



SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WELFARE

UNIVERSITY AT ALBANY

State University of New York

Research Guide

2004-2005

*Advancing Social Work Knowledge
for the 21st Century*

**School of Social Welfare
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University at Albany

School of Social Welfare

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.”

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Hardiman, Eric

Consumer Evaluation of PROS Implementation in New York City
Enhanced Support Housing Evaluation in Rensselaer County
Evaluation of Peer-Delivered Mental Health Disaster Relief Services in New York City
Study of Mental Health Providers' Awareness and Knowledge of Consumer Operated Mental
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Janicki, Matthew

Preparing Agencies/Families for Adults Affected by Dementia

Jones, Lani

Enhancing Psychosocial Competence Among Black Women at Risk of Depression

Jones, Shirley

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King-Ingham, Alice

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Kintner, Eve

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Kirkland, Kristen

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Examining the Relative Importance of Social Context Referents in Predicting Behavioral
Intention to Change

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Elder Network of the Capital Region

McCallion, Philip

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Child Welfare, Drug Abuse and Intergenerational Risk

Coordinated Care Alzheimer Demonstration Project

Cost Effectiveness and Quality of Life in Service Delivery for Persons with the Dual Disability of

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Dementia Grants Evaluation

Elder Network of the Capital Region

End of Life Care for Persons with Intellectual Disabilities and Dementia

Korean-American Grandparent Caregivers: A Pilot Study
 Preparing Agencies/Families for Adults Affected by Dementia
 Prescription Drug Use among Grandparent Caregivers-A Pilot Study
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 Vitamin E Multi-Site Trial for Persons with Down Syndrome-Albany Site

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Life Course Continuity in Change in Antisocial Behavior
Long Term Consequences of Exposure to Family Violence

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Videka, Lynn

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The Quality of Life of the Korean-American Older Population in New York City

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Overcoming Cultural Barriers to Hispanic Use of Health Education Services
Preparing Agencies/Families for Adults Affected by Dementia
Social Work Student Attitudes Towards the Elderly: A Longitudinal Study

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Philip McCallion

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Nancy Claiborne

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Shirley J. Jones

An Innovative Model to Improve Recruitment and Retention

Katharine Briar-Lawson, Mary McCarthy

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Philip McCallion, Victoria M. Rizzo, Pat Maxon, Eve Kintner, Patricia McDonnell,

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Improving Identification and Treatment of Patients with Alcohol Problems

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Infrastructure Development Evaluation-CWDAIR

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Naturally Occurring Retirement Communities in Albany County

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Policy Research on Medicaid Funding for Geriatric Social Workers

Katharine Briar-Lawson

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Catherine Lawrence

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Philip McCallion

The Role of Social Workers in NGOs

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Analysis of Verbal and Nonverbal Behaviors Between Nursing Home Residents with Alzheimer's Disease and Their Primary Visitors After a Family Visit Education Program

Wendy Gobeil-St. Pierre

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Cost Effectiveness and Quality of Life in Service Delivery for Persons with the Dual Disability of Down Syndrome (DS) and Alzheimer's Dementia (AD)

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Philip McCallion, Victoria M. Rizzo, Pat Maxon, Eve Kintner, Patricia McDonnell, Jennifer Van Loan

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Korean-American Grandparent Caregivers: A Pilot Study

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Affecting Child Welfare Outcomes with Integrated Service Programs

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Evaluation of Collocation of Substance Abuse and Child Welfare Services

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Sexual Assault Victim-Police Officer Interaction: Implications for Conducting Victim Interviews

Karen Rich

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Victoria M. Rizzo, Lucy Seigel

Gerontology

Adult Protective Services Technology Project

Philip McCallion

An Evaluation of a Chronic Disease Self-Management Program

Victoria M. Rizzo, Lisa Ferretti

Beyond Self-Limiting Beliefs: Expanding the Horizons of Grandparenting

Fran Yong

Caregivers of Veterans with Dementia, a Telephone Education Program

Ronald Toseland

Caregiving and Aging in Place

Zvi Gellis

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Zvi Gellis

Coordinated Care Alzheimer Demonstration Project

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Philip McCallion

Dementia Grants Evaluation

Philip McCallion

Elder Network of the Capital Region

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Jennifer Van Loan

End of Life Care for Persons with Intellectual Disabilities and Dementia

Philip McCallion

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Anne E. Fortune, Linda Mertz

Geriatric Mental Health Training Grant

Zvi Gellis

Infusing Gerontology into Social Work Curriculum

Anne E. Fortune

Korean-American Grandparent Caregivers: A Pilot Study

Philip McCallion

Naturally Occurring Retirement Communities in Albany County

Zvi Gellis

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Blanca Ramos, Anne Fortune, Anna Zendell, Linda Mertz

Palliative Care Teams for Nursing Home Residents with Advanced Dementia

Ronald Toseland

Policy Research on Medicaid Funding for Geriatric Social Workers

Katharine Briar-Lawson

Preparing Agencies/Families for Adults Affected by Dementia

Philip McCallion, Matthew P. Janicki, DiAnn Baxley, Thomas Buckley,
Jenny Overyender, Anna Zendell

Prescription Drug Use among Grandparent Caregivers-A Pilot Study

Philip McCallion

Schenectady Builds: A Partnership for an Aging Community

Victoria M. Rizzo

Screening and Treatment for Anxiety Disorders in Community Dwelling Older Adults

Zvi Gellis

Screening of Late Life Depression in Older Home Health Care Patients: A Pilot Study

Zvi Gellis

Social Work Student Attitudes Towards the Elderly: A Longitudinal Study

Anne E. Fortune, Zvi Gellis, Linda Mertz

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Substance Abuse Practitioner's Knowledge, Practice Behaviors, and Confidence in the Evaluation of Alcohol Abuse and Depression in Late Life

Zvi Gellis

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Tara Nickle

Teaching Nursing Home Planning Project

Philip McCallion

Telephone Support Groups for Child and Spouse Caregivers

Ronald Toseland

The Copasetics: African American Women Over 50 Living With AIDS

Robert Miller

The Effectiveness and Efficiency of the Advanced Illness Coordinated Care Project: A Multi-Region RCT

Victoria M. Rizzo, Ronald Toseland, Ph.D.; Kristen Kirkland, Amanda Sisselman

The Quality of Life of the Korean-American Older Population in New York City

Fran Yong

Treatment for Depression and Anxiety in Medically Ill Homecare Elderly: A Randomized Control Trial

Zvi Gellis

Vitamin E Multi-Site Trial for Persons with Down Syndrome-Albany Site

Philip McCallion, IBR-Arthur Dalton

Globalization

An Evaluation of the U.S. African Partnership for Building Stronger Communities Project

Shirley J. Jones

The Role of Social Workers in NGOs

Nancy Claiborne

Health

An Evaluation of a Chronic Disease Self-Management Program

Victoria M. Rizzo, Lisa Ferretti

An Evaluation of Disease Management Programs Implemented through the New York State Capacity-Building Legislative Allocation (Year 2)

Victoria M. Rizzo, Tamara Smith, Eve Kintner

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Ronald Toseland

Caregiving and Aging in Place

Zvi Gellis

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Ronald Toseland
- Confirmatory Factor Analysis of the Center for Epidemiologic Scale for Depression Screening for Medically Ill Elderly**
Zvi Gellis
- Conversations from the Heart: Resources for Talking with Children about a Parent's Serious Illness, 2nd edition**
Victoria M. Rizzo, Kristen Kirkland
- Coordinated Care Alzheimer Demonstration Project**
Philip McCallion
- Cost Effectiveness and Quality of Life in Service Delivery for Persons with the Dual Disability of Down Syndrome (DS) and Alzheimer's Dementia (AD)**
Philip McCallion
- Dementia Grants Evaluation**
Philip McCallion
- Domestic Violence Intervention in the Primary Care Setting**
Bonnie Carlson
- Elder Network of the Capital Region**
Philip McCallion, Victoria M. Rizzo, Pat Maxon, Eve Kintner, Patricia McDonnell, Jennifer Van Loan
- End of Life Care for Persons with Intellectual Disabilities and Dementia**
Philip McCallion
- Evaluation of the Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention and Services Program**
Rose Greene, Chris Papas, Dorothy Baum
- Examining the Relative Importance of Social Context Referents in Predicting Behavioral Intention to Change**
Holly Matto
- Fibromyalgia Program Evaluation**
Nancy Claiborne
- Geriatric Mental Health Training Grant**
Zvi Gellis
- Health Disparities in Smaller Cities**
Blanca Ramos
- Implementation Evaluation of A Baptist Church's Health Ministry**
Sandra Austin
- Improving Identification and Treatment of Patients with Alcohol Problems**
Nancy Claiborne, Lynn Videka
- Naturally Occurring Retirement Communities in Albany County**
Zvi Gellis
- Overcoming Cultural Barriers to Hispanic Use of Health Education Services**
Blanca Ramos, Anne Fortune, Anna Zendell, Linda Mertz
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- Preparing Agencies/Families for Adults Affected by Dementia**
Philip McCallion, Matthew Janicki
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Philip McCallion
- Schenectady Builds: A Partnership for an Aging Community**
Victoria M. Rizzo

Screening of Late Life Depression in Older Home Health Care Patients: A Pilot Study

Zvi Gellis

Sexuality Curriculum Project

Philip McCallion

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Victoria M. Rizzo, Lucy Seigel

Substance Abuse Screening, Assessment, and Referral for Mothers Applying for TANF in New York State's Albany and Orange Counties

Sandra Austin

Teaching Nursing Home Planning Project

Philip McCallion

Telephone Support Groups for Child and Spouse Caregivers

Ronald Toseland

Testing the Effectiveness of an Integrated Dual Processing Protocol with Substance Abuse

Holly Matto

The Copasetics: African American Women Over 50 Living With AIDS

Robert Miller

The Effectiveness and Efficiency of the Advanced Illness Coordinated Care Project: A Multi-Region RCT

Victoria M. Rizzo, Ronald Toseland, Kristen Kirkland, Amanda Sisselman

Vitamin E Multi-Site Trial for Persons with Down Syndrome-Albany Site

Philip McCallion, Arthur Dalton

HIV Prevention Efforts

Child Welfare, Drug Abuse and Intergenerational Risk

Philip McCallion

The Copasetics: African American Women Over 50 Living With AIDS

Robert Miller

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Enhanced Support Housing Evaluation in Rensselaer County

Eric Hardiman

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Zvi Gellis

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Nancy Claiborne

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Philip McCallion

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Blanca Ramos

Inter-Agency Collaborative Relationships and Effective Treatment for Child Welfare Clients

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Philip McCallion

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Philip McCallion, IBR-Arthur Dalton

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A Longitudinal Study of Drug Relapse in Mothers

Carolyn Smith, Bonnie Carlson, Holly Matto

Adult Survivors of Sibling Incest

Bonnie Carlson

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Barry Loneck

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Zvi Gellis

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Eric Hardiman

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Lani Jones

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Eric Hardiman

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Katharine Briar-Lawson

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Zvi Gellis

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Zvi Gellis

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Ronald Toseland

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Holly Matto

The Copasetics: African American Women Over 50 Living With AIDS

Robert Miller

Therapeutic Process for Clients with Dual Disorders in a Psychiatric Emergency Room

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Treatment for Depression and Anxiety in Medically Ill Homecare Elderly: A Randomized Control Trial

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Shirley J. Jones

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Violence

A Longitudinal Study of Drug Relapse in Mothers

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Adult Survivors of Sibling Incest

Bonnie Carlson

Domestic Violence Intervention in the Primary Care Setting

Bonnie Carlson

Intimate Partner Violence in Family-Centered Casework Practice

Monna Bender-Zuckerman

Public Opinion about Domestic Violence

Bonnie Carlson, Blanca Ramos

Sexual Assault Victim-Police Officer Interaction: Implications for Conducting Victim Interviews

Karen Rich

Workforce

An Innovative Model to Improve Recruitment and Retention

Katharine Briar-Lawson, Mary McCarthy

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Rose Greene, Eunju Lee, Ann Lowenfels

Policy Research on Medicaid Funding for Geriatric Social Workers

Katharine Briar-Lawson

The Role of Social Workers in NGOs

Nancy Claiborne

Workforce Retention Study

Mary McCarthy

Center for Human Services Research

Mission

The Center for Human Services Research (CHSR), a component of the School of Social Welfare, is dedicated to developing empirically based knowledge that promotes effective services to meet human needs. CHSR conducts program evaluations and special studies to assist governmental agencies, foundations and other service providers to better meet their goals and objectives. CHSR is comprised of a cross-disciplinary research team with expertise in qualitative and quantitative methods, and process and outcome studies.

Objectives

Center for Human Services Research program objectives include:

- Applying evidence-based knowledge to the design and implementation of human service programs and practices
- Conducting evaluations to improve the quality of human service programs
- Developing and designing useful Management Information Systems for program and policy decision-making
- Providing feedback to clients to inform practice and to recommend mid-course corrections in service delivery
- Providing research expertise and consultation to organizations in order to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of human services
- Fostering research opportunities for scholars and students of the School of Social Welfare and collaborators from other schools
- Creating partnerships with scholars, practitioners and government agencies in order to advance knowledge about and effectiveness of human services
- Promoting scholarship through dissemination of the Center's findings

Institute of Gerontology

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's work is conducted through two Centers, the Center on Aging Research and the Center for Mental Health and Aging. Through these Centers, the Institute leads in stimulating 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.

Current Research and Activities

In recent years, the Institute has conducted a variety of applied aging research projects sponsored by federal, state, and foundation sources. Some of the current activities of the Institute include a grant funded by three foundations for an evaluation of the advanced illness care coordination program; three grants funded by the Health Services Research and Development Office of the U.S. Department of Veteran's Affairs on the topics of 1) the effectiveness of a health education program in a primary care setting, 2) the effectiveness of the FairCare system for patients with advanced illness, and 3) health education groups for caregivers of veterans with dementia; and a U.S. Administration on Aging grant for the evaluation of telephone groups for caregivers.

