
Hendrika Maltby, Ph.D. (University of Vermont)
The development of new models and strategies to address place-based disadvantage, including education, health, and mental health disparities.

A COMPLEX COMMUNITY SCHOOL MODEL FOR TURNAROUND

PRINCIPAL AIMS:
Design, implement, evaluate and disseminate findings from an innovative multi-service community school design in the Lincoln Elementary School, Schenectady, NY.

METHODOLOGY AND SOFTWARE USED:
Case study methodology with multiple methods.

FUNDING:
New York State Department of Education, $2,500,000

DATES OF STUDY: 1/2013 - 6/2018

PROGRESS TO DATE:
Awarded in December 2012. Design and implementation founded by innovative logic models and a unique theory of change.

ANTICIPATED CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE SOCIAL WORK FIELD:
Knowledge about, and complex theories of change for, neighborhoods, schools, families, and children impacted by multiple disparities. New designs for community schools.

SSW INVESTIGATOR:
Hal Lawson, Ph.D.

COLLABORATORS:
Dr. Rebecca Gardner
(Capital Area School Development Associations)
Dr. Jenn Bashant
(Capital Area School Development Associations)
Selected UA faculty from the School of Public Health (TBA)
Schenectady School District Leaders
(e.g., Lori McKenna & Pedro Roman)
IMPACT

Improving the juvenile justice system

ALBANY COUNTY JUVENILE DETENTION ALTERNATIVES INITIATIVE (JDAI)

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

METHODOLOGY AND SOFTWARE USED:
Collect and analyze secondary data

FUNDING:
N/A

DATES OF STUDY: N/A

PROGRESS TO DATE:
Ongoing data collection

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

CHSR INVESTIGATORS:
Susan Dietzel
Victoria Schall
This research will add to knowledge about how to strengthen youth mentoring programs and improve outcomes for at-risk children and adolescents.

PARENT ENGAGEMENT TO ENHANCE PARENTING 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:
Modified experimental-control design; Pre-post (1 year data follow up); Data collection from program, parents, assigned mentors and school.

FUNDING:
U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) $497,000.

DATES OF STUDY: 11/2011 to 11/2014

PROGRESS TO DATE:
Implementation of parent and mentoring enhancement intervention. Conducting intervention completed. Data gathering almost complete.

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.

SSW INVESTIGATOR:
Carolyn Smith, Ph.D.

COLLABORATOR:
Laura Kaye (CHSR)

RESEARCH SUPPORT STAFF:
Researchers from the Center for Human Service Research (CHSR)
The study will hopefully lead to better institutional practices for delinquent girls that will promote their safety and rehabilitation.

THE IMPACT OF THE SANCTUARY MODEL ON THE NORTH CENTRAL SECURE TREATMENT FACILITY

PRINCIPAL AIMS:
This exploratory study examined if and how the Sanctuary Model, a trauma-informed organizational intervention, affects the organizational culture and subsequent well-being of adjudicated delinquent females in a maximum secure facility. The facility in which the study is conducted is the only secure unit in Pennsylvania and houses 30 girls.

METHODOLOGY AND SOFTWARE USED:
Qualitative (focus groups with staff and residents, key personnel interviews) and quantitative (survey data from national data base on residential treatment centers).

FUNDING: ANDRUS research corporation, $17,000

DATES OF STUDY: 9/2012 - 9/2014

PROGRESS TO DATE:
Data collected and some analysis completed. Article completed and submitted to Families in Society

ANTICIPATED CONTRIBUTIONS TO FIELD:
Information about whether Sanctuary organizational implementation improves care and safety at a girl’s maximum security juvenile facility in Pennsylvania. There is little information about whether such organizational interventions geared to improving outcomes for clients with histories of trauma in residential facilities. The study is needed to inform the juvenile justice field about interventions which may lead to better outcomes for JJ clients.

SSW INVESTIGATOR:
Carolyn Smith, Ph.D.

COLLABORATOR:
Nina Esaki, Ph.D. (ANDRUS)

RESEARCH SUPPORT STAFF:
Laura Elwyn, Ph.D.
Having implemented realist evaluation in the last 12 years, Moray Council in Scotland is the only local authority in the United Kingdom to practice evaluation consistently with its social services and youth justice, and its main contribution to knowledge is to demonstrate that robust evaluation research strategies can be integrated into the daily practice of all human service agencies, to continuously evaluate what interventions work and in what circumstances.

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

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

METHODOLOGY AND SOFTWARE USED:
Moray Council has used realist evaluation for the last 12 years, including the systematic tracking of outcomes, interventions and client circumstances. Data from the management information system is analyzed every three months to inform future practice. Research tools such as binary logistic regression models are used to investigate the contexts in which the interventions are to be effective.

FUNDING: $125,000 (Moray Council local authority, Scotland)


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

ANTICIPATED CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE FIELD:
The area social work teams are helping the majority of the young people to improve on the Child Holistic Measure (CHM), the Index of Self-Esteem (ISE) and in the Practitioners’ Holistic Measurement Tool (PHMT). Additionally, with regard to the extent of improvement, those who had family support workers were improving more than those who did not; and the findings were similar with Children 1st—Children’s Right Worker involvement. CHM and PHMT were validated as part of this evaluation.

SSW INVESTIGATOR:
Mansoor A. F. Kazi, Ph.D.
Add to the body of evidence of the long-term effects of home visitation as well as inform program development.

EVALUATION OF THE NEW YORK STATE HOME VISITING PROGRAM

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

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

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 – 09/10); $1,021,584 (10/09 – 09/11); $1,217,606 (7/1/11 – 9/30/12), $974,088 (10/12 – 9/13), $1,528,176 (10/13 – 9/14).

DATES OF STUDY: 10/2005 - Present

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

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

CHSR INVESTIGATORS:
Rose Greene  Chun Dar Chen
Eunju Lee    Susan Ehrhard-Dietzel
John Heck    Chris Papas
Jennifer Perella  Jay Robohn
Devinder Khalsa  Bradley Watts
Corinne Noble  Thomas Dwyer
Identify effective progress to improve student outcomes in the Albany City School District.

21ST CENTURY COMMUNITY LEARNING CENTERS EVALUATION

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

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

FUNDING:
$60,000

DATES OF STUDY: 10/2013 - 9/2014

PROGRESS TO DATE:
Ongoing data collection

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

CHSR INVESTIGATORS:
Kenneth Robin
Melissa King
Chris Rees
Inform program development for families with young children.

EVALUATION OF THE NYS FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER

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

METHODOLOGY 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), $175,000 (10/12 – 9/13), $100,000 (10/13 – 9/14).

DATES OF STUDY: 7/2005 - 9/2014

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
This project examines the well-being of kinship families that have received limited attention in the field of child welfare. Findings will advance our understanding of the needs of kinship families and will advance child welfare practice, in the areas of safety and permanency.

EVALUATION OF NYS KINSHIP CHILD WELFARE AND TANF COLLABORATION DEMONSTRATION PROJECT

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

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

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

DATES OF STUDY: 10/2012 - 9/2015

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

SSW INVESTIGATOR: Eunju Lee, Ph.D.
COLLABORATOR: Lara Kaye, Ph.D. (CHSR)
Research has documented substantially higher rates of psychotropic medication use for children in foster care compared to other low-income groups; however, little is known about patterns of polypharmacy over time and variations across Medicaid enrollment groups. This is especially critical, given a growing body of research documenting disparities in mental health service use and quality of care across Medicaid eligibility groups, with lower quality of care for children in foster care.

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 under review at the Journal of Adolescent and Pediatric 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, Ph.D. (Ohio State University)
This research project adds to the body of research that evaluates social outcomes of foster and homeless youth. In addition, the study explores the opinions of the youth themselves by collecting data on youths’ opinions of the independent living services they received.

**DISSERTATION TITLE: EVALUATION OF THE EQUINOX, INC. TRANSITIONAL HOUSING PROGRAM**

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

**METHODOLOGY 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.
Contribute to informing improved service delivery to prevent child maltreatment.

MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEM FOR HEALTHY FAMILIES NEW JERSEY

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

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

FUNDING:
Prevent Child Abuse New Jersey: $476,970.

DATES OF STUDY: 6/2008 - 6/2014

PROGRESS TO DATE:
Continued MIS development and reporting.

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

CHSR INVESTIGATORS:
Chris Papas
Jay Robohn
Consistent with the goals of child welfare, this research hopes to improve children’s safety, permanency, and well-being.

