

Learning Experiences to Advance Practice (LEAP) Program

**Celebrating the Investigators and Scholars
Participants from 2019-2024**

June, 2024

About JCOIN

The Justice Community Opioid Innovation Network (JCOIN) facilitates the collaboration between investigators and criminal legal system and behavioral-health partners to study and disseminate evidence-based research on treatment and best practices to improve care given to individuals with opioid use disorder (OUD) in criminal legal system settings.

Led by the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA), and funded through the National Institutes of Health's (NIH) Helping to End Addiction Long-term® Initiative, or NIH HEAL Initiative®. JCOIN is a groundbreaking initiative designed to advance scientific knowledge on effective policies, practices, and interventions, and expand their use into daily practice within health and the criminal legal system.

JCOIN includes 13 clinical research centers ("Research Hub") and two resource centers that conduct complementary studies and provide supportive infrastructure: the Coordination and Translation Center (CTC) and the Methodology and Advanced Analytics Resource Center (MAARC). Together, these centers engage criminal legal system practitioners and treatment providers in research studies to address the opioid crisis and disseminate findings to stakeholders across the country.

Each study involves researchers working with the criminal legal system and health stakeholders within five or more communities to address gaps in opioid use disorder treatment and related services in a wide range of criminal legal system settings, including jails, prisons, community corrections, problem-solving courts, and juvenile justice agencies. The studies will evaluate behavioral interventions, digital therapeutics, comprehensive patient-centered treatments, and delivery of medications for opioid use disorder (MOUD) throughout the United States.



Table of Contents

About the LEAP Program	5
LEAP Investigators	6
Cohort 1, 2020-2021	7
Cohort 2, 2021-2022	13
Cohort 3, 2022-2023	24
LEAP Scholars	35
Cohort 1, 2020-2021	36
Cohort 2, 2021-2022	47
Cohort 3, 2022-2023	64
Cohort 4, 2023-2024	85
LEAP Faculty	107

About the LEAP Program

Learning Experiences to Advance Practice (LEAP) is a multifaceted program designed to educate any interested individual about the nuances of conducting research in health and criminal legal settings. The program is led by the Coordination and Translation Center (CTC), a large resource center part of the by the Justice Community Opioid Innovation Network's (JCOIN), an initiative administered by the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) and funded through the National Institutes of Health's Helping to End Addiction Long-term Initiative, or NIH HEAL Initiative.

In 2020, the CTC launched the LEAP education with two tracks: a 2-year Investigator Track and a 1-year Scholar Track. The program to support investigators and scholars with training and knowledge to conduct research and build research capacity within the criminal legal system and health settings. LEAP offers research education, mentoring, and networking, and other resources that will benefit practitioners in the areas of justice, treatment, and health, as well as scientists, researchers, journalists, and community members.

The program aims to advance the capacity and diversity of high impact research for populations involved with the health and criminal justice systems through specialized training and skill-development curriculums. Specifically, the goals of the program are to:

- » Grow the research workforce with the knowledge and skills needed to conduct ethical, rigorous research including partnering with justice and health agencies to conduct rigorous studies, recruitment and enrollment of subjects, use of informed consents, and problem solving in a variety of health, community, and justice settings.
- » Enlist an array of community, health, and justice leaders to value and implement research findings in practice and to engage in collaborative research teams on the conduct of research.
- » Motivate these learners to champion completion of research projects and fidelity of planned projects given the challenges of day-to-day operations.
- » Expand and/ or develop a pipeline of independent criminal justice and health researchers for the field that can work in multidisciplinary teams

Over the past four years there have been three LEAP Investigator cohorts, with 24 participants, and four LEAP Scholar cohorts with 67 participants. The following highlights these individuals and their contributions to the fields.

LEAP Investigators

The LEAP Investigator track was designed for individuals interested in a career as an independent investigator and focused on a project to be designed and carried out over two years. This track emphasized research proposal writing, grant management, mentorship, and advanced research skills needed to be successful in criminal justice settings.

A total of 24 individuals participated in three cohorts of the LEAP Investigators program.