Center for Excellence in Aging Services

Mission

The Center is committed to excellence in teaching, scholarship and public service and to addressing the needs of vulnerable and oppressed populations. In pursuit of this mission, the Center and its partner, the Center for Research in the Institute of Gerontology, work with communities, state and local agencies and the Legislature to:

- Improve outcomes for the most vulnerable older persons in society
- Stimulate interest at local, state, and national levels in the capacity, potential, and needs of older persons
- Raise community awareness of the needs and strengths of older persons from diverse cultures

Priorities

The Center for Excellence develops and implements innovative practices and policies that address the needs of aging person, their families, and professional caregivers.

The Center for Excellence in Aging Services priorities promote:

- Aging prepared and inclusive policies and practices
- Research driven practice and policy innovations in aging services
- Policy and program partnerships with policy makers, public, and private service agencies, and health networks
- Continuing education and workforce development for social workers and health related professionals
- Community Service, elderhostel, housing, and other opportunities for aging consumers and their families
- Aging focused community-university-corporate-public agency partnerships

Programs

- The **Elder Network of the Capital Region** leads a community wide effort to address aging needs in the Capital District of New York State.
- The **Center on Intellectual Disabilities** offers training and program innovations in the care of aging persons with intellectual disabilities (particularly those with dementia) and promotes cross-agency support of aging caregivers.
- **OASIS** is a national not for profit education organization dedicated to enriching the lives of mature adults. In addition to its national mission, the **Albany OASIS** strives to be the bridge between the vast resources and expertise at the University and the OASIS members.
- The **Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP)** offers service opportunities to aging persons in Albany and Schenectady counties.
- The **Web/Satellite Instructional Center** offers distance education, certification programs and cd-rom based training packages.

Center for Mental Health and Aging

Overview

Directed by Zvi D. Gellis, Ph.D., the Center for Mental Health and Aging provides information and training, and conducts rigorous applied research on mental health issues for older persons including behavioral interventions, health maintenance, and the effectiveness of health care delivery systems in home health care and behavioral health settings. The Center was established through a series of grants from the National Institute of Mental Health, National Institute on Aging, the John A. Hartford Foundation, New York State Office of Mental Health, New York State Office of the Attorney General, Institute for Geriatric Social Work, and the Research Foundation of the State University of New York.

Mission

The mission of the Center for Mental Health and Aging is to improve the lives of older persons living in the community.

The Center focuses on:

- Screening for depression and anxiety in later life
- Assessment and management of suicidal behavior in later life
- Development of treatment strategies to achieve recovery
- Development and testing of behavioral interventions for older persons
- Improving quality of life in community-dwelling older persons
- Transfer of evidence-based research to practice in home health and behavioral health settings
- Training human service workers in detection of mental health disorders in older persons

Current Research and Projects

- Preliminary Evaluation of the Depression Screening and Treatments Program (DSTP) for Medically Ill Elderly Home Care Patients: A Randomized Control Trial
- Randomized Control Trial of a Screening and Treatment Program for Generalized Anxiety (STP-GA) in Visually-Impaired Older Adults
- Depression and Health Status Among Community-Dwelling Japanese American Elderly
- Predictors of Depressed Mood, Occupational Stress, and Propensity to Leave in Older and Younger Mental Health Case Managers
- Strengthening Evidence-Based Practice
- New York State Evidence-Based Practice in Mental Health Consortium
- Public Education on Health and Psychosocial Issues for Older Adults
- New York State Mental Health and Aging Providers Training
- New York City Geriatric Mental Health Training: Geriatric Anxiety Disorders
- National Association of Social Workers: Assessment of Anxiety Disorders in Older Adults
- Problem Solving Treatment for Late Life Depression in Home Care Older Adults
- NORC (Naturally Occurring Retirement Community) Neighborhood Project

Affiliated Centers and Faculty

The Center for Mental Health and Aging is affiliated and collaborates with key researchers and practitioners from New York State and the nation who serve as mentors and consultants on various Center projects:

Advanced Center for Intervention and Services Research, Institute of Geriatric Psychiatry, Weill Medical College, Cornell University

Martha Bruce, Ph.D., M.P.H., Research Director

Arlene R. Gordon, Research Institute, Lighthouse International, New York City

Amy Horowitz, D.S.W. Vice President, Research Division

Dartmouth Medical School, Division of Community Behavioral Health

Mark Hegel, Ph.D.

Research Methods Core, Center for Mental Health Services, University of Massachusetts Medical School

Steven Banks, Ph.D., Director

Florida International University, Department of Psychology

James Jaccard, Ph.D.

Drexel University, Hahnemann Medical College, Center for Behavioral Medicine

Arthur Nezu, Ph.D., Director

Northeast Behavioral Health Services, Department of Psychiatry, Clinical Professor

Albany Medical College, Adrian Morris, M.D.

Community Care Physicians, Department of Geriatrics, Clinical Professor

Albany Medical College, Michael Wolff, M.D.

St. Peter's Home Health Care Program, St. Peter's Hospital

Jean McGinty, RN, MSN, Director

Institute for Geriatric Social Work

Boston University

New York State Coalition for the Aging

Ann DiSarro, Executive Director, Senior Services of Albany

Committee on Aging Services, United Jewish Federation of Northeastern New York

Rodney Margolis, Executive Director

Urban Justice Center of New York City

Bill Lienhard, LLB, Mental Health Projects

Geriatric Mental Health Alliance of New York

Michael Friedman, MSW

Home Care Association of New York State

Senior Hope Substance Abuse Clinic for Older Adults

William Rockwood, Ph.D.

Center for Innovation in Mental Health Research

History

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

The Center operates under the School of Social Welfare's Institute for Human Services Research. Center staff will be comprised of University at Albany School of Social Welfare faculty, doctoral research assistants, and key researchers from the New York State Office of Mental Health to be appointed as Research Faculty. An interdisciplinary approach is utilized, in order to maximize collaborative relationships with key partners from related fields of expertise.

Mission

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

Priorities

- Evaluating and testing intervention and practice models serving individuals facing mental health challenges, along with co-occurring needs such as poverty, homelessness, disabilities, addictions, health challenges, and multiple 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.

Child Welfare, Drug Abuse, and Intergenerational Risk Research Center

Mission

The focus of the Center is on the design, development, and delivery of coordinated, evidence-based services for families in the child welfare system with drug abuse and co-existing problems, especially HIV/AIDS. The Center is one of seven NIDA-funded social work research development programs

Priorities

CWDAIR's specific aims are to:

- Develop a research infrastructure at the University at Albany School of Social Welfare (SSW) that will support faculty in increasing the quality and quantity of social work research on drug use and HIV/AIDS in high-risk families.
- Expand collaborative partnerships with state agency leaders and professionals from child welfare, substance abuse and HIV/AIDS services to improve the design of services to address substance abuse and co-existing problems among high-risk parents.

The ultimate goal is to improve services for vulnerable families and children in the child welfare system, especially those affected by substance abuse and HIV/AIDS, in order to reduce the chance of intergenerational continuity of these multiple interrelated problems.

Pilot Projects

- A Relational Intervention Sequence for Engagement. (B. Loneck, Principal Investigator).
- The Impact of Screening and Assessment in Substance Abuse Services. (S. Austin, Principal Investigator).
- Inter-Agency Collaborative Relationships and Effective Treatment Services for Child Welfare Clients. (B. Smith, Principal Investigator).
- Predictors of Drug Relapse in HIV-infected Women: An Exploration of the Unified Theory of Behavior. (B. Carlson, Principal Investigator).
- The Copasetics: African American Women Over 50 Living AIDS in New York City (R. L. Miller, Jr., Principal Investigator).
- A Bio-Behavioral Model of Addiction Treatment. (H. Matto, Principal Investigator).
- A Culturally Sensitive Psycho-educational Group Work Intervention for Black Mothers Recovering from Substance Abuse. (L. Jones, Principal Investigator).
- Measuring and Predicting Prescription Drug Misuse Among Grandparent Caregivers (P. McCallion, Principal Investigator).

Social Work Education Consortium

History

The Social Work Education Consortium was established in 2000 as a formal partnership between the Office of Children and Family Services, Bureau of Training, the New York State Dean's Association, the social work education community and local social services designed to impact the child welfare workforce.

Goal

The primary goal of the consortium is the identification and implementation of programs and activities, which promote a forward-looking approach to training and education, emphasizing workforce stabilization and professionalization. This goal is achieved through a wide array of activities including:

- Raising awareness about the importance of recruitment, selection and retention of a professionally trained workforce
- Regional collaborations between local social service districts and social work education programs across New York State which implement programs to achieve our goal. There are seven active regional groups operating currently, involving 48 out of 57 counties and New York City.
- Research and evaluation activities designed to develop knowledge about approaches that facilitate retention and support workforce professionalization and implement effective strategies to achieve the goal.

Priorities

The Social Work Education Consortium promotes:

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

Programs

- **Seven regional groups** develop region-specific programs designed to promote workforce professionalization and stabilization activities appropriate to their area.
- The **Evaluation Unit** assists with program specific evaluations to identify promising practices and areas that require program modifications.
- The **Workforce Research Team** works directly with local district commissioners to identify organizational and supervisor practices that promote workforce retention and recruitment.
- The **Children's Bureau Workforce Retention Project** is piloting an organizational intervention designed to improve workforce retention. A federal grant is supporting this initiative.

Center for Social Work Practice Research

With the unexpected death of William J. Reid, the world lost one of its most prominent and productive scholars of social welfare and a devoted mentor and friend. A true scientist of human problem solving, his work has been described as “path-breaking, pioneering and ground-breaking.” For the past 35 years, Dr. William J. Reid’s work shaped the agenda for research on social work services. His “Task Centered Practice” model continues to be used as the basis for delivering and managing social work services around the world.

To sustain the legacy of Dr. Reid and his work, the UAlbany School of Social Welfare established the Center for Social Work Practice Based Research. The Center will foster practice research, new grants, and new public-private partnerships and initiatives focused on improving practice. Additionally, the Center will focus on evidence-based social work practice, including intergenerational practice child welfare, aging, mental health, and substance abuse.

The Center will be dedicated to the pursuit of quality research on social work practice; methodological advances for practice research and evaluation; evidence for practice effectiveness; and development of evidence-based practice models. The Center will develop and advance empirically based knowledge about social work intervention and to provide a mechanism through which faculty members and community agencies can collaborate on applied research. It will also provide opportunities for doctoral and master’s students to conduct research on social work intervention. Lastly, the Center will promote innovative approaches to social work practice and service delivery by helping local agencies design their own ongoing research and evaluation projects.

To honor Dr. Reid and to stimulate high quality practice research in social work and celebrate the establishment of the Center, the University at Albany School of Social Welfare held an International Practice Research Symposium on June 1 – 2, 2005. The symposium featured research studies on social work practice, methodological advances for practice research and evaluation, and state-of-the-art summaries of the evidence for practice effectiveness in child welfare, aging, mental health, and substance abuse. The symposium provided an opportunity for developing partnerships and capacity building among key stakeholders.

Title: A Longitudinal Study of Drug Relapse in Mothers

SSW Investigator(s): Carolyn Smith, Bonnie Carlson, Holly Matto

Collaborators: James Jaccard

SSW Doctoral

Research Assistant(s): Michael Eversman, Irene Manfredi, Emily DeLorenzo

SSW Masters

Research Assistant(s):

Funding Source: National Institute of Drug Abuse

Funding Amount: \$15,000

Start/End Date: September 2004-August 2005

Project Description:

A prospective study of relapse in women with children is proposed using the Unified Theory of Behavior (UTB) as the conceptual framework. The focus will be on the impact of stressful life circumstances particularly affecting mothers—post-traumatic stress and parenting strain—model components and on relapse. The study will follow a sample of 400 mothers with drug abuse histories who will be interviewed at the end of their inpatient treatment. They will be followed up after discharge and interviewed at one month, three months, and six months post-discharge to study the process of relapse. Pilot work on measurement of the constructs in the theoretical model in a small sub-sample of women, and a qualitative study of parenting strains during the reunification process in another sample is ongoing.

Title: **A Review of the Relationship Among Parenting Practices, Parenting Styles, and Adolescent School Achievement**

SSW Investigator(s): **Christopher Spera**

Collaborators:

***SSW Doctoral
Research Assistant(s):***

***SSW Masters
Research Assistant(s):***

Funding Source:

Funding Amount:

Start/End Date: **August 1, 2003-March 31, 2005**

Project Description:

This article reviews the literature on the relationship among parenting practices, parenting styles, and adolescent school achievement. The review of the empirical research indicates that parental involvement and monitoring are robust predictors of adolescent achievement. Several studies, however, indicate that parental involvement declines in adolescence, prompting the call for future research on the reasons for and associated consequences of this decline. Furthermore, the review indicates that authoritative parenting styles are often associated with higher levels of student achievement, although these findings are not consistent across culture, ethnicity, and socioeconomic status. Darling and Steinberg's contextual model of parenting provides a promising model to help resolve these discrepancies, however, further research is needed to examine the major linkages of the model. It is also argued that the contextual model should expand its notion of context towards the larger cultural and economic context in which families reside.

Title: A Study of Legally Exempt Child Care Providers

SSW Investigator(s): Rose Greene, Nancy Chiarella, Ann Lowenfels

Collaborators:

***SSW Doctoral
Research Assistant(s):***

***SSW Masters
Research Assistant(s):***

Funding Source: New York State Office of Children & Family Services

Funding Amount: \$150,000

Start/End Date:

Project Description:

This study is designed to promote the quality of care of legally exempt child care providers in Albany County. The project consists of a best practice literature review, analysis of Albany County DSS data, provider and parent focus groups and phone surveys and delivery of an intervention.