DISSECTATION TITLE: PREDICTORS OF OUT-OF-HOME PLACEMENT FOR CHILDREN IN MALTREATMENT

PRINCIPAL AIMS:
1. To explore significant predictors for out-of-home placement for the children who are victims of abuse
2. To compare the predictors for out-of-home placement for the children with substantiated allegation of abuse to the predictors for those without it
3. To compare the predictors for out-of-home placement for the children by types of maltreatment, and
4. To examine predictors for the various kinds of placement which include normal foster care families, kinship care, or residential care regarding the existence of abuse.

METHODOLOGY AND SOFTWARE USED:
Quantitative, Logistic regression, STATA11

FUNDING: Graduate Student Association

DURATION OF STUDY: 1 year

PROGRESS TO DATE:
Dissertation Research Proposal is under final preparation

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

DOCTORAL STUDENT:
Mi Jin Choi (4th year)

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:
Anne Fortune, Ph.D. (Chair)
Eunju Lee, Ph.D.
Glenn Deane, Ph.D.
IMPACT

This research will add to knowledge about the development of family violence and so inform prevention programs that can prevent or interrupt pathways to such violence.

DEVELOPMENTAL AND INTERGENERATIONAL PATHS TO PARTNER VIOLENCE AND CHILD MALTREATMENT

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: Funded 8/2009 - 8/2013 (CDC), work continuing

PROGRESS TO DATE:
Multiple publications and presentations

CONTRIBUTIONS TO FIELD:
Better clarity on developmental pathways leading to family violence. Informs development of family violence prevention.

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.
Development of valid and reliable coordinated assessment system

OFFICE FOR PEOPLE WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES VALIDITY AND RELIABILITY STUDY

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

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

FUNDING:
$60,000

DATES OF STUDY: 11/2013 - 4/2014

PROGRESS TO DATE:
N/A

ANTICIPATED CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE SOCIAL WORK FIELD:
N/A

CHSR INVESTIGATORS:
Bradley Watts
Sandra McGinnis
To evaluate the manifestation of auditory hallucinations in deaf persons with schizophrenia; subjects included both inpatient and outpatient deaf patients with schizophrenia from Rockland Psychiatric Center in Orangeburg, New York.

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

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. Data is being analyzed using SPSS.

FUNDING: N/A

DATES OF STUDY: 8/2010 - Present

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

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

SSW INVESTIGATOR: Heather K. Horton, Ph.D.  COLLABORATOR: Heather Dingman
Very little is known about mental illness in deaf populations. This research shed light on how deaf consumers of mental health services experience their interactions with mental health systems and providers, as well as suggesting improvements needed in these systems.

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

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

METHODOLOGY 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). Project completed and article published in JADARA (Full citation can be seen on Heather’s website: www.heatherkhorton.com). Follow-up meeting with Focus Group participants is pending.

ANTICIPATED CONTRIBUTIONS TO 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.
Marley Mills, L.C.S.W.

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

SOCIAL COGNITION AND INTERACTION TRAINING (SCIT) PROGRAM

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

METHODOLOGY 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) was implemented for 12 weeks. Pretest and post-test measures included:
1) Word Memory – The Signed Paired Associates Test; 2) Visuospatial Memory – The Complex Figure Test; 3) Facial affect processing - The Facial Emotion Identification Task; 4) Theory of mind – The Hinting Task; 5) Scale to Assess Unawareness of Mental Disorder; and 6) Illness severity – Brief Psychiatric Rating Scale. Data is being analyzed using SPSS.

DATES OF STUDY: 8/2010 - Present

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

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.

RESEARCH SUPPORT STAFF:
Marley Mills, L.C.S.W.
Yeonggeul Lee
Very little is known about mental illness in deaf populations. This research will increase our understanding of how serious mental illness manifests in deaf populations and shed light on the ways that mental illness affects perception and cognition in deaf persons.

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

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

METHODOLOGY 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 capital 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 submitted, data collection will begin once IRB approval is granted.

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.

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

THE SEARCH 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: 5/2014 – 12/2020

PROGRESS TO DATE:
Two publications and a national conference.

SSW INVESTIGATOR:
Robert L. Miller, Jr., Ph.D.
IMPACT

Women of Latin American heritage providing care to family members are at high risk for health and mental health problems. At the same time, they often face systemic healthcare physical barriers and a lack of understanding of their health seeking behaviors. Ethnic and gender specific information can refine our understanding of health disparities for the Latino ethnic group. It can impact professional and public awareness and raise important considerations for health and social policy.

HEALTH AND HEALTH EDUCATION AMONG LATINA FAMILY CAREGIVERS

PRINCIPAL AIMS:
To increase our understanding of the systemic barriers to, and cultural preferences for, health education among Latinas providing care to family members.

METHODOLOGY AND SOFTWARE USED:
Quantitative methods; SPSS, and SAS

FUNDING:
Center for the Elimination of Minority Health Disparities.

DATES OF STUDY: 2010 - Present

PROGRESS TO DATE:
Survey developed; data collected and entered.

ANTICIPATED CONTRIBUTIONS TO FIELD:
Findings can inform intervention strategies, programs, and policies to help address health and mental health disparities in women of Latin American heritage.

SSW INVESTIGATOR:
Blanca M Ramos, Ph.D.

RESEARCH SUPPORT STAFF:
Sung Ah Choi
Ramon Guerrero
Randy Stetson

COLLABORATORS:
Akiko Hosler, Ph.D.
Young Do, M.S.W.
Yong Li, Ph.D.
Contribute to informing improved service delivery to prevent child maltreatment.

MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEM FOR HEALTHY FAMILIES NEW JERSEY

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

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

FUNDING:
Prevent Child Abuse New Jersey: $476,970.

DATES OF STUDY: 6/2008 - 6/2014

PROGRESS TO DATE:
Continued MIS development and reporting.

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

CHSR INVESTIGATORS:
Chris Papas
Jay Robohn
University at Albany’s School of Social Welfare is one of the only Schools in NYS who has received a grant to assist uninsured individuals and families to enroll in a health plan under the Affordable Care Act; determine eligibility for financial assistance, tax credits, and Medicaid and Child Health Insurance; and provide education and outreach to individuals, community organizations and small group employers.

NAVIGATOR PROJECT

PRINCIPAL AIMS:
The grant will provide assistance and information to New Yorkers about health insurance coverage options and help the uninsured enroll in a New York health plan under the Affordable Care Act. Nine University at Albany MSW students have been hired to serve as navigators in the following counties: Albany, Schenectady, Rensselaer, Columbia and Greene. Each is employed approximately nine hours per week and works in a community at designated sites, including hospitals, community health centers, and nonprofit organizations. SSW navigators will help individuals and small employers in these counties understand coverage options.

METHODOLOGY AND SOFTWARE USED: N/A

FUNDING: $166,833 per year for 5 years

DATES OF STUDY: 8/2013 - 2018

PROGRESS TO DATE:
Nine SSW MSW student Navigators have been hired, trained and have begun enrolling individuals and families in health insurance plans. In addition, they are providing outreach, assistance and information regarding the Affordable Care Act at sites in the community.

ANTICIPATED CONTRIBUTIONS TO FIELD:
Student navigators will have a comprehensive knowledge of healthcare reform under the Affordable Care Act. Upon graduation, with this knowledge they will be able to provide a “value added” service to their respective clients and the organizations where they may be employed as well as their MSW colleagues.

SSW INVESTIGATORS:
Bruce Stanley
Linda Mertz, M.S.W.

SSW COLLABORATORS:
Stephanie Wacholder, SSW Director of Special Projects
Community Service Society of New York
Nonprofit Community Organizations
Community Health Centers & other health providers
IMPACT
Building understanding of the unique aging issues and challenges for people with intellectual disabilities and informing related public policy development.

THE INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY SUPPLEMENT TO THE IRISH LONGITUDINAL STUDY ON AGING

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

METHODOLOGY AND SOFTWARE USED:
A representative sample of 753 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: $800,000

DATES OF STUDY: 2009 - 2015

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

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

SSW INVESTIGATOR:
Philip McCallion, Ph.D.

COLLABORATOR:
Mary McCarron, Ph.D.
Contribute to informing improved service delivery to prevent child maltreatment.

MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEM FOR HEALTHY FAMILIES NEW JERSEY

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

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

FUNDING:
Prevent Child Abuse New Jersey: $476,970.

DATES OF STUDY: 6/2008 - 6/2014

PROGRESS TO DATE:
Continued MIS development and reporting.

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

CHSR INVESTIGATORS:
Chris Papas
Jay Robohn
The study is in the publication phase. The data indicate that HIV-positive African American men have established social support, prayer, intentional learning of specific health behavior practices and outcomes driven behaviors as elements of their spiritual practices. An intervention study is being developed to operationalize these findings.

