

The focus of the CWDAIR Research Center is 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.

CWDAIR specifically aims 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.

Ultimately, the CWDAIR Research Center expects to improve services for vulnerable families and children in the child welfare system, especially those affected by substance abuse and HIV/AIDS, by reducing the likelihood of inter-generational continuance of the difficulties experienced by families due to the multiplicity of these interrelated issues.



*CWDAIR
Faculty, Staff,
Students*

Conceptual Framework

CWDAIR utilizes the Unified Theory of Behavior (UTB) developed by Dr. James Jaccard. This theory integrates several evidence-based theories and can be applied to individuals in organizational roles, as well as in stressed families. According to UTB, an individual's behavior is influenced by several key factors, including habit, knowledge and skills, environmental constraints, salience to the person, and intention. Intention to act in a particular way is also affected by a number of factors that include attitude, self-concept, self-efficacy, normative influences, and expectations.

Because the problems of substance abuse and HIV/AIDS within child welfare occur within a larger systemic context, UTB has been extended by Center co-director Dr. Carolyn Smith and Dr. Jaccard to acknowledge these critical influences. All research projects supported by CWDAIR utilize some aspect of this conceptual framework.



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Pilot Projects (continued on page 10)

A Relational Intervention Sequence for Engagement. (B. Loneck, Principal Investigator). This study will investigate the therapeutic processes that underlie a parent's decision to enter substance abuse treatment. In the child welfare system, engaging parents with substance use disorders in treatment is a critical issue because they are often resistant to such help. In severe cases of child abuse and neglect, children are removed from their homes and placed in foster care; increasingly, placements are with other family members, typically a grandparent. While children fare better in kinship care, it can be very burdensome for grandparent caregivers. Thus, grandparents are in need of help to motivate their substance abusing adult children to enter treatment and resume their parental responsibilities. In the field of substance abuse, A Relational Intervention Sequence for Engagement (ARISE) is very effective at engaging those with substance use disorders in treatment. ARISE is a therapeutic technique in which a clinician assists family members with engaging their resistant substance abusers in treatment. This project will examine the therapeutic processes in ARISE in an effort to tailor it for this unique population.

The Impact of Screening and Assessment in Substance Abuse Services. (S. Austin, Principal Investigator). The study will examine how the screening and assessment process implemented by one New York State County's Department of Social Services impacts the behavior of TANF mothers with regard to enrolling in substance abuse services.

Pilot Projects *(continued from page 9)*

Inter-Agency Collaborative Relationships and Effective Treatment Services for Child Welfare Clients. (B. Smith, Principal Investigator). This pilot project is developing and testing methods to assess collaboration between child welfare agencies and substance abuse treatment providers. Data from this pilot will advance understanding of factors that promote the formation of collaborative relationships in child welfare and substance abuse treatment, leading to a larger study that will scan for the existence and nature of collaboration activities.

Predictors of Drug Relapse in HIV-infected Women: An Exploration of the Unified Theory of Behavior. (B. Carlson, Principal Investigator). This study is an application of the UTB model as a predictor of relapse following drug treatment in HIV-positive mothers. Investigators are developing measures of parent-child relationships, and the experiences of HIV-positive mothers with the child welfare system, in order to undertake a larger longitudinal study of predictors of relapse. This will inform an intervention model for at-risk women.

The Copasetics: African American Women Over 50 Living AIDS in New York City (R. L. Miller, Jr., Principal Investigator). African American women over fifty living with AIDS must contend with many medical, emotional and psychosocial challenges. However, no dedicated psychosocial support group services have been documented or evaluated for African American women over 50 living with AIDS. A group of such women recognized this gap in service and created a collective response including the support group they named "The Copasetics." Utilizing qualitative methods, this pilot study will examine their lives and begin to document the evolution of their organization.

A Bio-Behavioral Model of Addiction Treatment. (H. Matto, Principal Investigator). Stress vulnerability and its relationship to drug addiction has gained significant attention from substance abuse experts in the biological sciences. Emerging from this current research is the call to develop and empirically examine diverse treatment methods that are capable of responding to the ways in which information is processed in the body for chronic substance-dependent persons. The study is of a new biobehavioral approach to substance abuse treatment that attends to these multiple learning needs through an integrated sensory-linguistic model. Specifically, this pilot trial uses a randomized design to examine whether integrated sensory-linguistic treatment is more effective at improving patient self-regulation capacities as compared to cognitive-behavioral therapy alone.

A Culturally Sensitive Psycho-educational Group Work Intervention for Black Mothers Recovering from Substance Abuse. (L. Jones, Principal Investigator). This study intends to examine the effectiveness of a culturally specific group work intervention aimed at increasing Black women's self-attitudes (beliefs & expectations, mastery, self-efficacy and self-concept) in an effort to decrease depressive symptoms and strengthen participants' behavioral intention to remain drug free. The current study investigates the use of a group treatment model within a drug abusing and a non-drug abusing population of Black mothers.

Measuring and Predicting Prescription Drug Misuse Among Grandparent Caregivers (P. McCallion, Principal Investigator). Society increasingly relies upon grandparent caregivers to assume responsibility in situations where children would otherwise be accepted into foster care. Concerns are expressed both about the health of some of these grandparents and of their attention to their own health care needs after assuming this responsibility. This pilot study is gathering data on health conditions, responsibilities, available supports and the use of prescription medications for sixty grandparent primary caregivers participating in an existing support program.