Title: **A Study of Substance Abuse Prevention Counseling Services in New York State Schools**

SSW Investigator(s): **Barry Loneck, Lynn Videka**

Collaborators:

***SSW Doctoral
Research Assistant(s):***

***SSW Masters
Research Assistant(s):***

Funding Source: **New York State Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services (OASAS)**

Funding Amount:

Start/End Date: **June 2001-current**

Project Description:

This is a descriptive study of the current implementation of OASAS-funded school-based Prevention Counseling and Student Assistance Programs in New York State. The purpose of the study is to develop an in-depth description of current approaches to substance abuse prevention counseling for school-aged children and youth, and to examine how substance abuse prevention programs are implemented, who is being served, and with what kind of services and activities. In addition to a comprehensive literature review on prevention and student assistance counseling, the study will include a statewide mail questionnaire to all identified prevention providers and site visits to a sample of 14 programs. Data will be collected on site by key informant interviews, focus groups, and record reviews. (Note: project formerly entitled "A Descriptive Study of School-Based Student Assistance and Prevention Counseling")

Title: **Adolescent Perceptions of Parental Goals, Practices, and Styles in Relation to Their Motivation and Achievement**

SSW Investigator(s): **Christopher Spera**

Collaborators:

***SSW Doctoral
Research Assistant(s):***

***SSW Masters
Research Assistant(s):***

Funding Source:

Funding Amount:

Start/End Date: **June 1, 2002-June 30, 2005**

Project Description:

The current study examined research questions proposed by an expanded version of Darling and Steinberg's (1993) contextual model of parenting. Using a sample of 184 adolescents, the analyses indicated that adolescents' perceptions of parental educational goals and values were related positively and significantly to their reports of parental school involvement and parental monitoring. In turn, adolescents' perceptions of parental involvement in schoolwork were related positively and significantly to their interest in school, academic self-regulation, and goal pursuit. Parental styles moderated the relationship between parental practices and student grades, with parental involvement and monitoring most effective under child-centered parenting styles. The implications of the study results on the parental socialization of school achievement and motivation are considered.

Title: **Adult Protective Services Technology Project**

SSW Investigator(s): **Philip McCallion**

Collaborators: **Laura Bronstein**

***SSW Doctoral
Research Assistant(s):***

***SSW Masters
Research Assistant(s):***

Funding Source: **New York State Office of Children & Family Services**

Funding Amount: **\$400,000**

Start/End Date: **2003-2005**

Project Description:
Development of cd-rom and web-based training materials

Title: Adult Survivors of Sibling Incest

SSW Investigator(s): Bonnie Carlson

Collaborators: Katherine Maciol, Joanne Schneider

**SSW Doctoral
Research Assistant(s):**

**SSW Masters
Research Assistant(s):** Yerelyn Reyes

Funding Source: Dean's Office, University at Albany School of Social Welfare

Funding Amount: \$2,000

Start/End Date: 1998-present

Project Description:

The goal of this project is to describe and understand sibling incest, including the nature of the experience itself, its impact and after-effects and family-related factors that may have contributed to its occurrence. It tests the following hypotheses: (1) Compared to those who have not experienced SI, survivors will experience higher levels of anxiety and depression; experience lower levels of happiness and life satisfaction; experience less realistic perceptions of personal control; engage in less effective coping strategies; be less successful with intimacy; and be more likely to abuse alcohol; (2) Compared to families in which SI did not occur, families with sibling incest are more likely to be characterized by rigid gender roles, punitive discipline, poor parental supervision, parental substance abuse, parental emotional inaccessibility, and domestic violence. (3) In cases of sibling incest where the perpetrator was male, or the perpetrator was more than two years older than the victim, or the threat of force was implicit or explicit, or there were multiple perpetrators, survivors will experience higher levels of distress and lower levels of well-being than where those conditions are not present. The study uses a combination of personal interview and administration of standardized measures to compare a group of adult survivors of SI with a matched sample of adults who have not experienced SI. Independent variables pertain to characteristics of the incest experience itself (gender of perpetrators, number of perpetrators, use or threat of force, age difference). Dependent variables include: psychological distress; coping; happiness and life satisfaction; perceptions of personal control, self-esteem, and alcohol use. In addition, a variety of questions on family of origin functioning and relationships are explored in the interview and via standardized instruments.

Title: **Affecting Child Welfare Outcomes with Integrated Service Programs**

SSW Investigator(s): **Brenda Smith**

Collaborators: **Jeanne Marsh**

***SSW Doctoral
Research Assistant(s):***

***SSW Masters
Research Assistant(s):***

Funding Source:

Funding Amount:

Start/End Date: **Ongoing**

Project Description:

This work continues a series of projects addressing the effects of matching services to client-identified needs. An integrated services program involving child welfare and substance abuse agencies provided the inspiration for the investigation of how integrated services, especially when matched to needs, can affect child welfare outcomes such as subsequent maltreatment reports.

Title: Albany County Family Partnerships for Change

SSW Investigator(s): Nancy Claiborne

Collaborators: Albany County Department of Children, Youth, Families, and Families Together in NYS, Inc.

***SSW Doctoral
Research Assistant(s):***

***SSW Masters
Research Assistant(s):***

Funding Source: U.S. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Service Administration (SAMHSA)

Funding Amount: \$150,000/year for 6 years

Start/End Date: 2005-current

Project Description:

The Center for Human Services Research will conduct the evaluation of this project. The project intends to build upon the systems of care work begun by the county in 1997 by making system wide improvements to family and youth leadership and empowerment and cultural competence. The target population will be children from birth to age 21 with severe emotional disturbances. It will increase the capability of the county to address the needs of four underserved populations: early childhood (0-5); at-risk (8-14) or with (12-21) co-occurring disorders; and transition youth (16-21).

Title: Analysis of Verbal and Nonverbal Behaviors Between Nursing Home Residents with Alzheimer's Disease and Their Primary Visitors After a Family Visit Education Program

SSW Investigator(s): Wendy A. Gobeil-St. Pierre

Collaborators:

Funding Source: University at Albany, Initiatives for Women

Funding Amount: \$500

Start/End Date: January 1997-May 2005

Project Description:

Review and transcription of videotaped visits between family members (visitors) and nursing home residents with Alzheimer's disease (residents) who participated in a Family Visit Education Program. The research goals include the development of a transcript recording form and a behavioral coding sheet, assessment of the visitor's use of trained/positive and untrained/negative behaviors and analyze the data to see if there were any behavioral changes over time as the subjects proceeded through the Family Visit Education Training Program. Doctoral dissertation research.

Title: An Evaluation of a Chronic Disease Self-Management Program

SSW Investigator(s): Victoria M. Rizzo, Lisa Ferretti

Collaborators: Mari Brick, Arthritis Program, New York State Department of Health

**SSW Doctoral
Research Assistant(s):**

**SSW Masters
Research Assistant(s):**

Funding Source: New York State Department of Health

Funding Amount: \$30,000

Start/End Date: July 1, 2004-June 30, 2005

Project Description:

This is a pilot study to disseminate the Chronic Disease Self-Management Program, an evidence-based self-help intervention tested at Stanford University by Lorig and colleagues into community settings. The investigators will evaluate participant improvements in exercise, cognitive symptom management, communication with physicians, self-reported general health, health distress, fatigue, disability, outpatient visits, etc. Questionnaires will be used to determine the extent to which participants gained expertise and will question their general experience and satisfaction with this program.

Title: An Evaluation of Disease Management Programs Implemented through the New York State Capacity-Building Legislative Allocation (Year 2)

SSW Investigator(s): Victoria M. Rizzo, Tamara Smith, Eve Kintner

Collaborators: Helen Levine & Michelle Disken, The New York Chapter of the Arthritis Foundation

***SSW Doctoral
Research Assistant(s):***

***SSW Masters
Research Assistant(s):***

Funding Source: New York Chapter, Arthritis Foundation

Funding Amount: \$20,000

Start/End Date: January 1, 2005-December 31, 2005

Project Description:

This project is an evaluation of disease management programs implemented by the four chapters of the Arthritis Foundation through the 2005 New York State Capacity-Building Legislative Allocation. The evidence-based self-help courses to be evaluated include: People with Arthritis Can Exercise (PACE), Tai'i Chi, the Arthritis Foundation Aquatics Program (AFAP), and Pace Active.

Title: An Evaluation of the Orange County Department of Social Services
Economic Independence Pilot

SSW Investigator(s): Sandra Austin

Collaborators:

**SSW Doctoral
Research Assistant(s):** Emily DeLorenzo

**SSW Masters
Research Assistant(s):**

Funding Source: Regional Economic Community Action Program

Funding Amount: \$60,000

Start/End Date: May-November 2005

Project Description:

The purpose of this study is to evaluate the implementation of the Orange County DSS Economic Independence Pilot for clients who apply for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) services. In the pilot project, strengths-based assessments are conducted by two agencies contracted by Orange County DSS: Youth Advocate Program (YAP) and Regional Economic Community Action Program (RECAP). The implementation study will examine how the program was planned, how it operates, who is served, and what services are provided.

Title: An Evaluation of the U.S. African Partnership for Building Stronger Communities Project

SSW Investigator(s): Shirley J. Jones

Collaborators:

SSW Doctoral

Research Assistant(s): Participants and Collaborators of the project

SSW Masters

Research Assistant(s):

Funding Source: A grant from the University at Albany's Affirmative Action Committee, creative and private funding

Funding Amount: \$1,300

Start/End Date: Planning for the evaluation began in 2002, an Evaluation Committee was established in 2003. Research Tools were designed and tested 200-2004. The Human Participants Research form will be submitted to the Institutional Review Board in mid-2005 and the evaluation will take place in late 2005-2006.

Project Description:

An action research (participatory) methodology will be used to evaluate a project that was initiated in 2000. The project has three components: a Summer Study Tour to Africa (that is part of a 3 credit policy course-RSSW 449 and 708) an Actual and Virtual Focus Group Meeting, and Collaborative Partnerships for Research, Publication and Advocacy.

Title: An Innovative Model to Improve Recruitment and Retention

SSW Investigator(s): Katharine Briar-Lawson, Mary McCarthy

Collaborators: Hal Lawson, Project Director; Faculty Evaluation Team: Nancy Claiborne, Brenda McGowan (Columbia University), Charles Auerbach (Yeshiva University); Design Team Facilitators: Jim Caringi, Nancy Dorn, Rosemary Sherman, Jessica Strolin

***SSW Doctoral
Research Assistant(s):*** Maureen Sinclair

***SSW Masters
Research Assistant(s):***

Funding Source: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Children's Bureau

Funding Amount: \$1 million over 5 years

Start/End Date: October 1, 2003-September 30, 2008

Project Description:

We will field test, evaluate, and disseminate a comprehensive, research-supported training model designed to improve the recruitment and retention of child welfare workers. This model is tailored for New York State supervised and county-administered system with its mixed workforce.

Title: Assessing the Effectiveness of the Johnson Intervention at Engaging and Retaining Clients with a Dual Diagnosis in Treatment

SSW Investigator(s): Barry Loneck

Collaborators:

SSW Doctoral

Research Assistant(s): Jacqueline Larabee, Allie Middleton

SSW Masters

Research Assistant(s):

Funding Source: Center for the Study of Issues in Public Mental Health

Funding Amount:

Start/End Date: 1997-current

Project Description:

Engaging and retaining clients in mental health treatment is a significant problem and there is increased consideration of legal coercion. Engagement and retention of clients with dual diagnoses of mental illness and substance abuse is particularly problematic because these individuals often deny their alcohol or other drug (AOD) problem and the need for help. In the field of substance abuse, the Johnson Intervention is very successful at engaging and retaining persons with AOD problems in treatment. The Johnson Intervention is a specialized therapeutic technique in which members from the person's social network (e.g., family members, friends), following a period of formal training and rehearsal, confront him or her about the damage the drinking or drug use has caused and the action they will take if he or she does not accept help. The purpose of this project is to develop and test the effectiveness of a modified version of the Johnson Intervention for clients with dual diagnoses. As such, the modified Johnson Intervention is seen as an alternative to waiting for voluntary participation on the part of the client, on the one hand, and legal coercion, on the other.

Title: **Beyond Self-Limiting Beliefs: Expanding the Horizons of Grandparenting**

SSW Investigator(s): **Fran Yong**

Collaborators: **Philip McCallion**

Funding Source:

Funding Amount:

Start/End Date: **January 2004-December 2004**

Project Description:

The purpose of the study is to establish a theoretical understanding of the phenomenon of grandparenting. Given the baseline assumption that grandparenting in an aging society is different from grandparenting in previous generations, the study explores a conceptual framework regarding which factors influence grandparenting, and what types of grandparenting exist. Six types of grandparenting are suggested based on the socio-economic situations of both grandparents and their children. Doctoral dissertation research.