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

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

METHODOLOGY/SOFTWARE:
Narrative Collective Case study, ATLAS.ti.

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

DATES OF STUDY: 11/06 - Present

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

ANTICIPATED CONTRIBUTIONS TO 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. (University of California San Francisco)
Judith Barker, Ph.D. (University of California)
Hector Carrillo, Ph.D. (San Francisco State University)
IMPACT

Pilot studies for this effort are currently being conducted in Tanzania. College students who engage in tourism and survival sex for cash exchanges are the research informants. Preliminary data will be available in the next three months.

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

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

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

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

DATES OF STUDY: N/A

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

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

SSW INVESTIGATOR:
Robert L. Miller, Jr., Ph.D.

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

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

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

**METHODOLOGY 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 - 2015

**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)

**RESEARCH SUPPORT STAFF:**
Juliana Svistova, M.S.W.
(Project Coordinator/Graduate Research Assistant)
In a rapidly changing world, helping professionals should be encouraged to identify and promote important professional values, perspectives and theories in order to provide effective change and development in communities, and to also be encouraged to respect the worth and dignity of all people.

**INFORMATION AS A CONSCIOUS INTERVENTION: GENERALIZING FROM GLOBAL RURAL ISSUES**

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

**METHODOLOGY 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. International organizations will be used to identify rural researchers and authors for the book.
Funding: Seeking direct and indirect funding.

**DATES OF STUDY:** 10/2009 - 11/2014

**PROGRESS TO DATE:** I have held collaborative meeting with professional colleagues; continued my library research and identified possible authors

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

**SSW INVESTIGATOR:**
Shirley J. Jones, Ph.D.

**COLLABORATORS:**
Dr. Ayodeji Badejo (Lagos University, Nigeria)
Dr. Orpha Ongita (Kenya)
Dr. Sharon Cadiz (United States)
Samuel Johnson (United States)
Inform the implementation of projects serving homeless populations with substance abuse and mental health issues.

EVALUATION OF PEOPLE ADVANCING THROUGH TREATMENT AND HOUSING (PATH)

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

METHODOLOGY 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: $147,996, $302,996

DATES OF STUDY: 9/2010 - 8/2014

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:
Sandra McGinnis
Michael Clarkson-Hendrix
The results of this study will be helpful for informing policy makers on the availability of mental health services. In addition, the results could potentially help to eliminate disparities in treatment utilization by helping health professions incorporate intervention strategies more responsive to the targeted-population.

**Dissertation Title:** Mental Health Service Utilization Among People with Mental Illness: An Examination of Predictors and the Influence of Substance Abuse and HIV

**Principal Aims:**
1) To evaluate factors associated with seeking mental health services among people with mental illness;
2) To assess the impact of HIV status and substance use on mental health service utilization among persons with a mental health disorder.

**Methodology and Software Used:**
The data used in this study combines the four most recent publically available National Survey on Drug Use and Health datasets (2008 to 2011). Univariate analyses were used to examine the frequency distributions of the dependent and independent variables. Chi-square tests and bivariate logistic regression will be used to analyze the relationship between each predictor and outcome variable. Multiple linear logistic regressions will be used to help describe how the predictors jointly affect the choice to utilize mental health services. All the analyses will be completed using STATA and SPSS.

**Funding:** NA

**Duration of Study:** 1 year

**Progress to Date:**
Research Proposal is under review

**Anticipated Contributions to the Social Work Field:**
Professional social workers frequently practices in mental health treatment settings, such as community mental health agencies and hospitals. Here, social workers work with vulnerable clients who have mental illness and who likely suffer from other comorbid disorders. Since appropriate and timely mental health service utilization is related to positive health outcomes; it is essential to understand which factors may be most salient in affecting mental health care access among people with mental illness; and how does co-occurring substance use or HIV play a role in access to mental health care.

**Doctoral Student:**
Man-Chun Chang

**Committee Members**
Lynn Warner, Ph.D. (Chair)
Barry Loneck, Ph.D.
Glenn Deane, Ph.D.
With the aging of the population, and more people living longer, a better understanding of the mental health service needs of older adults is critical for developing a well-trained workforce and age-sensitive service system.

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)
Woojae Han (Ph.D. Student)

COLLABORATOR:
Kathleen Pottick, Ph.D. (Rutgers University)
Very little is known about mental illness in deaf populations. This research will increase our understanding of how serious mental illness manifests in deaf populations.

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

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

METHODOLOGY 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. Data is being analyzed using SPSS.

FUNDING: N/A

DATES OF STUDY: 8/2010 - Present

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

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

SSW INVESTIGATOR: Heather K. Horton, Ph.D.

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

**TAPESTRY OF CHAUTAUQUA’S SYSTEMS OF CARE GRANT**

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

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

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

**DATES OF STUDY:** 10/2008 - 9/2015

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

**ANTICIPATED CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE FIELD:**
We plan to publish and disseminate findings with each of the many agencies we have worked with, including a book that will be published with Lyceum Books in 2014. The contributions will include the development of the realist evaluation paradigm that has been applied, as well as developments in the methods of data analysis, e.g. the use of binary logistic regression, with data from the agencies’ management information systems.

**SSW INVESTIGATOR:** Mansoor A. F. Kazi, Ph.D.

**COLLABORATOR:** Katharine Briar-Lawson, Ph.D.

**RESEARCH SUPPORT STAFF:**
Anne Bartone
Savra Frounfelker
Paulette Giarratano
Yeongbin Kim
This project will examine the impact of a pilot project designed to serve veterans in eleven counties in New York State. The program uses an evidence-informed intervention strategy involving peer supports services provided by veterans themselves. Evaluative information will be used to provide information to key stakeholders, offer formative feedback to program administrators, and to inform policy and funding decisions regarding sustainability and replication in other parts of New York State and beyond.

**NEW YORK STATE PFC JOSEPH DWYER VETERAN PEER-TO-PEER SUPPORT PILOT EVALUATION**

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

**METHODOLOGY AND SOFTWARE USED:**
A mixed methods approach will be used, with both quantitative and qualitative data collected. Software will include SPSS and Atlas Ti.

**FUNDING:** NY State Senate, in conjunction with NY State Office of Mental Health

**DATES OF STUDY:** 1/2013 - 7/2015

**PROGRESS TO DATE:**
Data collection is currently in progress with the first four counties, and soon to be started in the seven remaining counties.

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

**SSW INVESTIGATOR:**
Eric Hardiman, Ph.D.
The evidence for existing disparities in mental health care for the various ethnic and racial populations in the United States and the exponential growth of such diverse groups is well documented through the various government reports, nationally published studies, and the various standards and guidelines developed in an effort to address existing difference. This study will seek to examine the provider perspective to existing challenges in the integration of cultural competency in the delivery of mental health services to Latino consumers, as well as to explore existing knowledge and skill development needs in this area.

**DISertation Title: The Integration of Cultural Competency in the Delivery of Mental Health Services to Latinos: A Social Work Perspective**

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

**Methodology and Software Used:**
Quantitative Analysis, Survey Monkey, SPSS, AMOS, Additional experience in qualitative analysis and facilitation of focus groups

**Funding: Graduate Fellowships**

**Duration of Study:** 1 year

**Progress to Date:** Dissertation Proposal Approved. Currently Collecting Data

**Anticipated Contributions to the Social Work Field:**
This study is intended to address existing barriers in the provision of mental health services to Latino consumers of mental health service and to provide a provider perspective of existing challenges and perceived relevance of cultural competency in the delivery of effective mental health services. This study seeks to explore and identify existing opportunities and barriers to effective and culturally appropriate service provision.

**Doctoral Student:** Jacqueline Richardson-Melecio
Lynn Videka, Ph.D.
Shirley Jones, Ph.D.

**Committee Members:**
Blanca Ramos, Ph.D. (Chair)
This research project will include all 55 upstate New York State counties, expanding at the rate of 12 or more counties in each of four years. All mental health services, as well as participating department of social services, school districts, probation services and not-for-profit human service agencies in each county will be continuously evaluating all services. The impact will be felt beyond New York State, demonstrating that robust evaluation research strategies can be integrated into the daily practice of all human service agencies, to continuously evaluate what interventions work and in what circumstances.

UPSTATE NEW YORK SYSTEM OF CARE EXPANSION PROJECT

PRINCIPAL AIMS:
The purpose of this grant is to expand the system of care across the 55 upstate counties in New York State in order to improve the behavioral health outcomes of children and youth with serious emotional disturbances and their families; and to integrate the continuous evaluation strategy into the practice of the county mental health services and the other agencies involved in the system of care cooperative agreements. The overall aim of the evaluation is to investigate what interventions work and for whom.