Seminar Series

A very successful seminar series is already underway. Speakers to date have included Jim Jaccard, Ph.D., Guthrie Borkhead, M.D., Steve Banks, Ph.D., Robert Pruzak, Ph.D., and Barry Loneck, Ph.D. Topics have included HIV/AIDS epidemiology, techniques and issues in survival analysis, small sample methods, the Unified Theory of Behavior and substance abuse treatment processes. Upcoming seminars are open to local professionals and the public as well as to faculty and doctoral students throughout the University at Albany.

January 26, 2005	Children's Mental Health	Kimberly Hoagwood, Ph.D. NYS Office of Mental Health
February 9, 2005	Prevention Approaches for High Risk Children	Vincent Guilamo-Ramos, Ph.D. Columbia University Jim Jaccard, Ph.D. Florida International University
February 23, 2005	Using the Unified Theory Of Behavior in a Study of Agency Collaboration	Brenda Smith, Ph.D. University at Albany
March 9, 2005	Women with Co-occurring Mental Health and Substance Use Concerns	David Biegel, Ph.D. Case Western Reserve University
March 30, 2005	How Criminalizing Drug Use Impacts Juvenile Justice and Child Welfare Systems	Martin Iguchi, Ph.D. UCLA UCLA
April 13, 2005	Culturally Grounded Substance Abuse Prevention: A randomized Trial	Flavio Marsiglia, Ph.D. Arizona State University

The seminar series is also incorporated into formal coursework for doctoral students interested in research addressing child welfare, drug abuse and HIV/AIDS issues. Persons interested in finding out more about CWDAIR should visit the Center's website at <http://www.albany.edu/cwdair>. Those interested in applying to the doctoral program at the School of Social Welfare should visit <http://www.albany.edu/ssw/academic/phd-tour/apply.html>.

Save the Date!

International Social Work Practice Research Symposium
University at Albany School of Social Welfare
June 1-2, 2005

For information, please visit our website at www.albany.edu/ssw/Research_Symposium or contact Lisa Ferretti by email at lferretti@albany.edu

International Social Work Practice Research Symposium

The Child Welfare Drug Abuse and Intergenerational Risk Research Center (CWDAIR) is sponsoring a special plenary lecture and drug abuse and child welfare presentation tracks at the University at Albany School of Social Welfare's International Practice Research Symposium being held June 1-2, 2005. The Symposium, to honor the legacy of William J. Reid and to help stimulate high quality practice research in social work, will feature 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 selected areas.

The CWDAIR Plenary: The Research Base for Prevention Science will be held on June 2nd and will feature a presenta-

tion by Richard F. Catalano, Ph. D., Professor and Director of the Social Research Development Group at the University of Washington's School of Social Work in Seattle, Washington. Dr. Catalano received his bachelor's degree in Sociology from the University of Wisconsin, and his masters and Ph.D. in Sociology from the University of Washington. For over 25 years, he has led research and program development to promote positive youth development and prevent problem behavior. His work has focused on discovering risk and protective factors for positive and problem behavior, and designing and evaluating programs to address these factors. Dr. Catalano is the recipient of the 1996 National Prevention Network's Award of Excellence, the 2001 Prevention Science Award from the Society for

Prevention Research, and the 2003 Paul Tappan Award from the Western Society of Criminology. He is the co-developer of the Social Development Strategy and of several parenting programs including: "Preparing for the Drug-Free Years," "Preparing for School Success," and "Parents Who Care." In addition, Dr. Catalano has developed the school-based program, "Skills, Opportunities, and Recognition (SOAR)," and the community prevention approach, "Communities That Care," all of which are designed to enhance positive youth development and prevent problem behavior.

The University at Albany School of Social Welfare faculty and community are honored to have Dr. Catalano as the featured speaker of the CWDAIR Plenary Session.

Speakers in the Child Welfare and Drug Abuse Presentation Tracks

School Based Research

M. Fraser, M. Galinski, P. Smokowski & S. Day: Outcomes from a quasi-experimental study of the effectiveness of school-based social skills training.

M. Fraser & S. Guo: A propensity score approach to the analysis of quasi-experimental data.

J. Burton, J. Magnano & M. Lee: Task-centered and school counseling approaches for elementary students.

Intervention Research

S. Stern: Dissemination of an evidence-based parenting program: Understanding treatment adherence.

J. Cooper Altman: A study of engagement in neighborhood-based child welfare services.

J. Caspi: An empirically developed model for treatment of sibling aggression.

Toward Micro and Macro

Interventions for Substance Abuse

D. DiNitto: The trials of clinical trials: Studying and integrated treatment for substance dependence and serious mental illness.

H. Matto: Empirical evaluation of an integrated dual processing protocol for substance abuse.

B. Smith: Inter-agency collaboration: policy and practice in child welfare and substance abuse.

Characteristics of and Interventions for Populations at Risk

V. Guilamo-Ramos: Parent-based approaches to reducing adolescent risk behavior.

L. Videka, E. Lee & R. Green: Collocation of substance abuse counselors in child protective services.

Therapeutic Interventions and Processes

A. Gonzalez-Prendes: A Study of the effects of anger-control group counseling on attributional styles and levels of trait anger in women recovering from alcohol and/or drug addiction.

B. Loneck: Speech acts and working alliance: Therapeutic process for clients with dual disorders in a psychiatric emergency room.

Community and Organizational Culture

K. Earle-Fox: Culturally competent research: An American Indian/Alaska Native methodology.

E. Lee, N. Esaki, R. Greene & M. Chen: Worker empowerment: A buffer for worker burnout in a child maltreatment prevention program.

J. Caringi, H. Lawson, J. Strolin & M. Sinclair: Child welfare design teams as intervention for systems change and training.