Title: Caregivers of Veterans with Dementia, a Telephone Education Program

SSW Investigator(s): Ronald Toseland

Collaborators: Mollie Shulan

**SSW Doctoral
Research Assistant(s):**

**SSW Masters
Research Assistant(s):**

Funding Source: Health Services Research & Development Service-Department of Veteran's Affairs

Funding Amount: \$750,000

Start/End Date: October 2004-September 2007

Project Description:

The purpose of this study is to evaluate the impact of a Telehealth Education Program (TEP). TEP is designed to enhance caregiver's abilities to communicate with and reduce behavioral symptoms among community dwelling veterans with dementia. TEP is a 10-session psycho-educational group intervention program delivered to caregivers by telephone. TEP is designed to address three major areas that can be problematic for caregivers who want to continue to take care of the veteran with dementia at home: (a) verbal communication and nonverbal communication, (b) effective structuring of caregiver-patient interactions, and (c) challenging behavior problems. The proposed study will employ a 2X3X2 (2 intervention conditions, 3 times of measurement, 2 sites) randomized control group design. One hundred sixty veterans with dementia and their spouses will be recruited through VISN2, randomly assigned to TEP or a usual care group (UC), and assessed at baseline, and at three and twelve months after baseline. Three hypotheses will be examined. Compared with UC veterans and caregivers, (1) TEP caregivers will experience a significant ($p < .05$) behavior problems, reduction in agitation, and symptoms of depression three and twelve months after baseline, (2) TEP caregivers will experience a significant increase in dementia management skills and a significant decrease in caregiving three and twelve months after baseline, (3) TEP veterans will experience significantly more days in the community and fewer hospital admissions, inpatient bed days of care, nursing home admissions, and nursing home bed days of care one year after baseline. To test the hypotheses, outcome variables will be analyzed using random effects regression models and survival analysis. The proposed study can make a significant contribution by examining the important policy question of whether a low-cost TEP group intervention can improve the well-being of caregivers and demented patients, and reduce the health care utilization, of outpatient veterans with dementia. The results could have important implications for prevention efforts within and outside the VA that focus on the growing number of persons with dementia and their family caregivers. TEP will enable providers to reach out to caregivers and frail veterans with dementia who can't access traditional face-to-face services.

Title: Caregiving and Aging in Place

SSW Investigator(s): Zvi Gellis

Collaborators: Rodney Margolis

***SSW Doctoral
Research Assistant(s):***

***SSW Masters
Research Assistant(s):***

Funding Source: United Jewish Federation of Northeastern New York

Funding Amount:

Start/End Date: 2004-2005

Project Description:

This project is supported by the Committee on Aging, United Jewish Federation in collaboration with the Center for Mental Health and Aging. The purpose of this project is to develop and implement an educational series for family caregivers and the public on a variety of topics concerning aging in New York. These topics include: Mental Health, Falls Prevention, Safety in the Home, Senior Housing Guide, Chronic Medical Conditions, Legal Issues, Long Term Care Benefits, Alzheimer's Disease/Dementia, Caregiving, and End-of-life care.

Title: Center for Integrated Health Care: Integrating Mental Health Care into Primary Care

SSW Investigator(s): Ronald Toseland

Collaborators: Laura Wray

**SSW Doctoral
Research Assistant(s):**

**SSW Masters
Research Assistant(s):**

Funding Source: Health Services Research & Development Service-Department of Veteran's Affairs

Funding Amount: \$2,000,000

Start/End Date: April 2005-September 2009

Project Description:

The long-term goal of the Center for Integrated Healthcare is to improve the health of veterans by enhancing the effectiveness of primary care through increasing integration of behavioral health prevention and treatment services. The Center will do this through developing a clinical research program that can assess the effectiveness of interventions that have demonstrated efficacy but have not been broadly disseminated in primary care.

The Center also hopes to expand its research in the latter years of the Center to examine improving behavioral interventions such as smoking cessation and weight management for veterans with mental illnesses and for preventing dementia in veterans with mild cognitive impairment.

Dr. Toseland will collaborate with Center and VA staff to initially focus on developing and implementing five research programs to study the delivery of treatments for substance abuse, dementia and PTSD within primary care. Dr. Toseland will assist in the development of training model and specialized interventions for veterans. He has served as Co-investigator at the Stratton VAMC for the past 17 years and is thoroughly familiar with the procedures and requirements of VA HSR&D research projects. His expertise will play an effective role in meeting the needs identified for this project.

Title: Child Welfare, Drug Abuse and Intergenerational Risk

SSW Investigator(s): Philip McCallion

Collaborators: Carolyn Smith, Barry Loneck

***SSW Doctoral
Research Assistant(s):***

***SSW Masters
Research Assistant(s):***

Funding Source: National Institute on Drug Abuse

Funding Amount: \$1,900,000

Start/End Date: 2003-2008

Project Description:

A social work research development program. The CWDAIR Center focuses on the design, development, and delivery of coordinated, evidence-based services for families in the child welfare system with drug abuse and co-occurring problems, especially HIV/AIDS. The Center promotes research partnerships on a range of topics involving child welfare clients with co-occurring problems. The ultimate goal is to improve services for vulnerable families and children in the child welfare system in order to reduce the chance of intergenerational continuities in multiple interrelated problems.

Title: Confirmatory Factor Analysis of the Center for Epidemiologic Scale for Depression Screening for Medically Ill Elderly

SSW Investigator(s): Zvi Gellis

Collaborators: J. McGinty, L. Tierney, C. Jordan, J. Palm, S. Banks, J. Jaccard

**SSW Doctoral
Research Assistant(s):**

**SSW Masters
Research Assistant(s):**

Funding Source: Research Foundation of SUNY

Funding Amount:

Start/End Date: 2003-2005

Project Description:

Despite the growth of geriatric home health services, little is known about the mental health needs of elderly home care recipients. Evidence is clear that one of the most common emotional disorders in older adults is depression. Yet, the measurement of depressive symptoms in the home care elderly recipient is a concern to clinicians and researchers seeking reliable and valid indicators of mental health status in this population. The purpose of this study is to determine the utility of the Center for Epidemiological Studies Depression Scale (CES-D) as a screening measure of depressive symptoms among elderly home care recipients. We will empirically validate the CES-D for this specific group, and examine the influence of age, physical functioning and health status on depressive symptoms as measured by the CED-D in this frail population.

Title: Consumer Evaluation of PROS Implementation in New York City

SSW Investigator(s): Eric Hardiman

Collaborators: New York City Department of Health & Mental Hygiene

***SSW Doctoral
Research Assistant(s):***

***SSW Masters
Research Assistant(s):***

Funding Source: New York State Office of Mental Health

Funding Amount: \$20,000

Start/End Date: June 1, 2005-December 1, 2005

Project Description:

This is a baseline survey of consumer satisfaction with mental health services in outpatient programs in New York City that will be converting to PROS funding.

Title: **Conversations from the Heart: Resources for Talking with Children about a Parent's Serious Illness, 2nd edition**

SSW Investigator(s): **Victoria M. Rizzo, Kristen Kirkland**

Collaborators:

***SSW Doctoral
Research Assistant(s):***

***SSW Masters
Research Assistant(s):***

Funding Source:

Funding Amount:

Start/End Date: **Through December 2005**

Project Description:

The purpose of this book is to provide a succinct annotated guide to resources for parents who want to talk with their children about serious illness. The resource guide will also be of use to professionals who may be struggling to help parents prepare for age and developmentally appropriate conversations with children about illness and the possibility of death. The first edition of this book was published in 2003 and is available at: www.thelifeinstitute.org

Title: **Coordinated Care Alzheimer Demonstration Project**

SSW Investigator(s): **Philip McCallion**

Collaborators:

***SSW Doctoral
Research Assistant(s):*** **Tara Nickle**

***SSW Masters
Research Assistant(s):***

Funding Source: **Administration on Aging and New York State**

Funding Amount: **\$1,200,000**

Start/End Date: **2002-2005**

Project Description:

Joint project with the New York State Office for the Aging developing and assessing the effectiveness of a program approach for persons with intellectual disabilities and dementia living in the community.

Title: Cost Effectiveness and Quality of Life in Service Delivery for Persons with the Dual Disability of Down Syndrome (DS) and Alzheimer's Dementia (AD)

SSW Investigator(s): Philip McCallion

Collaborators: Mary McCarron, Trinity College, Ireland

***SSW Doctoral
Research Assistant(s):***

***SSW Masters
Research Assistant(s):***

Funding Source: Health Research Board, Ireland

Funding Amount: 200,000 euros

Start/End Date: 2004-2006

Project Description:

Responding to dementia needs is a new challenge for intellectual disabilities service providers and particularly pressing when consumers present with Down Syndrome. New models of service are called for and are being attempted. This study will assess the relative cost and impacts on quality of life for four different care options: community and campus based group homes, aging settings, and dementia-specific settings.

Title: Dementia Grants Evaluation

SSW Investigator(s): Philip McCallion

Collaborators: Dayna Maniccia; Carol Podgorsky, University of Rochester

SSW Doctoral

Research Assistant(s): Jennifer Bashant, Fran Yong

SSW Masters

Research Assistant(s):

Funding Source: New York State Department of Health

Funding Amount: \$500,000

Start/End Date: March 2003-March 2006

Project Description:

The products will include a systematic evaluation of the outcomes of the New York State dementia grants program in long term care designed to improve the psychosocial care of persons with dementia , a meta-analysis of the literature on psychosocial intervention effectiveness for persons with dementia in nursing homes and the results of a web resource usability study and an evaluation of project dissemination efforts.

Title: Domestic Violence Intervention in the Primary Care Setting

SSW Investigator(s): Bonnie Carlson

Collaborators: Louise-Anne McNutt, School of Public Health, University at Albany

SSW Doctoral

Research Assistant(s): Deborah Y. Choi, Isabel Rose

SSW Masters

Research Assistant(s):

Funding Source: New York State Department of Health

Funding Amount: \$350,000

Start/End Date: 1998-present

Project Description:

Intimate partner violence (physical violence, emotional abuse, sexual abuse) is caused by multiple factors at the individual, family, and societal levels. It has costly public health implications, leading to injuries, nonspecific symptoms and illnesses, increased utilization of medical services, anxiety, depression, and reduced well-being. As a result, the AMA, ACOD, and APHA all recommend that physicians routinely screen all female patients for abuse. The aims of the proposed study are to evaluate the feasibility and effectiveness of an intervention to address domestic abuse in primary care settings. An ethnically diverse sample of 584 female patients, aged 18-44, from two urban HMOs were interviewed by phone using a Women's Health Survey regarding intimate partner abuse, injuries, nonspecific symptoms, mental health symptoms, quality of life, and utilization of domestic violence services. At one HMO site, an active intervention was implemented consisting of additional abuse training, a standard protocol to identify and refer abused patients to an on-site domestic violence advocate. At the control site, standard medical practices will be followed. Approximately one year later, participants were re-interviewed using the Women's Health Survey. Additionally, medical charts were abstracted to determine service utilization.

Title: Education Satisfaction and Career Accomplishments of Graduates of the BA and MSW Programs of the University at Albany School of Social Welfare

SSW Investigator(s): Anne E. Fortune, Mingun Lee

Collaborators: Jeff Gerken, Institutional Research, University at Albany

***SSW Doctoral
Research Assistant(s):***

***SSW Masters
Research Assistant(s):***

Funding Source: University at Albany School of Social Welfare

Funding Amount:

Start/End Date: September 2000-current

Project Description:

The purpose is to evaluate the educational outcomes of the Baccalaureate and Master of Social Work programs at the School of Social Welfare. Recent graduates (1994-2000) were asked about their post-graduate employment, professional activities, evaluation of delivery of curriculum content, and evaluation of the quality of their education.

Title: Elder Network of the Capital Region

SSW Investigator(s): Philip McCallion, Victoria M. Rizzo, Pat Maxon, Eve Kintner, Patricia McDonnell, Jennifer Van Loan

Collaborators: New York State Office for the Aging; New York State Department of Health; David Stogatz, Prevention Research Center, School of Public Health, University at Albany

SSW Doctoral Research Assistant(s):

SSW Masters Research Assistant(s):

Funding Source: John A. Hartford Foundation

Funding Amount: \$328,189

Start/End Date: September 1, 2003- August 31, 2007

Project Description:

The Elder Network of the Capital Region is an implementation plan that seeks to improve the scope and delivery of necessary help to elders who need it in the four counties (Albany, Saratoga, Schenectady, and Rensselaer). The Elder Network promotes and facilitates a consortium of health care and service providers to the elderly, as well as aging individuals and their families to accomplish its mission. The Elder Network and its partners have identified four initiatives: a media campaign, information and assistance, health education and wellness, and faith and health initiatives to support aging citizens by improving the integration of medical and support services and by offering new opportunities for the aging to live fulfilling lives. This is an action research project facilitating and measuring the effectiveness of interventions, innovations, and collaborations to improving the aging preparedness of the Capital Region of New York State.

Title: End of Life Care for Persons with Intellectual Disabilities and Dementia

SSW Investigator(s): Philip McCallion

Collaborators: Mary McCarron, Trinity College, Ireland

***SSW Doctoral
Research Assistant(s):***

***SSW Masters
Research Assistant(s):***

Funding Source: Health Research Board of Ireland and Irish Hospice Foundation

Funding Amount: 96,000 euros

Start/End Date: 2005-2007

Project Description:

Development of and effectiveness testing for development of an evidence-based training module to foster earlier application of palliative care principles in care of persons with intellectual disabilities and dementia.

Title: Enhanced Support Housing Evaluation in Rensselaer County

SSW Investigator(s): Eric Hardiman

Collaborators:

SSW Doctoral

Research Assistant(s): Jenneth Carpenter, Eleanor Jaffee

SSW Masters

Research Assistant(s): Pepper Wolfe

Funding Source: Community Leadership Foundation

Funding Amount: \$248,000

Start/End Date: 2003-2005

Project Description:

This is a longitudinal study of an innovative supported housing model for homeless individuals and families in Rensselaer County with mental illness. Permanent, scattered site housing is provided, along with flexible supports. The program model is enhanced through provision of peer support and mental health nursing services. Both quantitative and qualitative methods are being used for this study.

Title: Enhancing Psychosocial Competence Among Black Women at Risk of Depression

SSW Investigator(s): Lani Jones

Collaborators: Troy-Cohoes YWCA; Whitney M. Young Jr. Health Center; Trinity Institution-Homer Perkins; CDAACA/Koinonia Health Care

***SSW Doctoral
Research Assistant(s):***

***SSW Masters
Research Assistant(s):***

Funding Source: FRAP-A, CWDAIR Center

Funding Amount: \$10,000

Start/End Date: April 2004-September 2005

Project Description:

This project seeks to evaluate the effectiveness of a 10 week culturally responsive intervention program aimed at enhancing psychosocial competence among Black women at 3 sites.