METHODOLOGY AND SOFTWARE USED:
We have developed an approach that combines epidemiology and effectiveness research traditions to help make the best use of data already collected by agencies, including regression analysis to identify predictors for positive outcomes. After investigating the baseline data of the last several years, all data are analyzed in partnership with each agency in each county in three-month intervals for the following three years. This analysis of findings is done with and for each agency in the county, and each agency decides how to utilize the evaluation to improve effectiveness.

FUNDING: $4,000,000; $741,934 for evaluation, Funded by SAMHSA—Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Center for Mental Health Services.

DATES OF STUDY: 10/2012 - 9/2016

PROGRESS TO DATE:
Data has been analyzed in 10 counties, including data from mental health agencies, DSS, school districts, probation, chemical dependency and other human services.

ANTICIPATED CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE FIELD:
We plan to publish and disseminate findings, including a book proposal with NASW Press. The contributions will include the development of the realist evaluation paradigm that has been applied, as well as developments in the methods of data analysis, e.g. the use of binary logistic regression, with data from the agencies’ management information systems. Contributions will also be made to knowledge with findings in relation to what interventions work and for whom in mental health, education, probation, DSS and other human services.

SSW INVESTIGATOR: Mansoor A. F. Kazi, Ph.D.

RESEARCH SUPPORT STAFF: Anne Bartone
Natalie Bartone
Yeongbin Kim
Elizabeth Coursen

COLLABORATOR: Katharine Briar-Lawson, Ph.D.
As a group, Puerto Rican women experience multiple social inequalities due to gender and ethnicity that places them at high risk for psychological stress and resulting mental health problems. Stressors associated with socioeconomic factors, migration, acculturation, and healthcare disparities can adversely affect their psychosocial well-being. These psychosocial difficulties can also limit their ability to seek services and the resources to help them cope.

STRESS, COPING, AND MENTAL HEALTH AMONG PUERTO RICAN WOMEN IN UPSTATE NEW YORK

PRINCIPAL AIMS:
To increase our understanding of the nature of the stressors Puerto Rican women face, the impact of psychosocial stress on their mental health, and their preferred coping strategies.

METHODOLOGY AND SOFTWARE USED:
Quantitative methods
SPSS

FUNDING:
Center for Puerto Rican Studies (CENTRO).

DATES OF STUDY: 2010 - Present

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

ANTICIPATED CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE SOCIAL WORK FIELD:
Findings can inform culturally responsive mental health interventions and social service programs and policies that target women of Latin American heritage, including Puerto Rican women.

SSW INVESTIGATOR:  COLLABORATORS:
Blanca M. Ramos, Ph.D.  Young Do (Ph.D. Student)
Yong Li, Ph.D

RESEARCH SUPPORT STAFF:
Sung Ah Choi
Ramon Guerrero
If in fact different subgroups present with different complicated grief symptoms, it follows that effective intervention protocols for complicated grief may need to be developed for specific subgroups, such as bereaved parents or those who have experienced a traumatic loss.

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

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

METHODOLOGY AND SOFTWARE USED:
Quantitative statistical analyses using PASW18

FUNDING: none

DURATION OF STUDY: 12 months

PROGRESS TO DATE:
Dissertation proposal is under review

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

DOCTORAL STUDENT: Marley Mills (5th year)

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:
Lynn Warner, Ph.D.
Heather Horton, Ph.D.
IMPACT

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

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

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

METHODOLOGY 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 submitted, data collection will begin once IRB approval is granted.

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.

RESEARCH SUPPORT STAFF:
Marley Mills, L.C.S.W.
Heather Dingman
Findings can be translated to policy and program designs that increase access and supports for older adults with backgrounds of early adversity.

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

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

METHODOLOGY 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:
Data collection has been completed and is currently being analyzed. An article is in development.

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 sequelae 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 MSW interns)
Very little is known about mental illness in deaf populations. This research sheds light on how deaf consumers of mental health services experience their interactions with mental health systems and providers, as well as suggesting improvements needed in these systems.

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

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

METHODOLOGY 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). Project completed and article published in JADARA (Full citation can be seen on Heather’s website: www.heatherkhorton.com). Follow-up meeting with Focus Group participants is pending.

ANTICIPATED CONTRIBUTIONS TO 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, M.S.W.
Marley Mills, L.C.S.W.
Very little is known about mental illness in deaf populations. This research will increase our understanding of how group interventions may need to be adapted to be more effective with deaf persons with mental illness.

SOCIAL COGNITION AND INTERACTION TRAINING (SCIT) PROGRAM

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

METHODOLOGY 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] was implemented for 12 weeks. Pretest and post-test measures included: 1)Word Memory – The Signed Paired Associates Test; 2)Visuospatial Memory – The Complex Figure Test; 3) Facial affect processing - The Facial Emotion Identification Task; 4) Theory of mind – The Hinting Task; 5) Scale to Assess Unawareness of Mental Disorder; and 6) Illness severity – Brief Psychiatric Rating Scale. Data is being analyzed using SPSS.

DATES OF STUDY: 8/2010 - Present

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

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.

RESEARCH SUPPORT STAFF:
Marley Mills, L.C.S.W.
Yeonggeul Lee
Recent research demonstrates that 10-15% of MI patients experience diagnosable PTSD. This study is pioneering because there have been few PTSD interventions among MI patients, and PTSD intervention research has focused on cognitive-behavioral exposure therapy (CBET). Our study will bring attention to the neglected group of MI survivors in PTSD intervention research while expanding treatment options.

PTSD TREATMENT FOR HEART ATTACK SURVIVORS USING EFT

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

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

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

DATES OF STUDY: 9/2012 - Present

PROGRESS TO DATE:
We are currently recruiting for this study.

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

SSW INVESTIGATORS: Heather Larkin, Ph.D.
Lara Kaye, Ph.D.
Ronald W. Toseland, Ph.D.

COLLABORATOR: Mary Sise, L.C.S.W., Center for Integrative Psychotherapy
Very little is known about mental illness in deaf populations. This research will increase our understanding of how serious mental illness manifests in deaf populations.

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

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

METHODOLOGY 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. Data is being analyzed using SPSS.

FUNDING: N/A

DATES OF STUDY: 8/2010 - Present

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

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

SSW INVESTIGATOR: Heather K. Horton, Ph.D.  COLLABORATOR: Heather Dingman
Identification and refinement of effective methods to engage and retain individuals with co-occurring disorders of mental illness and substance abuse is a necessary first step in their continuum of care. Without effective engagement and retention, such clients risk continued mental health problems and continued substance abuse difficulties, with all of the attendant costs to family, friends, and society.

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

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

METHODOLOGY 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.
Development of dynamic modeling data analysis methods for therapeutic process will aid in the identification and refinement of effective interaction strategies across the range of helping professions, including social work, psychology, nursing, and medicine.

DEVELOPMENT OF DYNAMIC MODELING METHODS FOR THERAPEUTIC PROCESS RESEARCH

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

METHODOLOGY 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 methods.

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

SSW INVESTIGATOR:
Barry Loneck, Ph.D.
Erica Dean

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

UPSTATE NEW YORK MENTAL AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH EDUCATION CONSORTIUM

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

METHODOLOGY AND SOFTWARE USED:
Case study methods; Process evaluation.

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

DATES OF STUDY: 9/2012 - 9/2015

PROGRESS TO DATE:
Currently developing new field placements sites and recruitment plans for students; new sites and curriculum have been developed; 11 students currently in field placements

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

SSW INVESTIGATORS:
Lynn Warner, Ph.D.
Katharine Briar-Lawson, Ph.D.
Estella Williamson, M.S.W., Field Director

COLLABORATORS:
Laura Bronstein (SUNY Binghamton)
Paul Gould (SUNY Binghamton)
Deb Faria (SUNY Brockport)
Diane Elze & Laura Lewis (SUNY Buffalo)
Carrie Smith & Kristin Esposito (Syracuse University)
David Skiff & Laura Ribbing (Roberts Wesleyan College)
Virginia David (Nazareth College of Rochester)
Identifying effective therapeutic processes for referral of clients with dual disorders in a psychiatric emergency room to services in the community is a necessary first step in engaging such clients in their continuum of care.

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

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

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

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

**SSW INVESTIGATOR:**
Barry Loneck, Ph.D.

**COLLABORATORS:**
Bruce Way
Ernest Bonaparte
Steven Banks (deceased)
Gatekeeping is an important part of social work education. Through this process, social work educators help ensure that social work students are prepared to work effectively with individuals, families, communities and organizations throughout our society. This research will provide additional options for social work educators as they develop evaluation measures that can accurately evaluate a student’s competence. With such tools, social work educators will be better able to assess if their graduating social work students are prepared to provide effective services to their clients, community and the larger society.