Cohort 1, 2020-2021	Cohort 2, 2021-2022	Cohort 3, 2022-2023
Matthew Akiyama Kathryn M. Nowotny Peter Treitler Sarah Helseth Taleed El-Sabawi	Grant Victor Lisa Ingarfield Kelsey Jayne Pascoe Meghan Novisky Barbara “Basia” Andraka-Chris-tou Glorimar Caraballo-Correa Esther Matthews Joshua Kirven Tess Drazdowski	Brandon del Pozo Justin Berk Katherine Kelton Linsey Belise Minerva Francis Mollee Steely Smith Morgan Farnworth Odell Johnson Stephanie Grace Prost Tasha Perdue

LEAP
Investigators
Cohort 1
2020-2021



✉ makiyama@montefiore.org

MATTHEW AKIYAMA

Matthew Akiyama, MD, MSc, is an Associate Professor of Medicine and Physician-Investigator at Albert Einstein College of Medicine / Montefiore Medical Center. In addition to providing care and treatment to people living with HIV, HCV, and substance use disorders, Dr. Akiyama conducts research focusing on HCV among socioeconomically marginalized populations with an emphasis on the intersection of HCV in the criminal justice system. Dr. Akiyama is the recipient of a K 99 / R 00 award from the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) to develop and test an innovative strategy to improve linkage to and retention in HCV treatment among individuals recently released from jail.

He is the recipient of additional NIH and institutional funding focused on HCV Transmission Networks Among People Who Inject Drugs in the Bronx, New York, and Kenya, East Africa. Dr. Akiyama is also active in policy and advocacy as a member of the New York State Governor's Hepatitis C Elimination Task Force and the Medical Director of the Hepatitis C Mentor and Support Group. Dr. Akiyama completed his Infectious Diseases Fellowship at New York University/ Bellevue Hospital Center and a Master of Science in Medical Anthropology at University College London in London, England.

EDUCATION

- » **St. George's University | Grenada, West Indies**
Doctor of Medicine (MD), 2010
- » **Harvard University School of Public Health | Cambridge, MA**
Certificate in Global Health Effectiveness, 2009
- » **University College London | London, England**
Master of Science (MS) in Medical Anthropology, 2006
- » **McGill University | Montreal, Quebec**
Bachelor of Science (BS) in Microbiology & Immunology Social Studies of Medicine, 2004



☎ 305-284-6154

✉ Kathryn.Nowotny@Miami.edu

KATHRYN M. NOWOTNY

Kathryn M. Nowotny, PhD, is an Associate Professor at the University of Miami Department of Sociology. Her research uses both quantitative and qualitative methods to examine the multilevel factors that create an increased risk for poor health among justice-involved people. Dr. Nowotny is currently a Site-Principal Investigator and Co-Investigator of a multi-site longitudinal cohort study examining barriers to pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) for HIV prevention among individuals under community supervision in the South (NC, FL, KY).

She is also the Principal Investigator of a Center for HIV and Research in Mental Health (CHARM) funded project exploring the syndemic pathways to suboptimal care for justice-involved patients living with HIV, and Co-Investigator of a binational study investigating how the migration process influences health, including experiences with immigration enforcement and confinement to detention centers.

EDUCATION

- » **University of Colorado Boulder | Boulder, CO**
PhD in Sociology, Chancellor's Fellow, 2016
- » **University of Colorado Boulder | Boulder, CO**
Graduate Certificate in Demography, 2016
- » **University of Houston | Houston, TX**
Master of Arts (MA) in Sociology, 2008
- » **University of Houston | Houston, TX**
Bachelor of Arts (BA) in Sociology & Anthropology, Summa Cum Laude, 2006



617-353-4083
treitler@bu.edu

PETER TREITLER

Peter Treitler is an Assistant Professor at the Boston University School of Social Work. His research aims to improve the well-being of people with substance use disorders and inform more effective solutions to the nation's critical substance use challenges. His work examines the implementation and outcomes of health services for people with substance use disorders and how federal, state, and payer policies shape their treatment and recovery experiences. With the goal of improving treatment across the health system, Treitler studies interventions that engage individuals in correctional facilities, emergency departments, and primary care clinics, as well as the policies that support implementation in these settings. Treitler's research uses mixed-methods, combining analyses of large administrative datasets such as Medicare and Medicaid claims with qualitative perspectives from service users, providers, and policymakers.