Title: Evaluation of Collocation of Substance Abuse and Child Welfare Services

SSW Investigator(s): Eunju Lee, Lynn Videka, Rose Greene

Collaborators:

***SSW Doctoral
Research Assistant(s):***

***SSW Masters
Research Assistant(s):***

Funding Source: Children's Bureau, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

Funding Amount: \$196,432 annually

Start/End Date: September 30, 2004-September 29, 2005

Project Description:

Evaluation of a state initiative to address substance abuse problems among child welfare clients. The first year focused on the study of its implementation collecting data through focus groups and interviews. The second year of the project is to design and collect the data for the outcome study. Its goal is to assess the effectiveness of the collocation program on substance abuse treatment and child welfare outcomes. In the third year, the outcome data will be analyzed and findings from both the implementation study and the outcome study will be presented at meetings and will be written up for publication.

Title: Evaluation of Peer-Delivered Mental Health Disaster Relief Services in New York City

SSW Investigator(s): Eric Hardiman

Collaborators:

SSW Doctoral

Research Assistant(s): Jenneth Carpenter, Eleanor Jaffee

SSW Masters

Research Assistant(s):

Funding Source: FEMA/New York State Office of Mental Health

Funding Amount:

Start/End Date: Funding has ended

Project Description:

Ongoing data analysis and report/article writing.

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

SSW Investigator(s): Anne E. Fortune, Mingun Lee

Collaborators:

***SSW Doctoral
Research Assistant(s):***

***SSW Masters
Research Assistant(s):***

Funding Source: University at Albany School of Social Welfare

Funding Amount:

Start/End Date: August 2001-current

Project Description:

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.

Title: Evaluation of the Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention and Services Program

SSW Investigator(s): Rose Greene, Chris Papas, Dorothy Baum

Collaborators:

***SSW Doctoral
Research Assistant(s):***

***SSW Masters
Research Assistant(s):***

Funding Source: New York State Office of Children & Family Services

Funding Amount: \$182,482

Start/End Date: September 1, 2004-August 31, 2005

Project Description:

A statewide data system for programs offering services to prevent adolescent pregnancy and to support adolescent parents.

Title: Evaluation of the Hartford Internships in Aging Project

SSW Investigator(s): Anne E. Fortune, Anna Zendell, Linda Mertz

Collaborators:

***SSW Doctoral
Research Assistant(s):***

***SSW Masters
Research Assistant(s):***

Funding Source: John A. Hartford Foundation

Funding Amount:

Start/End Date: June 2000-current

Project Description:

Evaluation of the process and outcomes of the Hartford Internships in Aging Project (HIAP), funded by the John A. Hartford Geriatric Field Practicum Initiative. In HIAP, MSW students take a special curriculum intended to prepare them as leaders in social work with older persons. The curriculum includes advance direct practice and macro courses, courses in aging, a special seminar, and a special field practicum rotating among agencies serving older persons. The evaluation includes: a) process evaluation through focus groups with students and field instructors at end of each semester, b) evaluation of student skills through SSW's regular field evaluations and a special HIAP aging field evaluation, completed by field instructors at 3 times during academic year, c) comparison of HIAP students to their MSW cohorts on attitudes toward older persons at matriculation and graduation (to measure change in attitudes and differences from students who do not get intensive aging content), d) pre-, post and 4-month follow-up of students' career interests and self-rated competence in skills for working with older persons, e) 4-month follow-up of students' employment (note: longer-range follow-up is conducted by an outside consultant), f) evaluation if aging content is increased in MSW-level courses through faculty self-report, interviews, and a yearly review of SSW course syllabi to (retroactive analysis compares pre-HIAP classes to during-HIAP classes), g) evaluation of innovative or effective elements of field education using rotations.

Title: Evaluation of the NYS Family Resource Centers

SSW Investigator(s): Rose Greene, LuAnn McCormick

Collaborators:

***SSW Doctoral
Research Assistant(s):***

***SSW Masters
Research Assistant(s):***

Funding Source: New York State Office of Children & Family Services

Funding Amount: \$176,793

Start/End Date: July 1, 2004-June 30, 2005

Project Description:

Data is being collected from 15 Family Resource Centers statewide on participant characteristics and service utilization on a Management Information System designed by CHSR. In addition, CHSR conducts an annual participant telephone survey and is preparing a report on best practices for NYS.

Title: Evaluation of the NYS Home Visiting Program

SSW Investigator(s): Rose Greene, Eunju Lee, Ann Lowenfels

Collaborators:

***SSW Doctoral
Research Assistant(s):***

***SSW Masters
Research Assistant(s):***

Funding Source: New York State Office of Children & Family Services

Funding Amount: \$828,122

Start/End Date: October 1, 2004-September 30, 2005

Project Description:

A longitudinal randomized trial of 1,200 families, a Management Information System in 28 sites throughout NYS, videotaped parent-child observations, worker survey, and other studies. The goal of the survey is to understand the relationships between worker characteristics, job satisfaction and worker effectiveness of home visitors in the Healthy Families New York program, a child abuse prevention initiative of OCFS. Family Support Workers, who provide direct services to expectant or new mothers, were asked to participate in the survey. The survey collects data on socioeconomic characteristics of workers and includes standardized measures on work environment, job satisfaction, empathy, and burnout.

Title: Evaluation of the SAMHSA Systems of Care in Albany County

SSW Investigator(s): LuAnn McCormick, Rose Greene

Collaborators:

***SSW Doctoral
Research Assistant(s):***

***SSW Masters
Research Assistant(s):***

Funding Source: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)

Funding Amount: approx. \$230,000/year for 6 years

Start/End Date: October 1, 2004-September 30, 2010

Project Description:

Conducting a longitudinal outcome study of families receiving mental health services and a process study of systems reform.

Title: Evidence-Based Practice in Mental Health for Social Workers

SSW Investigator(s): Zvi Gellis

Collaborators: Nancy Smyth, Lisa Easterly-Klass

***SSW Doctoral
Research Assistant(s):***

***SSW Masters
Research Assistant(s):***

Funding Source: New York State Office of Mental Health

Funding Amount:

Start/End Date:

Project Description:

The New York State Social Work Mental Health Education Consortium is established as a formal partnership between the New York State Association of Deans of Schools of Social Work and New York State Office of Mental Health. Other Consortium partners may include local mental health departments, the New York State Education Association, professional associations, relevant mental health associations, unions, mental health workers, mental health provider agencies, training providers and consumers and their families being served by mental health agencies. Partners will be included over time as the project evolves. The primary goal of the Consortium is to design and implement an overall Workforce Development Plan that strengthens and builds the knowledge and skills of New York's mental health human services workforce. This knowledge and skills building is related to implementation of evidence-based practice now and in the future. A range of activities over a number of years will be necessary to support the Consortium as it moves forward to accomplish this goal. These activities will be focused in the following three major areas and will be implemented in phases. 1) Infuse the knowledge and skills of evidence-based and recovery-focused practice into the curriculum and field placements associated with the New York State Schools of Social Work; 2) Influence practice and policy of mental health programs in NY State to include evidence-based and recovery-focused mental health services by enhancing the capacity of existing practitioners and supervisors; 3) Implement regional initiatives to increase enrollment of mental health services staff in MSW and BSW programs, resulting in a work force competent in evidence-based practice.

Title: **Examining the Relative Importance of Social Context Referents in Predicting Behavioral Intention to Change**

SSW Investigator(s): **Holly Matto**

Collaborators:

***SSW Doctoral
Research Assistant(s):***

***SSW Masters
Research Assistant(s):***

Funding Source: **Center for Social and Demographic Analysis (CSDA) Junior Researcher Award (2004-2005)**

Funding Amount: **\$8,600**

Start/End Date: **2004-2005**

Project Description:
Psychometric study of new instrument that examines social normative influences on substance abuse behaviors

Title: **Expanding the Family Circle: Family Centered Practice and Cultural Competency**

SSW Investigator(s): **Jan Hagen, Catherine Lawrence**

Collaborators: **New York State Office of Children and Family Services; Bureau of Indian Affairs Liaison to New York State**

***SSW Doctoral
Research Assistant(s):***

***SSW Masters
Research Assistant(s):***

Funding Source: **Children's Bureau**

Funding Amount: **\$1 million over 5 years**

Start/End Date: **October 2003-October 2008**

Project Description:

The purpose of this project is to develop, field test, revise and implement a competency-based training to experienced child welfare caseworkers and supervisors across New York State that teaches a family-centered culturally competent approach to child welfare casework practice. The training will include information on working with couples, fathers, and extended family and kin within the family systems served by caseworkers.

Title: Family Support Capital District

SSW Investigator(s): Katharine Briar-Lawson, Alice King-Ingham

Collaborators: Bruce Stanley, United Way

***SSW Doctoral
Research Assistant(s):***

***SSW Masters
Research Assistant(s):***

Funding Source: United Way; AmeriCorp Vista, and related foundations

Funding Amount:

Start/End Date:

Project Description:

This multi-faceted project involves 1) pilots in schools, 2) program evaluation, and 3) inner city agencies testing family support and economic development.

Title: **Fibromyalgia Program Evaluation**

SSW Investigator(s): **Nancy Claiborne**

Collaborators: **Anita Abrams, Carol Neff, Sunnyview Hospital and Rehabilitation Center**

***SSW Doctoral
Research Assistant(s):***

***SSW Masters
Research Assistant(s):***

Funding Source:

Funding Amount:

Start/End Date: **2001-current**

Project Description:

A pre-post group comparison design evaluates a Fibromyalgia Outpatient Treatment Program. This quasi-experimental study measures patient reported effects of a fibromyalgia syndrome outpatient program in decreasing fibromyalgia pain, enhancing physical functioning, and improving quality of life. It also examines patient adherence to self-care management techniques targeting pain and physical functioning. Additionally, utilization of health care resources will be examined to identify changes attributed to the program intervention.

Title: Geriatric Mental Health Training Grant

SSW Investigator(s): Zvi Gellis

Collaborators: New York State Coalition for the Aging

***SSW Doctoral
Research Assistant(s):***

***SSW Masters
Research Assistant(s):***

Funding Source: Institute of Geriatric Social Work, Boston University

Funding Amount:

Start/End Date: 2004-2005

Project Description:

The Center for Mental Health and Aging of the State University of New York at Albany in collaboration with the New York State Mental Health Coalition for the Aging (NYSMHCA) proposes: (1) to develop and offer a series of training workshops in geriatric mental health for senior services providers across New York State over a three-year period. The proposed training topics include: (a) Geriatric Anxiety Disorders: Screening, Assessment, and Referral; (b) Late Life Depression: Screening, Assessment, and Referral; (c) Problem Solving Treatment for Late Life Depression

Title: Health Disparities in Smaller Cities

SSW Investigator(s): Blanca M. Ramos

Collaborators: Larry Schell, Department of Anthropology
Richard Alba, Department of Sociology
Nancy Denton, Department of Sociology
David Strogatz, School of Public Health
Susan Phillips, School of Education

SSW Doctoral

Research Assistant(s): Digna Betancourt-Swingle

SSW Masters

Research Assistant(s):

Funding Source: National Institutes of Health

Funding Amount: \$1,230,669

Start/End Date: September 2005-June 2008

Project Description:

A team of researchers from multiple disciplines and educators and community partners work together to better understand the multiple determinants of health disparities in smaller cities. The project seeks to build capacity to eliminate disparities in minority health through four active components: research, education, outreach and dissemination, and mentorship and training.

Title: Implementation Evaluation of A Baptist Church's Health Ministry

SSW Investigator(s): Sandra Austin

Collaborators:

**SSW Doctoral
Research Assistant(s):**

**SSW Masters
Research Assistant(s):**

Funding Source: FRAP B, University at Albany

Funding Amount: \$3,380

Start/End Date: May-November 2005

Project Description:

The purpose of this study is to conduct an implementation study of Albany Macedonia Baptist Church's health ministry. The health ministry committee has begun to adopt activities that embody the Body and Soul Program that promote healthy eating behaviors and peer counseling within the church environment. This study will use a participatory action research model to determine what have been the successful strategies the church has adopted to address health disparities in their congregation. Surveys will be developed and administered to the church congregation. It is hoped this study will provide information that can be used in other African American churches in the city.

Title: Improving Identification and Treatment of Patients with Alcohol Problems

SSW Investigator(s): Nancy Claiborne Lynn Videka

Collaborators: Paul Postiglione, Allan Finkelstein, Albany VAMC

**SSW Doctoral
Research Assistant(s):**

**SSW Masters
Research Assistant(s):**

Funding Source:

Funding Amount: \$0

Start/End Date: 2005-current

Project Description:

Objectives: Under-identification and under-treatment of substance use disorders results in serious negative health consequences for the person, and is costly to the VA and society. Albany VAMC primary care clinics' rates for substance abuse screening are fairly good, yet contribute to provider adherence or non-adherence to science-based practice protocols for screening and follow-up for substance abuse services in VA medical centers. The findings will provide the basis for health service innovations that will improve provider performance regarding alcohol screening and referral. The objectives are to (1) determine rates of and variation among clinic sites of positive AUDIT-C screens among Albany area primary care patients, (2) determine the frequency of substance abuse evaluation follow-up for those scoring positive on the AUDIT-C, and (3) determine the patient, provider, and organizational characteristics that influence follow up to positive screens.