Dissertation Title: Evaluating Macro Social Work Student Competence: Piloting a New Field Practicum Instrument

Principal Aims:
The driving question behind my research to date is: How can social work educators ensure students have the competencies needed to be effective social workers? The principal aims of my dissertation include (1) exploring how macro faculty, field instructors, macro alumni and their employers evaluate a graduating macro social work student’s competence, (2) developing a conceptual model of macro social work student competence, (3) determining the extent of inter-rater reliability when macro field instructors rate descriptions of macro social work students, and (4) exploring the usefulness and validity of a macro field evaluation measure that employs the use of qualitative student descriptors in place of traditional rating scales.

Methodology and Software Used:
Mixed methodology, Thematic Analysis, SPSS

Duration of Study: 1 year

Progress to Date: Data analysis is complete and currently finalizing dissertation results.

Anticipated Contributions to the Social Work Field:
To ensure graduating social workers are competent and able to provide ethical and effective services to clients and communities, it is vital that social work educators have the needed tools to accurately evaluate the competence of social work students. The results of this dissertation will provide social work educators with additional options for evaluating social work student competence.

Doctoral Student: Sarah Maynard (4th year)

Committee Members:
Anne E. Fortune, Ph.D. (Chair)
Nancy Claiborne, Ph.D.
Bruce Szelest, Ph.D.
To contribute to the conversation about gender identity and to help increase acceptance of gender variance, particularly in educational settings.

Dissertation Title: Heteronormativity, Homonormativity, and Gender Variance in the Classroom: Perceptions and Reflections by School Social Workers

Principal Aims:
To explore the perceptions, attitudes, and self-reported practices of school social workers with respect to gender socialization and gender variance in the classroom.

Methodology:
Qualitative, “orientational” study (based on Queer theory), interpretative-phenomenological analysis.

Funding:
Self-funded

Duration of Study: 2 1/2 years

Progress to Date:
Dissertation submitted for final review; defense scheduled for February 2014.

Anticipated Contributions to the Field:
New knowledge regarding an emerging practice issue.

Doctoral Student: Dirk de Jong, M.S.W.

Committee Members:
Laura Hopson, Ph.D. (University of Alabama)
Loretta Pyles, Ph.D.
Debi May, Ed.D. (Ed. Psych.)
The Research Training and Education Core continue to provide access to training and mentoring opportunities in the areas of health disparities to University students and faculty. With a particular focus on training doctoral students to successfully publish the dissertations, providing statistical support and conducting substantive health research in subpopulations such as sexual minorities of color. The Core continues to provide small grant opportunities for faculty interested in establishing a health disparities research program.

**THE CENTER FOR THE ELIMINATION OF MINORITY HEALTH DISPARITIES**

**RESEARCH TRAINING AND MENTORING CORE**

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

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

**FUNDING:**
N/A.

**DATES OF STUDY:** 5/2014 - 12/2020

**PROGRESS TO DATE:**
Two publications and a national conference.

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

EVALUATION OF THE HARTFORD INTERNSHIPS IN AGING PROJECT

PRINCIPAL AIMS:
1. Develop 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.
A primary purpose of the University at Albany, School of Social Work is education of competent professional social workers who become social work leaders in the capital region. This on-going survey gathers data that informs the B.S. and M.S.W. program committees about students’ achievement of competencies, early career paths, and potential curricular changes.

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 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.

FUNDING:
School of Social Welfare.

DATES OF STUDY: 2002 - Present

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

SSW INVESTIGATOR: Anne E. Fortune, Ph.D.
COLLABORATOR: Crystal Rogers, Ph.D.

RESEARCH SUPPORT STAFF: Mi Jin Choi, M.S.W.
Are social work students prepared with appropriate competencies when they graduate and enter the job market? This annual survey asks students ready to graduate about their attainment of competencies and satisfaction with their programs. The data is used to assess and possibly change the BS and M.S.W. curricula.

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

**SSW INVESTIGATOR:**
Anne E. Fortune, Ph.D.

**RESEARCH SUPPORT STAFF:**
Mi Jin Choi, M.S.W.
Identifying these benefits could 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 community’s most vulnerable members.

Dissertation Title: Understanding the Student Experience in the Community and Public Service Program

Principal Aims:
This study attempts to explore the student perceived benefits and learning outcomes of program participation in a using a mixed method secondary data analysis in an attempt to understand two things: if in fact this program remains relevant as an engaged learning experience and if the benefits and learning outcomes identified are similar or distinct from those associated with other thought to be similar pedagogies.

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 a sample of reflective writing entries 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 2014

Progress to Date:
ABD status; developing proposal.

Anticipated Contributions to the Social Work Field:
Understanding undergraduate students’ perceived benefits of voluntary service for credit, especially understanding the perception of historically underrepresented students fills a gap in existing literature and is a salient topic for exploration given the current national movement towards a culture of service and the movement towards access and success for all students.

Doctoral Student:
Sharon Stevens

Committee Members:
Loretta Pyles, Ph.D. (Chair)
Hal Lawson, Ph.D.
Glenn Deane, Ph.D.
IMPACT
To gain a better understanding of disasters and recovery processes to inform policies and practice regarding disaster preparedness and response. Improve advocacy for active inclusion of local recovery actors for sustainable recovery outcomes.

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

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

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

FUNDING: Graduate Student Association

DURATION OF STUDY: 1 year

PROGRESS TO DATE:
Dissertation Research Proposal is under review.

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

DOCTORAL STUDENT:
Juliana Svistova (4th year)

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:
Loretta Pyles, Ph.D.
Hal Lawson, Ph.D.
Patricia Strach, Ph.D.
The broad reach of the consortium will guarantee strategic recruitment of suitable trainees who, through specialized curriculum and field placements, will be leaders in providing culturally appropriate mental and behavioral care in interprofessional settings. Rigorous evaluation will document the effectiveness of the activities, discerning those most central to this nationally significant training and educational initiative.

UPSTATE NEW YORK MENTAL AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH EDUCATION CONSORTIUM

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

METHODOLOGY AND SOFTWARE USED:
Case study methods; Process evaluation.

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

DATES OF STUDY: 9/2012 - 9/2015

PROGRESS TO DATE:
Currently developing new field placements sites and recruitment plans for students; new sites and curriculum have been developed; 11 students currently in field placements

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

SSW INVESTIGATORS:
Lynn Warner, Ph.D.
Katharine Briar-Lawson, Ph.D.
Estella Williamson, M.S.W., Field Director

COLLABORATORS:
Laura Bronstein (SUNY Binghamton)
Paul Gould (SUNY Binghamton)
Deb Faria (SUNY Brockport)
Diane Elze & Laura Lewis (SUNY Buffalo)
Carrie Smith & Kristin Esposito (Syracuse University)
David Skiff & Laura Ribbing (Roberts Wesleyan College)
Virginia David (Nazareth College of Rochester)
The 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 raising awareness about recruitment, selection and retention of a professionally trained workforce; regional collaborations between local social service districts and social work education programs across NYS; and the evaluation activities designed to develop knowledge about approaches that facilitate retention and support workforce professionalization and implement effective strategies.

**THE NATIONAL CHILD WELFARE WORKFORCE INSTITUTE**

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


**PROGRESS TO DATE:**
Work plans are under development with the Children’s Bureau. Funding has just been awarded for the following integrated program components: 1) University Partnerships (UP)-up to 11 awards for 5 years; 2) Leadership Academy for Deans/Directors/Chairs of social work programs and Directors of State/County/Tribal Child Welfare Agencies (LADD); 3) Leadership Academy for child welfare Supervisors (LAS); 4) Leadership Academy for child welfare Middle Managers (LAMM); 5) Organizational Interventions (OI)-up to 4 state/regional/Tribal; 6) Knowledge Development and Dissemination (LINKD); and Comprehensive Evaluation.

**ANTICIPATED CONTRIBUTIONS TO SW FIELD:**
This award continues the work carried out from 2008-2013 through the National Child Welfare Workforce Institute. The new funding builds on the knowledge gained from the work of the Leadership Academies for Middle Managers (LAMM) and Supervisors (LAS) and the BSW and MSW Traineeships. We anticipate new curriculum and field education models which show evidence of preparing social workers for a career in child welfare. We anticipate evidence that working with leaders and facilitating an organizational intervention focused on recruitment, selection or retention will result in agencies retaining skilled workers prepared to provide effective services.