CURRENT AFFILIATION

- » **Boston University School of Social Work**

EDUCATION

- » **Rutgers University | New Brunswick, NJ**
PhD in Social Work, 2021
- » **Rutgers University | New Brunswick, NJ**
Master of Social Worker (MSW) in Addiction Prevention and Treatment, 2015
- » **The College of New Jersey | Ewing Township, NJ**
Bachelor of Science (BS) in Biology, 2010



sarah.helseth@northwestern.edu

SARAH HELSETH

Dr. Helseth is a health services researcher and licensed clinical psychologist. Her research aims to reduce the impact of behavioral health problems by developing and disseminating effective behavioral and technology-based interventions. She is an Assistant Professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences and a core faculty member of the Center for Dissemination and Implementation Science (CDIS).

CURRENT AFFILIATION

- » **Center for Dissemination and Implementation Science, Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine**

EDUCATION

- » **Center for Alcohol and Addiction Studies at Brown University | Providence, RI**
Postdoctoral Fellow, 2020
- » **Florida International University | Miami, FL**
PhD in Clinical Science of Child and Adolescent Psychology, 2017
- » **Medical University of South Carolina | Charleston, SC**
Clinical Residency Child Track, 2017
- » **Case Western Reserve University | Cleveland, OH**
Bachelor of Arts (BA) in Psychology & French, 2008



 Telsabawi@elon.edu

TALEED EL-SABAWI

Dr. El-Sabawi is an interdisciplinary scholar with a JD and a PhD in Public Health, Health Services Management, and Policy with a doctoral cognate in Political Science. She specializes in using qualitative and quantitative methods to analyze texts, including congressional hearing testimony, regulations, legislation, news media, political speeches, and interview transcripts. Her area of expertise is in addiction (harm reduction) and mental health policy, politics, and law. Dr. El-Sabawi has studied and written extensively on the [narrative discourse](#) surrounding opioid overdose deaths; [federal administrative regulation of potentially habit-forming substances](#); and [health insurance parity](#). Recently, Dr. El-Sabawi co-authored a [model law that creates non-police behavioral health crisis response teams](#) and has contributed to model laws commissioned by the Office of National Drug Control Policy.

Dr. El-Sabawi has provided technical assistance to federal, state, and local policymakers on the adoption of evidence-based policy to address behavioral health issues. She is a member of the advisory circle of the [North Carolina Urban Survivors Union](#), a chapter of the Urban Survivors Union, on the Board of Directors for [Next Distro](#), and frequently works alongside harm reduction activists and persons who use drugs advocating for policy reform.

EDUCATION

- » **The Ohio State University | Columbus, OH**
PhD in Public Health, Health Services Management and Policy
Cognate (Minor) in Political Science Quantitative Methods
Interdisciplinary Specialization, 2019
- » **The Ohio State University | Columbus, OH**
Master of Science (MS) in Public Health, 2018
- » **The University of Texas School of Law | Austin, TX**
Juris Doctor (JD), 2009
- » **University of Southern California | Los Angeles, CA**
Bachelor of Arts (BA) in Psychology, 2006

LEAP

Investigators

Cohort 2

2021-2022



401-863-6489

Angela_Steven@brown.edu

ANGELA STEVENS

Angela Stevens, PhD, MPH, is a clinical psychologist and a postdoctoral research fellow at the Brown University Center for Alcohol and Addiction Studies. She pursues her line of research using both qualitative and quantitative methods, with the latter leveraging ecological momentary assessment (EMA) and advanced multilevel modeling.

Dr. Stevens is an expert in alcohol and cannabis co-use behavior, and this expertise has spearheaded her current focus on understudied alcohol/ drug and drug/ drug combinations that are potentially lethal when co-ingested (e.g., alcohol and opioids, alcohol and benzodiazepines). Given research using EMA to understand these particular drug combinations is in its nascent stages, she is currently focused on better understanding this phenomenon using qualitative interviews, which will guide a subsequent study designed to test etiological risk factors and consequences of high-risk simultaneous polysubstance use in daily life.

Through the JCOIN LEAP Investigator program, she conducted similar research with justice-involved individuals post-release, which is a particularly vulnerable time for overdose.