Title: Infrastructure Development Evaluation-CWDAIR

SSW Investigator(s): Nancy Claiborne

Collaborators: Child Welfare, Drug Abuse and Intergenerational Risk Research Center

***SSW Doctoral
Research Assistant(s):***

***SSW Masters
Research Assistant(s):***

Funding Source: Part of CWDAIR funding

Funding Amount:

Start/End Date: 2005-current

Project Description:

A process measurement will be made of the Child Welfare, Drug Abuse and Intergenerational Risk (CWDAIR) NIDA grant. The grant establishes a program of research on CWDAIR. The process evaluation is intended to ensure that the infrastructure and collaboration development are adopted and well implemented, thus increasing the likelihood of producing the grant's desired outcomes. It will assess the design for developing the infrastructure and partnerships, gain insight into strengths and weaknesses of collaboration development, and identify technical and management assistance necessary to achieve defined goals.

Title: **Infusing Gerontology into Social Work Curriculum**

SSW Investigator(s): **Anne E. Fortune**

Collaborators:

SSW Doctoral

Research Assistant(s): **Anna Zendell**

SSW Masters

Research Assistant(s):

Funding Source: **University at Albany School of Social Welfare**

Funding Amount:

Start/End Date: **August 2005**

Project Description:

Longitudinal review of MSW syllabi to determine whether required content on diversity changes when new content on aging is added.

Title: Inter-Agency Collaborative Relationships and Effective Treatment for Child Welfare Clients

SSW Investigator(s): Brenda Smith

Collaborators: Kimberly Hoagwood

***SSW Doctoral
Research Assistant(s):*** Cristina Mogro, Irene Manfredo

***SSW Masters
Research Assistant(s):***

Funding Source: National Institute on Drug Abuse (part of CWDAIR funding)

Funding Amount: \$16,150, initially

Start/End Date: September 2003-current

Project Description:

Anecdotal evidence suggests that effective substance abuse treatment for child welfare clients can be promoted by collaboration between child welfare agencies and substance abuse treatment providers. This pilot study aims to: (1) Define and measure collaboration between child welfare agencies and substance abuse treatment providers; (2) Identify environmental, organizational, and individual-level factors associated with the formation of collaborative agreements and implementation of collaborative practices among child welfare staff and substance abuse treatment staff.

Title: Intimate Partner Violence in Family-Centered Casework Practice

SSW Investigator(s): Monna Bender-Zuckerman
Supervising Professor-Theodore Stein; Catherine Lawrence

Collaborators:

Funding Source: Self-funded

Funding Amount:

Start/End Date: January 2005-June 2005

Project Description:

This project explores child welfare workers' opinions toward intimate partner abuse and family-centered casework practices. It is a mixed methods study, using a convenience sample of child welfare workers, who have attended 'Expanding Family Circle' training for cultural competence in family-centered casework practices. Doctoral dissertation research.

Title: **Is Class Action Litigation Effective in Reforming Child Welfare Agencies?**

SSW Investigator(s): **Theodore J. Stein**

Collaborators:

***SSW Doctoral
Research Assistant(s):***

***SSW Masters
Research Assistant(s):***

Funding Source:

Funding Amount:

Start/End Date: **2005-current**

Project Description:
In data gathering stage

Title: Korean-American Grandparent Caregivers: A Pilot Study

SSW Investigator(s): Philip McCallion

Collaborators: Fran Yong

***SSW Doctoral
Research Assistant(s):***

***SSW Masters
Research Assistant(s):***

Funding Source:

Funding Amount:

Start/End Date: 2004-2005

Project Description:

Descriptive study of grandparenting experiences of a sample of Korean American grandparents living in New York City. Doctoral dissertation research.

Title: Life Course Continuity in Change in Antisocial Behavior

SSW Investigator(s): Carolyn Smith

Collaborators: Terrence Thornberry, Alan Lizotte, Marv Krohn

SSW Doctoral

Research Assistant(s): Rachel Throm

SSW Masters

Research Assistant(s):

Funding Source: National Institute of Mental Health

Funding Amount:

Start/End Date: June 2002-May 2005

Project Description:

The study examines the processes of continuity and change in antisocial behavior through the late 20's in a panel study of high risk youth who have been interviewed since early adolescence. Antisocial careers are diverse, characterized by continuity, as well as change, including late onset and early desistance. Much less is known about desistance and about abnormally late onset of antisocial behavior, compared to continuing antisocial trajectories. Additional interview data, combined with the twelve years of data already collected will allow greater understanding of varying trajectories, as well as of the impact of different patterns of antisocial behavior on the life course.

Title: Long Term Consequences of Exposure to Family Violence

SSW Investigator(s): Carolyn Smith

Collaborators:

***SSW Doctoral
Research Assistant(s):***

***SSW Masters
Research Assistant(s):***

Funding Source: National Institute on Drug Abuse

Funding Amount:

Start/End Date: Summer 2005-2009 (anticipated)

Project Description:

The proposed study will use data across three generations of subjects in the Rochester Youth Development Study (RYDS) to investigate the long-term consequences of exposure to multiple forms of violence in the home. The primary aim of the proposed research is to identify the extent to which, and the mechanisms through which, violence in the family might disrupt individual development with consequences that cascade over the life course and potentially across generations.

Title: Middle School Students Report on Predicators and Barriers to Academic Achievement

SSW Investigator(s): Julie Burton

Collaborators:

Funding Source:

Funding Amount:

Start/End Date:

Project Description:

This is a qualitative study on students who were part of an intervention for at-risk youth in elementary school, and they are reporting on how they are now doing at the middle school level. Interviews are currently being conducted. Doctoral dissertation research.

Title: Naturally Occurring Retirement Communities in Albany County

SSW Investigator(s): Zvi Gellis

Collaborators: Rodney Margolis, United Federation of Northeastern New York; Anshell Weiss, Jewish Family Services; Sister Joyce, Catholic Charities

***SSW Doctoral
Research Assistant(s):***

***SSW Masters
Research Assistant(s):***

Funding Source:

Funding Amount:

Start/End Date: 2004

Project Description:

This project seeks to lead a "Neighborhood" Naturally Occurring Retirement Community (NORC) within Albany to maintain and improve the lives of older residents. This concept is "open" in the sense that the defined dense geographic area is a natural neighborhood community with multiple housing owners over the age of 65 years. Naturally occurring retirement communities are geographic areas or multi-unit buildings that are not restricted to persons over a specified age, but which have evolved over time to include a significant number (typically, over 50 percent) of residents who are aged 60 and over. As the number of elderly residents has grown, many NORCs have incrementally added activities, supportive assistance and other services to meet residents' needs. Monthly charges or rents do not include the costs of these activities and services. NORCs may be subsidized or non-subsidized.

Title: Ohio Community Collaboration Model for School Improvement

SSW Investigator(s): Hal Lawson

Collaborators:

***SSW Doctoral
Research Assistant(s):***

***SSW Masters
Research Assistant(s):***

Funding Source: Ohio Department of Education

Funding Amount:

Start/End Date:

Project Description:

Developing, implementing and evaluating a comprehensive, community collaboration model in 6 pilot schools and an additional 6 pilot school districts, the majority of which are listed on the state's emergency list for their performance.

Title: Overcoming Cultural Barriers to Hispanic Use of Health Education Services

SSW Investigator(s): Blanca M. Ramos, Anne Fortune, Linda Mertz

Collaborators: Diane Dewar, School of Public Health, University at Albany

***SSW Doctoral
Research Assistant(s):***

***SSW Masters
Research Assistant(s):***

Funding Source: National Institutes of Health

Funding Amount: \$22,500

Start/End Date: September 2005-June 2008

Project Description:

This study examines the structural and cultural factors that may contribute to consumer satisfaction and service use among Hispanic older adults and their families. Data will be used to inform the development of a model culturally relevant health education program for Hispanic families.

Title: Palliative Care Teams for Nursing Home Residents with Advanced Dementia

SSW Investigator(s): Ronald W. Toseland

Collaborators: Avila Institute-Germantown, NY; Ozanam Hall of Queens Nursing Home-Bayside, NY; St. Patrick's Home-Bronx, NY

***SSW Doctoral
Research Assistant(s):*** Dennis G. Chapman

***SSW Masters
Research Assistant(s):*** Kelly Bonner, Jonathon Schiff

Funding Source: New York State Department of Health

Funding Amount: \$195,608

Start/End Date: March 1, 2003-August 31, 2005

Project Description:

This project is part of the Dementia Grants Program-New York State Department of Health, and was made possible through the cooperation of the Avila Institute, Ozanam Hall of Queens Nursing Home, St. Patrick's Home, and the Institute of Gerontology, School of Social Welfare, University at Albany. The Institute of Gerontology is conducting this study to evaluate the effectiveness of AICT for improving the quality of life for residents of nursing homes and their families.

Title: Parental Educational Aspirations for Their Children: Relations to Ethnicity, Parent Education, GPA and School-Related Factors

SSW Investigator(s): Christopher Spera

Collaborators: Kathryn R. Wentzel, Department of Human Development, Institute for Child Study, University of Maryland

SSW Doctoral Research Assistant(s):

SSW Masters Research Assistant(s):

Funding Source:

Funding Amount:

Start/End Date: January 1, 2003-December 30, 2005

Project Description:

This study examined ethnicity (African American, Asian, Caucasian, Hispanic), parent education, child GPA, and parents' perception of the quality and climate of their children's school in relation to parents' aspirations for their children's educational attainment in a sample of 14,192 middle and high school parents. All parents had relatively high educational aspirations for their children, and within each racial subgroup, parent education and child GPA were significantly and positively related to parents' aspirations. However, Caucasian parents with lower levels of education had significantly lower educational aspirations for their children than did parents of other racial backgrounds with similar low levels of education. Parents' perceptions of school-related factors did not account for a substantial amount of variance in parents' aspirations for their children's educational attainment, but were most predictive of minority parents' aspirations for their children.

Title: Policy Research on Medicaid Funding for Geriatric Social Workers

SSW Investigator(s): Katharine Briar-Lawson

Collaborators:

***SSW Doctoral
Research Assistant(s):***

***SSW Masters
Research Assistant(s):***

Funding Source: New York Academy of Medicine; John A. Hartford Foundation

Funding Amount:

Start/End Date:

Project Description:

This policy-related research explores the use of Medicaid for Graduate Medical Education and its application to social worker education. An exploratory study probes which states are using Medicaid funds for GME and which states are funding allied health professions, such as social work. The data and policy-related research will inform a series of pilots by Deans and Directors to expand financing social work education.

Title: Preparing Agencies/Families for Adults Affected by Dementia

SSW Investigator(s): Philip McCallion, Matthew Janicki, DiAnn Baxley, Thomas Buckley, Jenny Overyender, Anna Zendell

Collaborators: Rehabilitation Research and Training Center on Aging and Developmental Disabilities-University of Illinois at Chicago

SSW Doctoral Research Assistant(s):

SSW Masters Research Assistant(s):

Funding Source: Rehabilitation Research and Training Center on Aging and Developmental Disabilities-University of Illinois at Chicago

Funding Amount: \$228,000

Start/End Date: 1998-2008

Project Description:

A research development project to establish best practices for the care of persons with developmental disabilities who develop dementia. Study will seek to learn to what extent families plan for contingencies related to presence of dementia in family members with developmental disability, specifically Down Syndrome. Also, the study explores the factors that enter into the decision-making process of whether to retain affected adults at home and demands on care practices of families with someone with developmental disability living at home and affected by dementia.

Title: Prescription Drug Use among Grandparent Caregivers-A Pilot Study

SSW Investigator(s): Philip McCallion

Collaborators: Stacey Kolomer, University of Georgia; Sarah Dugan, Albany College of Pharmacy

***SSW Doctoral
Research Assistant(s):***

***SSW Masters
Research Assistant(s):***

Funding Source: National Institute on Drug Abuse

Funding Amount: \$5,000

Start/End Date: 2005

Project Description:

Secondary data analysis of prescription drug use collected on a sample of primary caregiver grandparents in Northern Georgia.

Title: **Psychological Distress in Polysubstance Users**

SSW Investigator(s): **Starr Wood**

Collaborators:

***SSW Doctoral
Research Assistant(s):***

***SSW Masters
Research Assistant(s):***

Funding Source: **FRAP-B, University at Albany**

Funding Amount: **\$3,199**

Start/End Date: **April 15, 2004-April 30, 2005**

Project Description:

This study examines the relationship between Alexithymia, Post-Traumatic Stress, Object, Relations, and Reality Testing in 230 polysubstance users.

Title: Public Opinion about Domestic Violence

SSW Investigator(s): Bonnie Carlson, Blanca Ramos

Collaborators: Alissa Pollitz Worden, School of Criminal Justice, University at Albany

SSW Doctoral

Research Assistant(s): Christina Hernandez

SSW Masters

Research Assistant(s):

Funding Source: National Institute of Justice

Funding Amount:

Start/End Date: January 1999-December 2001; currently ongoing as articles continue to be written

Project Description:

Currently, the public perceived acts of physical violence between intimates to be domestic violence, and there appears to be less acceptance of domestic violence than in the past. Occurrence of injury to the victim appears to constitute the threshold at which people believe intervention is necessary. There is stronger support for required counseling for the offender as a more desirable disposition than incarceration. Only a limited range of potential remedies have been presented to the public for consideration, and we have no information about public opinion regarding other alternatives. Respondent characteristics such as gender and education have sometimes been found to be associated with attitudes about domestic violence and its resolution, however the influence of social context variables has not been explored as possible predictors of domestic violence attitudes or preferred remedies. Virtually no research exists regarding public perceptions of what actually occurs in response to domestic violence or perceptions of the likelihood of being apprehended for spousal abuse. The proposed study has three related objectives: (1) to gather descriptive information about attitudes, values, and perceptions regarding domestic violence to identify the degree of consensus or dissensus on these issues and thresholds of criminal domestic violence; (2) to test hypotheses derived from deterrence and empowerment theory about the relationships between individual, contextual, and community variables and attitudes; and (3) to examine theoretically derived hypotheses about the relationships between individual attitudes about the acceptability and unacceptability of partner violence and perceptions about likely interventions and sanctions. These objectives will be achieved by analyzing data from telephone interviews with a sample of approximately 1200 respondents selected from six strategically selected sites in New York State (Essex County, Lockport, Syracuse, Utica and surrounding Oneida County, and Yonkers). These sites vary in the extent of their urbanization as well as in their typical responses to domestic violence cases, about which rich and detailed information is already available. In addition, 200 interviews with Latino adults in Yonkers were conducted to determine the perceptions of Latinos regarding domestic violence and criminal justice responses. Dependent variables include definitions of violence as criminal behavior, attitudes toward interventions and responses to domestic violence, and predictions about likely outcomes in the aftermath of spousal assault. Independent variables include demographic characteristics and individual domestic violence experiences, and community level variables (urbanization, model criminal justice practices for addressing domestic violence). Latinos were also asked unique attitudinal questions as well as questions about the unique problems Hispanics may have in addressing domestic violence. The results will contribute to our understanding of social definitions of intimate partner violence and about the assumptions underlying general deterrence theory. In addition, the findings can be used to inform public policy opinion about domestic violence and its amelioration in particular.