**SSW INVESTIGATORS :**
Mary McCarthy, Ph.D.
Katharine Briar-Lawson, Ph.D.
University at Albany, SSW-lead

**COLLABORATORS:***
University of Maryland
University of Denver
University of Southern Maine
Michigan State University
Portland State University
The Center of Human Services Research (CHSR) is evaluating the Small Enterprise Economic Development (SEED) program. SEED is a character-based lending program that is designed to support and finance entrepreneurs who have been unable to obtain resources necessary to start or expand a small business through traditional sources.

PROMOTING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT THROUGH SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP IN UPSTATE NEW YORK

METHODOLOGY AND SOFTWARE USED:
Because the SEED program is relatively new, CHSR will focus on a formative evaluation that identifies process strengths and informs continuous improvement. As the research and evaluation plan develops, CHSR will examine how SEED impacts several important stakeholders who may potentially benefit from the program: fledgling entrepreneurs, economic developers, and leaders. For entrepreneurs, the impact of SEED will be in helping develop successful and lasting businesses; for those interested in economic development, SEED could have an impact on growing employment and generating new wealth; for leaders, the importance of SEED lies in the character-based lending approach and how these loans fare relative to commercial loans that undergo a more traditional underwriting process.

FUNDING:
Pending

DATES OF STUDY:
1/2014-12/2014

PROGRESS TO DATE:
Data collection.

SSW INVESTIGATORS:
Rose Greene
Bradley Watts
Meera Bhat
This project will examine the impact of a pilot project designed to serve veterans in eleven counties in New York State. The program uses an evidence-informed intervention strategy involving peer supports services provided by veterans themselves. Evaluative information will be used to provide information to key stakeholders, offer formative feedback to program administrators, and to inform policy and funding decisions regarding sustainability and replication in other parts of New York State and beyond.

NEW YORK STATE PFC JOSEPH DWYER VETERAN PEER-TO-PEER SUPPORT PILOT EVALUATION

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

METHODOLOGY AND SOFTWARE USED:
A mixed methods approach will be used, with both quantitative and qualitative data collected. Software will include SPSS and Atlas Ti.

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

DATES OF STUDY: 1/2013 - 7/2015

PROGRESS TO DATE:
Data collection is currently in progress with the first four counties, and soon to be started in the seven remaining counties.

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

SSW INVESTIGATOR:
Eric Hardiman, Ph.D.
IMPACT

Pilot studies for this effort are currently being conducted in Tanzania. College students who engage in tourism and survival sex for cash exchanges are the research informants. Preliminary data will be available in the next three months.

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

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

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

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

DATES OF STUDY: N/A

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

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

SSW INVESTIGATOR:
Robert L. Miller, Jr., Ph.D.

COLLABORATORS:
Steven Nsimba (University of Dodoma)
C.J. Comor (University of Dodoma)
C.K. Mgaweshemi (University of Dodoma)
Inform the implementation of projects serving homeless populations with substance abuse and mental health issues.

EVALUATION OF PEOPLE ADVANCING THROUGH TREATMENT AND HOUSING (PATH)

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

METHODOLOGY 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: $147,996, $302,996

DATES OF STUDY: 9/2010 - 8/2014

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:
Sandra McGinnis
Michael Clarkson-Hendrix
Advancing knowledge about social work practices in substance abuse services.

**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 Vandenburgh, Ph.D.
Findings can be translated to policy and program designs that increase access and supports for older adults with backgrounds of early adversity.

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

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

METHODOLOGY 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:
Data collection has been completed and is currently being analyzed. An article is in development.

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

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

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

METHODOLOGY 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.
EVALUABILITY ASSESSMENT OF THE YOUTH AND POLICE INITIATIVE

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

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

FUNDING:
$163,302

DATES OF STUDY: 10/2013 - 9/2014

PROGRESS TO DATE:
N/A

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

CHSR INVESTIGATORS:  
Bradley Watts
Victoria Schall

COLLABORATOR:  
Heather Washington, Ph.D.
This research will add to knowledge about how coordinated community response can prevent serious partner violence and, in conjunction with other communities, provide information about best practices in response to partner violence.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HOMICIDE PREVENTION DEMONSTRATION INITIATIVE

DESCRIPTION AND PRINCIPAL AIMS:
The first part of the study will be a needs assessment that will evaluate the process, systems, and partnerships in Westchester County, NY that address domestic violence and intimate partner homicide prevention. It will be designed to identify the key barriers and gaps faced by domestic violence victims and their children, and the agencies designed to help them. The needs assessment will inform the development of a work plan completed in coordination with the NIJ evaluation team that may be funded for future phase.

METHODOLOGY AND SOFTWARE USED:
Development of document data base (domestic violence law, policy, response); Development of community partner capacity.

FUNDING:
U.S. Department of Justice/Westchester County Office on Violence against Women (OVW). $94,000

DATES OF STUDY: 9/2013 - 6/2014 (continuation possible)

PROGRESS TO DATE:
Steps 1-2 of needs assessment (community response assessment) completed. Step 3 anticipated (focuses on police assessment and response). Potential for continuation of project into 2 year implementation phase (6/12 nationally): proposal will be formulated in Spring 2014

ANTICIPATED CONTRIBUTIONS TO FIELD:
Development of model domestic violence harm assessment and community response teams Community implementation of research-based knowledge about violence assessment and interruption

SSW INVESTIGATORS:  
Carolyn Smith, Ph.D.

COLLABORATOR:
Amy Barach (Community service provider from Westchester County)

RESEARCH SUPPORT STAFF:
Susan Dietzel
Carolyn Smith
Amy Barasch
Ellen Unruh
Victoria Schall
This research will add to knowledge about the development of family violence and so inform prevention programs that can prevent or interrupt pathways to such violence.

DEVELOPMENTAL AND INTERGENERATIONAL PATHS TO PARTNER VIOLENCE AND CHILD MALTREATMENT

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: Funded 8/2009 - 8/2013 (CDC), work continuing

PROGRESS TO DATE:
Multiple publications and presentations

CONTRIBUTIONS TO FIELD:
Better clarity on developmental pathways leading to family violence. Informs development of family violence prevention.

SSW INVESTIGATOR: Carolyn Smith, Ph.D.

COLLABORATORS:
Timothy Ireland (University of Niagara)
Terence Thornberry (University of Colorado)

RESEARCH SUPPORT STAFF:
Project staff, Rochester Youth Development Study
Laura Elwyn, Ph.D.
Aely Park, Ph.D.
IV. FACULTY, STAFF, &
PH.D. STUDENT BIOGRAPHIES

SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WELFARE

RESEARCH GUIDE 2014
AMY BARASCH
PUBLIC SERVICE PROFESSOR
CENTER FOR HUMAN SERVICES RESEARCH

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J.D., Columbia University Law School
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Telephone: (518) 442-3887

Amy joined CHSR in 2013 to assist with the CPS/DV Collocation study and expand CSHR's research and program capacity in the area of intimate partner violence and sexual assault. Prior to joining CHSR, Amy was the Executive Director of the New York State Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence where she managed the nation's only executive office dedicated to developing policies and programs to respond to the issue of domestic violence. Prior to her appointment with the State, she spent over a dozen years in government, non-profit, and academic sectors specializing in policy development, creating and piloting innovative intimate partner violence and anti-poverty programs, and creating cross-sector initiatives in the areas of public safety and human services. She has served in an advisory capacity on several research initiatives, has integrated evaluation into the programs she has developed, and practiced as an attorney in civil court on a wide range of matters, including domestic violence and abuse and neglect.

MICHAEL BARTON
RESEARCH SCIENTIST
CENTER FOR HUMAN SERVICES RESEARCH

Ph.D. Candidate, Sociology, University at Albany
Email: mbarton@albany.edu
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Mike is a research scientist at CHSR. He is primarily involved in gathering and analyzing data for education and juvenile justice research projects. His research interests are focused on issues related to crime, neighborhoods, and communities.
KATHARINE H. BRIAR-LAWSON  
DEAN & PROFESSOR

M.S.W. (1968), Columbia University  
Ph.D. (1976), University of California, Berkeley  
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SPECIALIZATION: Child and family welfare, poverty and unemployment, community collaboration & service integration


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 People’s Service.
KEITH CHAN
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR

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SPECIALIZATION: Acculturation, Immigrant Health and Elderly Asian Americans

Keith is Assistant Professor in the School of Social Welfare at University at Albany SUNY, a Hartford Geriatric Doctoral Fellow, and an alumnus from the CSWE Minority Fellowship Program. His research examines the racial and ethnic differences in health and mental health for minority populations, in particular older Asian Americans. His recent publications include quantitative studies on the relationship of health outcomes with various individual and structural measures of acculturation for nationally representative samples of Asian American elderly and other minority populations. With changing demographic profiles, intense debates on immigration, and major health care reforms on the horizon, social workers can play a key role in guiding how research, policy and practice can improve health outcomes for the growing diversity of immigrant elderly in the US. Keith's current projects examine discrimination, disability, psychological distress, and chronic health conditions, and builds upon his earlier work in looking at health disparities for elderly Asians, immigrants, and other vulnerable populations.

MAN-CHUN CHANG
PH.D. CANDIDATE

B.S. (2001), Department of Medical Sociology, Kaohsiung Medical University, Taiwan
M.S. (2006), Institute of Health Policy & Management, National Taiwan University, Taiwan
M.S. (2012), Department of Epidemiology & Biostatistics, University at Albany

SPECIALIZATION: Substance abuse prevention and treatment, mental health, HIV/AIDS services

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

B.S.W. (2008), Ewha Womans University, Seoul, South Korea
M.S.W. (2010), Ewha Womans University, Seoul, South Korea

SPECIALIZATION: Child Welfare

Mi Jin’s primary interests include child welfare, foster care, kinship care, minority children, cultural diversity and program evaluation. For the past years, Mi Jin has been involved in evaluating BSW and MSW programs in UAlbany. Also I have been involved in evaluating services for kinship families in the Center for Human Services Research.

NANCY CLAIBORNE
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR
DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WORK EDUCATION CONSORTIUM EVALUATION

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

Nancy 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. Nancy 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.
CAROLINE W. DAWSON  
PH.D. CANDIDATE

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

SPECIALIZATION: Public Health Nursing and Health Surveillance

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

DIRK DE JONG  
PH.D. CANDIDATE

M.S.W. (1983), University at Albany
M.S. Ed. Psych. (1986), University at Albany

SPECIALIZATION: School social work, social work with youth and families

Dirk’s primary interests include School social work, gender theory, and macro practice.

EMILY DELORENZO  
PH.D. CANDIDATE

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

Emily’s work has included direct service with at risk youth and their families; serving youth within the juvenile justice system; advocacy and coordination services with those affected by HIV/AIDS; program direction within a juvenile justice/mental health policy research firm; and coordination of research for a SAMHSA grant focused on treatment with traumatized children. In addition, Emily’s primary interest focuses on assisting young adults at risk as they transition to independence.
SUSAN EHRHARD-DIETZEL  
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SPECIALIZATION: Criminal Justice

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

LISA FERRETTI  
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Lisa Ferretti is Research Assistant Professor, 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 national trainer for the National Diabetes Prevention Program, Lead Trainer and the primary developer of a translation of the Stanford University Prevention Research Center’s Active Choices program. Lisa is also a Master Trainer of Active Living Every Day, the Matter of Balance Program, Healthy Eating for Successful Living for Older Adults, and the Arthritis Foundation Exercise Program. Lisa’s current projects include leading a Quality & Technical Assistance Center that supports expansion of evidence-based health promotion interventions in communities across New York State. 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 FOR ACADEMIC PROGRAMS  
PROFESSOR

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SPECIALIZATION: Aging, Short-term Treatment and Social Work Education


ROSE GREENE  
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SPECIALIZATION: Children and family services, program evaluation, service integration

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

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

JULIA HASTINGS
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SPECIALIZATION: Poverty issues among ethnic minority populations; Mental health and welfare participation dynamics; African-American health and mental health disparities; Program evaluation

Dr. Julia F. Hastings is assistant professor in the Schools of Public Health and Social Welfare at the University at Albany, SUNY. Globally, her research interests cover health and mental health disparities among ethnic minority populations, African American mental health, welfare participation dynamics, and ethnic minority women’s health issues. Her research projects focus on the interrelationships between race, mental health outcomes, health conditions, risk and protective factors, and poverty. Dr. Hastings has published on culturally competent research methods within African American communities, welfare participation, depression, and body weight. Her research grant portfolio includes funding from the National Institute of Minority Health and Health Disparities, NIMH, the Ford Foundation, and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.
JOHN HECK  
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SPECIALIZATION: Human Services Management Information Systems  

John 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.

HEATHER K. HORTON  
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR  

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SPECIALIZATION: Mental health, deafness, schizophrenia, cognition, American Sign Language  

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

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SPECIALIZATION: Mental Health, Black Feminism and Therapy, Evidenced-Based Practice and Group Work

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

SHIRLEY J. JONES  
DISTINGUISHED SERVICE PROFESSOR

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SPECIALIZATION: Planning, Policy, Group Work, Rural Social Work, Community Organization and Development

Shirley’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. Shirley is the lead author of an article on “Globalization and Africa: Development, Challenges and Implications for Helping Professionals” in William Roth (2010), Globalization, Social Justice and The Helping Professions. She is also the lead author of an article on “Action Research: An Intervention for Change, Development and Advocacy in a Global Society” (Columbia Press, 2013). Currently, Shirley is researching global rural communities, the impact of globalization and the implications of social and economic injustices in rural communities. Her prime focus is preparing Helping Professionals to work in a global society as advocates for effective change and development worldwide.
LARA KAYE
RESEARCH SCIENTIST AND ASSISTANT RESEARCH PROFESSOR
CENTER FOR HUMAN SERVICES RESEARCH

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

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M.S.W. (1988), University of Hull, United Kingdom
Ph.D. (2003), University of Huddersfield, United Kingdom
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SPECIALIZATION: Realist evaluation, program evaluation, and secondary data analysis. Mental health, social services, education, health, chemical dependency, probation, and all other human services

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

MELISSA STEEL KING
 SENIOR RESEARCH SCIENTIST
 CENTER FOR HUMAN SERVICES RESEARCH

B.A., Williams College
M.A., Teachers College, Columbia University
Ed.D., Harvard Graduate School of Education

Melissa joined CHSR in 2012 to work on Education and Early Childhood projects. Her current projects include the evaluation of Albany Promise, a cross-sector partnership to provide cradle-to-career support for Albany children, and an evaluation of the Magnet Schools Assistance Program at Albany High School. Before coming to CHSR, Melissa worked in the Research and Validation Department at Scholastic Inc. conducting evaluation research on PreK-12 curricula. Prior experience includes work as an elementary school teacher and as a trainer and evaluator for social and ethical awareness programs in elementary and middle schools. Melissa has applied qualitative and quantitative methods to a variety of research interests, including socio-emotional learning and development, PreK-12 literacy instruction and intervention, fidelity of implementation for instructional programs, and school improvement.
HEATHER LARKIN
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR

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SPECIALIZATION: Restorative Integral Support (RIS), adverse childhood experiences (ACE), homelessness, leadership skills & staff self-care, policy advocacy, Post-Trauma Wellness

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

CATHARINE K. LAWRENCE
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SPECIALIZATION: Social Welfare Policy, Poverty & Disparity, Cultural Competency, Mixed Methods Research Design

Catharine’s scholarship focuses on public welfare in the United States. In particular, she is interested in the policies and programs that serve our most vulnerable citizens, especially families, children and young people. Income maintenance and child welfare are the policy arenas where her work has focused to date. Within these arenas she has studied and written about the implementation of federal welfare policy by state and local governments. She has also studied and written about the frontline workforce responsible for delivering public child welfare services. Catharine has secured funding for two projects from the federal Children’s Bureau. She currently directs a Children’s Bureau Comprehensive Workforce Project. Within this project and elsewhere in her work, 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, and
complex system change (especially for education systems)

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

EUNJU LEE
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR

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Certificate (1997), Women and Public Policy, University at Albany
Ph.D. (2003), University at Albany
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SPECIALIZATION: Child Welfare, Intervention Research, and Program Evaluation

Eunju received her B.A. from Ewha Women’s University in Korea and studied issues related to family, race and ethnicity,
immigrant, and gender at the University at Albany. She was one of the fellows for the Center for Women in Government
and Civil Society and interned at the New York State Assembly. For more than 10 years, Eunju was a researcher at the
Center for Human Services Research (CHSR) conducting evaluation research using both quantitative and qualitative meth-
ods. Her interests are program evaluation and intervention research in the field of Child Welfare. Currently, Eunju is working
on two funded research projects with CHSR: The randomized controlled trial of Health Families New York and the eval-
uation of New York State Kinship Navigator Demonstration. In addition, Eunju collaborates with Dr. Heather Larkin of the
University at Albany on studying Adverse Childhood Experiences and with Dr. Laura Hopson of the University of Alabama
on school climate and at risk youth.
BARRY LONECK
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SPECIALIZATION: Alcohol and Drug Dependence Treatment, Mental Health Treatment