Title: **Safety in Intact Families: Interacting Effects of Social Capital and Service Use**

SSW Investigator(s): **Brenda Smith, Lynn Videka**

Collaborators:

***SSW Doctoral
Research Assistant(s):***

***SSW Masters
Research Assistant(s):***

Funding Source: **U.S. Children's Bureau**

Funding Amount: **One part of a larger grant of \$90,500/year, 2 years**

Start/End Date: **October 2003-September 2005**

Project Description:

This study focuses on families remaining intact following a child maltreatment allegation. The study is using the National Survey of Child and Adolescent Well-Being (NSCAW) to test several hypotheses related to how formal services relate to family social support and community social capital, and how, in turn, service use and social capital affect the likelihood of subsequent maltreatment reports and the likelihood of out-of-home placement. We hope the study findings will provide helpful information to practitioners about how formal and informal resources interact, and promote more helpful responses to families under the supervision of the child welfare system.

Title: Schenectady Builds: A Partnership for an Aging Community

SSW Investigator(s): Victoria M. Rizzo

Collaborators: William Koester, Schenectady County Senior & Long Term Care Services;
members of the Schenectady County Long Term Care Consortium

***SSW Doctoral
Research Assistant(s):***

***SSW Masters
Research Assistant(s):***

Funding Source: The Schenectady Foundation

Funding Amount: \$25,000

Start/End Date: February 1, 2005-July 31, 2006

Project Description:

Schenectady Builds is a project of the Schenectady County Long Term Care Consortium. The Partnership is designed to develop a consumer-oriented community readiness plan focused on improving long term care and support service systems that address both the current and future needs of the county's aging population.

Title: **Schizophrenia, Deafness, and Functional Outcome: The Role of Neurorecognition and Social Cognition**

SSW Investigator(s): **Heather K. Horton**

Collaborators:

***SSW Doctoral
Research Assistant(s):***

***SSW Masters
Research Assistant(s):***

Funding Source: **none**

Funding Amount: **none**

Start/End Date: **ongoing**

Project Description:
Dissertation research. Articles currently being written.

Title: Screening and Treatment for Anxiety Disorders in Community Dwelling Older Adults

SSW Investigator(s): Zvi Gellis

Collaborators: Amy Horowitz, Thalia MacMillan, Joanne Reinhardt, Lighthouse International, NYC

**SSW Doctoral
Research Assistant(s):**

**SSW Masters
Research Assistant(s):**

Funding Source: New York State Attorney General's Office

Funding Amount: \$267,000

Start/End Date: 2003-2005

Project Description:

The purpose of this project is to implement a model program to screen and treat symptoms of anxiety among elderly clients (65+ years) at Lighthouse International, New York City, which serves almost 2,700 older adults each year in New York State. The specific aims of the project are to: (1) train 44 clinical staff in anxiety screening; (2) screen all visually-impaired elderly clients for symptoms of anxiety for 7-months following the training period, (3) implement and evaluate using a Randomized Control design the impact of the brief Anxiety Disorders Screening and Intervention Program (ADSIP), which is designed to reduce anxiety symptoms, and to increase the likelihood that elderly clients will receive appropriate mental health follow-up services and, (4) develop a training manual for screening and treating anxiety among elderly persons that can also be used by the aging services network in New York State.

Title: Screening of Late Life Depression in Older Home Health Care Patients: A Pilot Study

SSW Investigator(s): Zvi Gellis

Collaborators: Jean McGinty, L. Tierney, J. Palm, C. Jordan, E. Misener

**SSW Doctoral
Research Assistant(s):**

**SSW Masters
Research Assistant(s):**

Funding Source: John A. Hartford Foundation

Funding Amount:

Start/End Date: 2002-2005

Project Description:

It is estimated that about two million elderly persons nationally suffer from clinical depression and another five million who show symptoms of depression, yet it is an illness that is often under-diagnosed and undertreated (Beekman, Deeg, & Tilburg, 1995). As well, depression in later life has serious health consequences including increased health care costs (Unutzer, Patrick & Simon, 1996), increased mortality related to suicide (Cornwell, 1996), medical illness (Rovner, 1993). and increased disability due to related cognitive disorders (National Institute of Health, 1992). Problem-Solving Therapy (PST: Nezu, Nezu, & Perri, 1989) has been found to be effective with depression in older clients (Gallagher-Thompson et al., 1995) and in health care settings (Hegel, Barrett, & Oxman, 2000; Mynors-Wallis, Gath, Lloyd-Thomas, & Tomlinson, 1995). This study will extend this research by utilizing the Problem Solving Therapy intervention for older home care patients (60 years and older) living in the community and receiving home care services. This study investigates the psychological well-being of home care elderly patients. The proposed study has two objectives: (1) to compare the efficacy of a Problem Solving Therapy (PST) intervention on the level of depressive symptoms among older home health care recipients, to Usual Home Health Care services (UHC); (2) to examine the efficacy of the intervention for decreasing symptoms of depression, and improving patient physical health functioning status.

Title: Sexual Assault Victim-Police Officer Interaction: Implications for Conducting Victim Interviews

SSW Investigator(s): Karen Rich
Bonnie Carlson (Doctoral Chair)
Carolyn Smith, Richard Ovens (Doctoral Committee Members)

Collaborators:

***SSW Doctoral
Research Assistant(s):***

***SSW Masters
Research Assistant(s):***

Funding Source:

Funding Amount:

Start/End Date: January 2003-present

Project Description:

Evaluation of the relative influence of multiple variables on the ability of officers to conduct effective police interviews of sexual assault victims. Factors examined included: officer gender, rank, attitudes about rape, knowledge about rape, sexual assault -related training, personal knowledge of victims and willingness to collaborate with victim advocates. Symbolic Interaction Theory and literature on stigma formed the theoretical underpinnings of the research. A primary hypothesis was that the acceptance of negative stereotypes about victims would exert the most significant impact on interview techniques and would mediate the relationship between officer characteristics and level of interview skill.

Title: **Sexuality Curriculum Project**

SSW Investigator(s): **Philip McCallion**

Collaborators: **DiAnn Baxley**

***SSW Doctoral
Research Assistant(s):***

***SSW Masters
Research Assistant(s):***

Funding Source: **Florida Developmental Disabilities Planning Council**

Funding Amount: **\$100,000**

Start/End Date: **2004-2005**

Project Description:

Development of a training curriculum on sexuality issues for persons with intellectual disabilities.

Title: Social Work Student Attitudes Towards the Elderly: A Longitudinal Study

SSW Investigator(s): Anne E. Fortune, Zvi Gellis, Linda Mertz

Collaborators:

SSW Doctoral

Research Assistant(s): Anna Zendell

SSW Masters

Research Assistant(s):

Funding Source:

Funding Amount:

Start/End Date: Ongoing

Project Description:

The project explores changes in MSW students' attitudes toward older persons. MSW students at the University at Albany complete two instruments measuring attitudes toward older persons in the Fall of their entry year and the Spring of their graduation year. This allows comparison of among cohorts to determine if there are differences over time in those entering or graduating professional education. It also permits a before- and after comparison of changes among the same students during graduate education. The instruments include the Aging Semantic Differential and Palmore's Facts on Aging Quiz-2 Attitudes.

Title: State Responses to the Family Formation Goals of the New Welfare Agenda

SSW Investigator(s): Catherine Lawrence

Collaborators: Tom Gais, Rockefeller Institute

**SSW Doctoral
Research Assistant(s):**

**SSW Masters
Research Assistant(s):**

Funding Source: Kellogg Foundation, Administration for Children and Families

Funding Amount: unknown

Start/End Date: March 1998-September 2004 (with ongoing dissemination)

Project Description:

This study explores if and how states have expanded TANF delivery beyond the single female-headed households traditionally associated with welfare. For example, are states including fathers, couples and extended families in their welfare services? Have they taken on the marriage goals of the Bush administration? And if so, what is the political and fiscal viability of such efforts? A longitudinal study of a purposive sample of 20 states explores state and local TANF implementation. Over five years, field researchers using standard instruments developed a set of multiple case studies. Mixed-method analysis uses grounded theory and qualitative cross-case analysis to assess the nature of state responses. Existing quantitative data on state characteristics provides triangulation in developing a taxonomy of state responses and assessing what might account for patterns in the variation of state choices.

Title: Strategic Planning and Implementation Project for Older Adults in Schenectady County

SSW Investigator(s): Victoria M. Rizzo, Lucy Seigel

Collaborators: Angela Vanker, Prevention Research Center, School of Public Health, University at Albany; Yvette Gebell, Catholic Charities of Schenectady County; members of the Schenectady County Long Term Care Consortium

***SSW Doctoral
Research Assistant(s):***

***SSW Masters
Research Assistant(s):***

Funding Source: United Way of Schenectady County

Funding Amount: \$20,000

Start/End Date: July 1, 2004-June 30, 2005

Project Description:

This community collaborative is organized to develop cost effective systems enhancements leading to improved quality of life for seniors in Schenectady County. The Long Term Care Consortium, acting with the Elder Network of the Capital Region and Catholic Charities of Schenectady County, have joined together to further data analysis and development of functional indicators necessary to measure community need. It is the collaborative's intent to also move the community forward in developing a senior housing inventory in a database/directory that will identify current providers, capacity, and gaps in service.

Title: Study of Mental Health Providers' Awareness and Knowledge of Consumer Operated Mental Health Service

SSW Investigator(s): Eric Hardiman

Collaborators:

***SSW Doctoral
Research Assistant(s):***

***SSW Masters
Research Assistant(s):***

Funding Source: University at Albany

Funding Amount:

Start/End Date: Funding has ended

Project Description:
Ongoing data analysis and article writing.

Title: Substance Abuse Practitioner's Knowledge, Practice Behaviors, and Confidence in the Evaluation of Alcohol Abuse and Depression in Late Life

SSW Investigator(s): Zvi Gellis

Collaborators: J. Kim

***SSW Doctoral
Research Assistant(s):***

***SSW Masters
Research Assistant(s):***

Funding Source: John A. Hartford Foundation

Funding Amount:

Start/End Date: 2003-2005

Project Description:

The prevalence of alcoholism in the older population is estimated between 10% to 18% and it is the second most frequent reason for admitting elders to inpatient psychiatric facilities (Moss, Mortens & Brennan, 1998). There is a lack of alcohol research focused on problems related to alcohol use in older adults (Center for Substance Abuse Treatment, 1998). Because many older adults who drink at risk levels do not meet DSM-IV criteria for alcohol abuse or dependence, alcohol use disorders are least likely to be detected and treated in this population (Adams, Barry, & Fleming, 1996). The purpose of this study was to assess self-reported knowledge and confidence in the evaluation of substance abuse and depression in late life among practicing certified alcohol and substance abuse counselors. Relationships among knowledge and job related variables and predictors of knowledge about substance abuse and geriatric depression were examined.

Title: Substance Abuse Screening, Assessment, and Referral for Mothers Applying for TANF in New York State's Albany and Orange Counties

SSW Investigator(s): Sandra Austin

Collaborators:

SSW Doctoral

Research Assistant(s): Emily Delorenzo, Eleanor Jaffee

SSW Masters

Research Assistant(s):

Funding Source: CWDAIR Center

Funding Amount: \$5,000

Start/End Date: May-November 2005

Project Description:

The purpose of the study is to explore the impact of the substance abuse screening and assessment processes for mothers who have applied for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) benefits in Albany and Orange Counties of New York State. The study will focus on the applicants' views of these processes, and what influences their decisions regarding enrollment in treatment services. A small sample, using qualitative methods, will be used to increase understanding of a phenomenon about which little is currently known: the development of a "behavioral intention" (a concept drawn from the unified theory of behavior) between the time of referral for treatment and the time of a decision regarding entering into treatment. The findings of this study will provide direction for subsequent studies that examine substance abuse treatment choices among low-income women.

Title: Systematic Review and Meta-analysis of Interventions Relevant to Quality of Life for Persons with Intellectual Disabilities and Dementia

SSW Investigator(s): Tara L. Nickle
Dissertation Committee members include: Philip McCallion (Chair), and Anne E. Fortune, University at Albany; Mary McCarron, Trinity College, Dublin

Collaborators:

**SSW Doctoral
Research Assistant(s):**

**SSW Masters
Research Assistant(s):**

Funding Source: John A. Hartford Foundation (Doctoral Fellow in Geriatric Social Work)

Funding Amount: \$50,000 over two years from Hartford, \$20,000 required match over the same timeframe from the University at Albany (in the form of a Research Assistantship at the Center for Excellence in Aging Services). Total budgeted amount=\$70,000.

Start/End Date: May 1, 2005-April 30, 2007

Project Description:

This study aims to synthesize varied intervention literature using systematic review and meta-analysis techniques in order to gain a better understanding of the concept of quality of life for persons with intellectual disabilities and dementia. A combination of electronic and hand search strategies will be used to uncover published and unpublished studies (spanning a 25 year date range) from databases, journals, conferences proceedings, reference lists, and direct contact with authors. Two independent reviewers will carry out study selection, quality assessment, and data abstraction tasks with consensus procedures specified a priori. Analyses will comprise narrative synthesis and fixed/random effects meta-analyses as indicated. Doctoral dissertation research.

Title: Teaching Nursing Home Planning Project

SSW Investigator(s): Philip McCallion

Collaborators: Mathy Mazey, New York University

***SSW Doctoral
Research Assistant(s):***

***SSW Masters
Research Assistant(s):***

Funding Source: Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)

Funding Amount: \$100,000

Start/End Date: 2004-2005

Project Description:

Development and testing of pilot efforts to create Teaching Nursing Homes for the training of nursing and social work students.

Title: Telephone Support Groups for Child and Spouse Caregivers

SSW Investigator(s): Ronald Toseland

Collaborators: Senior Service Center of Albany

***SSW Doctoral
Research Assistant(s):***

***SSW Masters
Research Assistant(s):***

Funding Source: Administration on Aging, Department of Health and Human Services

Funding Amount: \$489,149

Start/End Date: October 1, 2001-January 31, 2005

Project Description:

This intervention tests effectiveness of a telephone support group (TSG) model for spouse and child caregivers of frail elderly care recipients. This randomized partial crossover design study is being tested on NYS residents in an 11-county area. The study has important practice and policy implications because it uses a rigorous design to examine whether telephone groups can be effectively used to reach out to and serve isolated, low income, and minority caregivers that are unable to attend face-to-face support groups. Participants are randomly selected to receive the intervention or to receive usual services, with an opportunity to take part in the intervention after the initial control period. This study represents a unique partnership between a not-for-profit agency, a state university, state and area offices for the aging, elderly service providers and private business. TSG is a multi-component group program that includes emotion focused and problem-focused coping strategies and support. It is implemented in twelve weekly, one hour and fifteen minute telephone group sessions using internet conference calling technology. Results show that the groups are significantly effective, with the stark effectiveness occurring for adult child caregivers.

Title: **Testing the Effectiveness of an Integrated Dual Processing Protocol with Substance Abuse**

SSW Investigator(s): **Holly Matto**

Collaborators:

***SSW Doctoral
Research Assistant(s):***

***SSW Masters
Research Assistant(s):***

Funding Source:

Funding Amount:

Start/End Date: **2004-2005**

Project Description:

This exploratory study examined the effectiveness of a newly developed 12-week manualized dual processing protocol on client emotional regulation capacities in a sample of adult inpatients being treated for substance abuse.

Title: **The Copasetics: African American Women Over 50 Living with AIDS**

SSW Investigator(s): **Robert Miller**

Collaborators:

***SSW Doctoral
Research Assistant(s):***

***SSW Masters
Research Assistant(s):***

Funding Source: **National Institute on Drug Abuse**

Funding Amount: **\$5,137**

Start/End Date: **July 2004-December 2005**

Project Description:

Examines mutual aid support groups and spirituality in African American women over 50 living with AIDS.

Title: **The Effectiveness and Efficiency of the Advanced Illness Coordinated Care Project: A Multi-Region RCT**

SSW Investigator(s): **Victoria M. Rizzo, Ronald Toseland, Kristen Kirkland, Amanda Sisselman**

Collaborators: **Richard Dellapenna, Paul Feigenbaum, Kaiser Permanente; Daniel Tobin, Joseph Engelhardt, Center for Advanced Illness Coordinated Care**

***SSW Doctoral
Research Assistant(s):***

***SSW Masters
Research Assistant(s):***

Funding Source: **Garfield Memorial Foundation**

Funding Amount: **\$624,971**

Start/End Date: **May 1, 2003-April 30, 2006**

Project Description:

The purpose of this randomized, controlled trial is to evaluate the effectiveness and efficiency of the Advanced Illness Coordinated Care Program for a population with one of four advanced illnesses (Cancer, CHF, COPD, and ESRD) in four Kaiser Permanente Health Care System sites. This study will evaluate the impact of the program on (1) improving quality of life; (2) reducing fears about dying; (3) improving pain management; (4) increasing the use of advance directives; (5) improving provider compliance with advance directives; and (6) health care utilization and costs for patients with these illnesses.

Title: **The Evaluation of New York State's Advantage After-School Program**

SSW Investigator(s): **Christopher Spera**

Collaborators:

***SSW Doctoral
Research Assistant(s):***

***SSW Masters
Research Assistant(s):***

Funding Source: **Intend to submit LOI to Anne E. Casey**

Funding Amount:

Start/End Date: **September 1, 2005-September 30, 2008**

Project Description:

The project will consist of a longitudinal outcome evaluation of a random sample of approximately 2,400 youth who will participate in New York's Advantage After-School Program. The objectives of the evaluation are to: 1) identify the program components that are essential to quality after-school programs, and; 2) to examine the extent to which the program increases youth's academic and social development, maximizes perceptions of community safety, and reduces negative youth behaviors.

Title: **The Evaluation of Two Intervention Approached for Elementary Students At-Risk of School Failure**

SSW Investigator(s): **Julie Burton, Julie Magnano**

Collaborators:

Funding Source:

Funding Amount:

Start/End Date:

Project Description:

This study compares the task-centered case management model, a collaborative intervention approach with a school counseling model, which is more an individual intervention model. Results presented at the International Practice Research Symposium in June 2005. Doctoral dissertation research.

Title: **The Exploration of Relationship Characteristics Between Parents and Their Child Welfare Caseworkers**

SSW Investigator(s): **Julie Burton**

Collaborators:

Funding Source:

Funding Amount:

Start/End Date:

Project Description:

This is a case study of a parent who has been identified with behavior patterns of chronic neglect and the caseworker whom the family was involved with over a 12-year period. Doctoral dissertation research.

Title: **The Impact of Parent Structure, Status and Stability on Children's Well-Being**

SSW Investigator(s): **Catherine Lawrence**

Collaborators: **Sara Wright, Lynn Videka, Brenda Smith, Eunju Lee**

***SSW Doctoral
Research Assistant(s):***

***SSW Masters
Research Assistant(s):***

Funding Source:

Funding Amount:

Start/End Date:

Project Description:

This study addresses the impact of family structure, status and stability on child well-being in a population of children at particular risk of child abuse: children in families with a report of child abuse or neglect. The study explores if two-parent families offer greater stability and protective factors than solo parent families. The study also addresses the impact of marital status on well-being, as current research does not always distinguish between two-parent families that are married and two-parent families in which the adults co-habit. The study employs secondary data analysis of a sub-sample (N=2,376) of the National Survey of Child and Adolescent Well-Being (NSCAW), a nationally representative longitudinal probability sample of children known to state Child Protective Services.

Title: **The Psychotherapeutic Use of Imaginal Dialogue**

SSW Investigator(s): **Jenny Dillman Marks**

Collaborators:

Funding Source:

Funding Amount:

Start/End Date:

Project Description:

This is a qualitative study, using constructivist grounded theory methodology. Psychotherapists who make extensive use of imaginal dialogue in their practice in order to learn how they make sense of why and how imaginal dialogue benefits psychotherapy will be interviewed. Doctoral dissertation research.

Title: The Quality of Life of the Korean-American Older Population in New York City

SSW Investigator(s): Fran Yong

Collaborators: Rie, J.I., Department of Psychology, Hallym University, South Korea; Lee, J.M., Department of Speech and Hearing Science, Graduate Center of CUNY; Cheong, J.W., Department of Psychology, University at Albany

Funding Source: Korea Research Foundation, South Korea

Funding Amount:

Start/End Date: September 2003-present

Project Description:

This longitudinal study is 1) to examine the psychological characteristics and health and social service needs of the Korean-American older population in NYC. The study is conducted with 275 Korean-American older people over age 45 in New York City, using in-person interviews. Doctoral dissertation research.

Title: **The Role of Social Workers in NGOs**

SSW Investigator(s): **Nancy Claiborne**

Collaborators:

***SSW Doctoral
Research Assistant(s):***

***SSW Masters
Research Assistant(s):***

Funding Source:

Funding Amount:

Start/End Date: **2005-current**

Project Description:

This study explores the education, work experience promotion opportunities for social workers in Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs).

Title: The Role of Unit, Leader, and Community Support in Predicting Family Well-Being at Different Levels of Deployment Stress

SSW Investigator(s): Christopher Spera

Collaborators: James Martin, Bryn Mawr School of Social Work; James Whitworth, Office of Family Advocacy, United States Air Force; Bradford Booth, Caliber Associates; David Rohall, Department of Sociology, Western Illinois University

**SSW Doctoral
Research Assistant(s):**

**SSW Masters
Research Assistant(s):**

Funding Source: Pending (Air Force, Office of Family Advocacy)

Funding Amount:

Start/End Date: January 1, 2005-December 31, 2005

Project Description:

Over the last several years America's Armed Forces have experienced a dramatic increase in deployments and associated family separations. Researchers have found that service members' well-being and ability to cope during deployment is related to factors like deployment history, unit cohesion, and quality of leadership (e.g., Dolan et al., 2001), as well as the nature and strength of the larger community (see Bowen, Martin, Mancini, & Nelson, 2000). Researchers have also found that the family's well-being and ability to cope during deployment separations is related to length of marriage, pre-deployment preparedness, time away from work, and employer support (e.g., Spera & Jones, 2004). Building on this body of literature, the current study examines the role of support from unit members, military leaders, and community members in predicting family well-being in a sample of 8,754 married enlisted Air Force members with children. Specifically, we examine a model that addresses the extent to which support from unit members, military leaders, and their own community members facilitate family well-being at different levels of deployment stress (low, mid, and high levels of stress). The extent to which these three levels of social support can be leveraged to moderate and/or buffer the challenges of deployment stress on the enlisted military family is discussed.

Title: Therapeutic Process for Clients with Dual Disorders in a Psychiatric Emergency Room

SSW Investigator(s): Barry Loneck, Maureen Didier

Collaborators: Bruce Way, Steven Banks, Ernest Bonaparte

SSW Doctoral

Research Assistant(s): Michael McEvoy, Nancy Brown, Stanley Coffman

SSW Masters

Research Assistant(s): Anne Guarino, Christine Fiechter, Elizabeth Zalinger, Joseph Guada

Funding Source: (previously) National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors/Research Institute Public/Academic Liaison Fellowship

Funding Amount:

Start/End Date: 1991-current

Project Description:

The purpose of this study is to examine the relationship between therapeutic process and referral outcome for clients with dual disorders of substance abuse and mental illness in a psychiatric emergency room. It was hypothesized that therapeutic process is related to outcome. The research site was King's County Crisis Intervention Center (KCCIC) in Brooklyn, New York. In this program, clients with dual disorders who are in crisis, but not in need of psychiatric hospitalization, are assessed and referred to services in the community. Sessions were audiotaped and transcribed and evaluated by three teams of raters; one examined the speech act of clients, the second examined the speech acts of clinicians, and the third assessed the working alliance between clients and clinicians. Initial analysis indicated a relationship between working alliance and referral outcome. Analysis of speech act data is underway.

Title: Treatment for Depression and Anxiety in Medically Ill Homecare Elderly: A Randomized Control Trial

SSW Investigator(s): Zvi Gellis

Collaborators: Martha Bruce, Weill Medical College, Institute of Geriatric Psychiatry of Cornell University; Amy Horowitz, Lighthouse International, NYC; Art Nezu, Drexel University; Mark Hegel, Dartmouth Medical College; Steven Banks, University of Massachusetts Medical School; James Jaccard, Florida International University; Adrian Morris; Michael Wolff, Albany Medical College

**SSW Doctoral
Research Assistant(s):**

**SSW Masters
Research Assistant(s):**

Funding Source: National Institute of Mental Health

Funding Amount: \$1,009,684

Start/End Date: 2005-2010

Project Description:

The 5-year K01 grant is an NIMH Award specifically designed to test the effectiveness of an evidence-based clinical intervention (Problem-Solving Treatment) with medically ill older adults who are receiving home health care services. This work has emerged from Dr. Gellis' preliminary research study, funded by the John A. Hartford Foundation, to develop a geriatric depression screening system in a certified home health care agency at St. Peter's Hospital and Health Care agency in Albany, New York.

Title: Vitamin E Multi-Site Trial for Persons with Down Syndrome-Albany Site

SSW Investigator(s): Philip McCallion, Arthur Dalton

Collaborators: Daniel Silverman, Center for the Disabled, Albany, New York

SSW Doctoral

Research Assistant(s): Anna Zendell

SSW Masters

Research Assistant(s):

Funding Source: National Institutes of Health

Funding Amount: \$151,000

Start/End Date: 2002-2005

Project Description:

Site for multi-site/multinational trial of Vitamin E as a protective agent likely to reduce incidence of onset of dementia in persons with Down Syndrome.

Title: Workforce Retention Study

SSW Investigator(s): Mary McCarthy

Collaborators: Nancy Claiborne, Hal Lawson

SSW Doctoral

Research Assistant(s): Jessica Strolin, Jim Caringi, Jeehoon Kim

SSW Masters

Research Assistant(s):

Funding Source: New York State Office of Children and Family Services

Funding Amount: \$75,000

Start/End Date: January 1, 2005-December 31, 2005

Project Description:

Second survey of counties participating in workforce retention survey in 2001. Preparation of compendium of our work over the past 5 years on child welfare workforce retention. Hal Lawson and Nancy Claiborne will edit.