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

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's past work experiences include over twenty years of direct and administrative clinical practice serving individuals of all ages. Nicole has a specialization in mental health and addictions services catering to children, adolescents, adults, and elders. Over the past decade, Nicole has offered services to older addicted and mentally ill adults in her roles as Clinical and Executive Director of an outpatient geriatric addictions clinic in NYS.
SARAH P. MAYNARD
PH.D. CANDIDATE

M.S.W. (2004), University of New Hampshire
B.S.W. (2002), University of New Hampshire

SPECIALIZATION: Evaluation of Students, Social Work Education

PHILIP MCCALLION
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SPECIALIZATION: Aging and Developmental Disabilities

Phil 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. Phil is also co-PI for the Intellectual Disability Supplement to The Irish Longitudinal Study on Ageing. His research has been supported by grants and awards from the National Institute on Drug Abuse, National Institute on Aging the U.S. Administration on Community Living/Administration on Aging, Centers for Disease Control & Prevention, the John A. Hartford Foundation, the Joseph P. Kennedy Jr., Foundation, the Atlantic Philanthropies, the Alzheimer’s Association, the Agency for Health Quality Research, the New York State Health Foundation, the Health Research Board of Ireland, the Irish Hospice Foundation and New York State’s Department of Health, Office for the Aging, Office of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities, Office for Children and Family Services and Developmental Disabilities Planning Council. Phil has over 100 publications on interventions with caregivers of frail elderly, with persons with Alzheimer’s disease, and persons with intellectual/developmental disabilities.
MARY MCCARTHY
LECTURER
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SPECIALIZATION: Child Welfare and Political Social Work

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

LUANN L. MCCORMICK
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SPECIALIZATION: Qualitative Research Methods, Children’s Mental Health, Maternal and Child Health

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

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

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SPECIALIZATION: gerontology, especially caregiving; wellness; intergenerational programming; mental health; and community building.

Linda is the coordinator of two projects within the School of Social Welfare – the Navigator Program and the Internships in Aging Project, one of several model programs in the nation for training social workers to work with older adults.
ROBERT L. MILLER, JR.
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SPECIALIZATION: HIV disease in African-American populations; spirituality and social work practice, policy and research; faith-based health promotion and disease prevention collaboration

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

MARLEY MILLS, L.C.S.W.
PH.D. CANDIDATE

M.S.W (1995), University at Albany

SPECIALIZATION: Grief and trauma

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

M.S.W. (1994), San Jose State University
Ph.D. (2005), University of California, Berkeley
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SPECIALIZATION: Child Welfare, Economics and Social Policy (with emphasis on analysis and reform)

Toni’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. Toni 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. Toni 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
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SPECIALIZATION: Data collection and video coding data analysis

Corinne is the coordinator for the Department of Health Menu Labeling Evaluation Project that evaluated the impact of calorie postings and a media campaign in several counties in New York State. She has been involved in many aspects of the evaluation and research process including the design of study materials, English-Spanish translation of study documents, data collection, coding of videotaped interviews, and coding of qualitative data. She has conducted telephone interviews and in person interviews in English and Spanish.
CHRIS PAPAS
PROGRAMMER/ANALYST
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SPECIALIZATION: Computer Programming, Database Design, Project Design

Chris 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.

LORETTA PYLES
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR

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


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

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SPECIALIZATION: Sociology

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

BLANCA M. RAMOS  
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR

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

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Ph.D. Candidate (2013), University at Albany
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SPECIALIZATION: Organizational Diversity, Cultural Competency, Strategic Planning, Staff and Resource Development

Jacqueline is a licensed master’s level social worker and Doctoral candidate. Jacqueline has over 15 years of experience in administration and service delivery in the provision of human services within minority communities and communities at large as well as experience in statewide mental health advocacy initiatives. Jacqueline has committed her social work career to addressing existing disparities prevalent in minority communities and communities at large and to bringing solutions to prevailing issues of accessibility, quality, and equity within existing service delivery systems of care. She is an experienced trainer with her own consulting business “New Heights Consulting” providing workshops on cultural competency, workforce development, Strategic Planning, Corporate Diversity, Board and Organizational development. For the past 12 years she has served as the Assistant Executive Director for the National Association of Social Workers, New York State Chapter. Current research activities include dissertation research focusing on the delivery of culturally competent mental health and human services to Latino population and a community mental health workforce preparedness evaluation (three phase evaluation of a statewide provider training initiative) addressing provider capacity in meeting the mental health needs of returning veterans.

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

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SPECIALIZATION: Education, Assessment, and Program Evaluation

Ken is the lead evaluator for the City School District of Albany’s Safe Schools/Healthy Students initiative and Magnet School Assistance Program Evaluation. He also led CHSR’s evaluation of New York’s AmeriCorps’ State programs. Before coming to CHSR, Ken was an Assistant Research Professor at Rutgers University, working for the National Institute for Early Education Research (NIEER). Projects included data management for and co-authorship of the annual State of Preschool Yearbook. Other experience involved research design for evaluations of state preschool programs in New Mexico and Kansas. Ken also wrote policy briefs, conducted cost estimates, and provided research-based advice to policy makers, educators, and media. Ken is a licensed school psychologist.
JAY ROBOHN
PROGRAMMER/ANALYST
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SPECIALIZATION: Management Information Systems, Database design, Programming, Windows 7/Vista operating systems

Jay works on CHSR systems and software development projects. His experience includes application design and development, primarily to facilitate entry of forms and measurement of program outcomes, maintenance and technical assistance of multi-user, and county and state-wide MIS applications. Jay has worked on the Healthy Families New York (HFNY) MIS, Families Together Albany County project, and Healthy Families New Jersey. Prior to joining CHSR, Jay worked for a forensic CPA firm for five years and then switched careers to be employed by two IT/Database consulting firms in New York City for almost 15 years.

CAROLYN SMITH
PROFESSOR

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M.A. (1986), Criminal Justice, University at Albany
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SPECIALIZATION: Delinquency and High Risk Youth, Child Maltreatment and Family Violence

Carolyn’s primary research areas and publications are in the family etiology of delinquency and other problem behaviors, as well as in the consequences of family violence. She has a long affiliation with the Rochester Youth Development Study, a national longitudinal and intergenerational study of delinquency and high risk behavior. She has international practice and teaching experience in child and family mental health, family violence and delinquency prevention. She has been on the School faculty since 1990, and has taught across the curriculum most recently focusing on research methods as well as prevention research.
SHARON STEVENS
PH.D. CANDIDATE

B.A. Spanish (1985), Marist College
M.S.W. (2007), University at Albany
L.M.S.W. (2009), University at Albany
Certificate in Non-Profit Management and Leadership (2009), University at Albany

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

Sharon’s primary interests are the effects of long-term committed service on historically underrepresented students and the effects of student service in the community. She’s passionate about university community engagement and working with student groups to build sustained partnerships with community organizations.

JULIANA SVISTOVA
PH.D. CANDIDATE

M.S.W. (2010), University at Albany

SPECIALIZATION: Macro social work

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

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SPECIALIZATION: Gerontology and Social Work Practice

Ron 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 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.
LYNN WARNER
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR

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Ph.D. (1998), University of Michigan
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SPECIALIZATION: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services and Policies

Lynn’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 behavioral health workforce development and consequences of psychotropic medication use at different ages. She was a National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) post-doctoral research fellow at the Institute for Health, Health Care Policy and Aging Research, and her research has been supported by the Alcoholic Beverage Medical Research Foundation, the Annie E. Casey Foundation, and the Health Resources and Services Administration. Lynn is a member of the editorial boards of the Journal of the Society for Social Work and Research, Social Work and Mental Health, and reviews for a range of social work and behavioral health services journals.

CANDACE N. WHITE
PH.D. CANDIDATE

M.S. in Clinical Psychology, Penn State
Ph.D. in Social Welfare, University at Albany

SPECIALIZATION: Clinical Social Work

Candace’s work is in mental health research, teaching psychology and social work at the graduate and undergraduate level, and psychotherapy practice. Her current research interests are in the following areas: women’s mental health; gender roles and feminist identity; understanding the etiology of early sexual activity, particularly the role of the father; examination of the sequelae of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) as they relate to emotion regulation and interpersonal functioning; psychotherapy outcome research; and program evaluation with girls’ empowerment and teen pregnancy prevention programs. Her clinical focus is on individual, couples and group psychotherapy with significant training in psychodynamic and empowerment approaches.
STARR WOOD
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR

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SPECIALIZATION: Intergenerational Trauma

Starr 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. Starr 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. Starr'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.