EDUCATION

- » **Brown University, Alpert Medical School | Providence, RI**
Clinical Psychology Training Consortium, 2019
- » **Texas Tech University | Lubbock, TX**
PhD in Clinical Psychology, 2019
- » **Texas Tech University | Lubbock, TX**
Doctoral Certificate in Psychological Methods and Analysis, 2019
- » **University of Alabama at Birmingham | Birmingham, AL**
Master of Public Health (MPH) in Health Behavior, 2012
- » **Birmingham-Southern College | Birmingham, AL**
Bachelor of Science (BS) in Honors Biology-Psychology, 2011



937-416-1882

grantvictor@wayne.edu

GRANT VICTOR

Grant Victor, MSW PhD, utilizes both qualitative and quantitative methods in his research to assess system- and individual-level factors that increase the risk of poor health outcomes (e.g., overdose) and criminal/ legal outcomes (e.g., arrest & recidivism). These methodological approaches include the linking of administrative data from EMS, county jails, toxicology, and vital records to examine the impact of jail on community behavioral health.

Pursuant to the goal of meaningfully involving community stakeholders in all stages of the research process, he collaborates with community-based organizations to align his research with the community's priorities. Through support from foundational and state funding mechanisms, Grant is involved with several community-based research initiatives with county- and state-level stakeholders across multiple systems, including harm reduction agencies, courts, police, community mental health agencies, jail staff, and medical providers, among others.

To date, much of this work has concentrated on how individuals' encounters with the criminal/ legal system and medication therapies moderate the risk of fatal and non-fatal overdose events. Grant has also evaluated the role of peer recovery support as part of the community re-entry planning for justice-involved individuals.

CURRENT AFFILIATION

- » **Assistant Professor at Rutgers University School of Social Work**

EDUCATION

- » **University of Kentucky | Lexington, KY**
PhD in Social Work, 2019
- » **University of Kentucky | Lexington, KY**
Master of Social Work (MSW), 2013
- » **Wright State University | Greene County, OH**
Bachelor of Science (BS) in Psychology, 2011



970-219-759

lisa@deficonsulting.org

LISA INGARFIELD

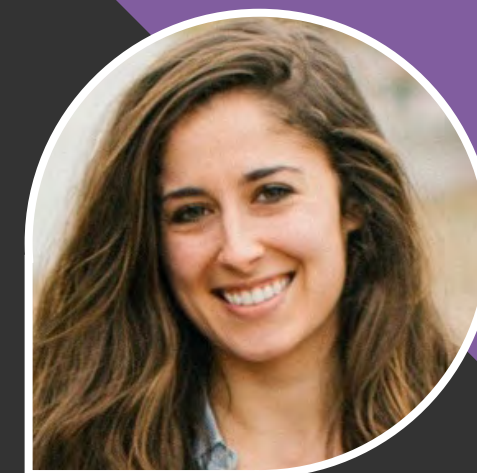
Lisa Ingarfield, PhD (she/her), has over 17 years of experience in sexual assault response and prevention in Colorado, working in higher education and state government. She earned her PhD in Communication Studies (Critical Intercultural Communication) from the University of Denver in 2014. Her research focused on sexual violence victim advocacy and the manifestation of bias in advocacy relationships.

Dr. Ingarfield has since begun to focus on the intersection of health and criminal justice for sexual assault survivors, particularly their access to Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner programs. She is currently the principal investigator on two federal research and evaluation grants focusing on sexual assault response. The first evaluates the efficacy of forensic compliance laws to identify gaps and opportunities for stakeholders to better ensure survivors of sexual assault understand their reporting options and have ready access to medical forensic exams. The second project is an evaluation of an innovative policing solution to address sexual violence – a cross-jurisdictional sexual assault task force with embedded victim services and community collaboration.

Dr. Ingarfield also teaches part-time at the University of Denver's Graduate School of Social Work.

EDUCATION

- » **University of Denver | Denver, CO**
PhD in Communication Studies, 2014
- » **Colorado State University | Fort Collins, CO**
Master of Science in Higher Education (MSEd), 2005
- » **University of Sussex, U.K. | Brighton, UK**
Master of Arts (MA) in American History, 2001
- » **University of Sussex, U.K. | Brighton, UK**
Bachelor of Arts (BA) Politics with North American Studies, 1999



509-570-6312

kelsey.pascoe@wsu.edu

KELSEY JAYNE PASCOE

Kelsey Pascoe, PhD, RN, is an Assistant Professor of Nursing at Washington State University and a Registered Nurse at Seattle Cancer Care Alliance. Dr. Pascoe conducts research focusing on the impacts of incarceration on individuals and partners or families. Previously, she conducted research inside prisons, focusing on increasing self-efficacy in the management of symptoms of chronic diseases or health promotion. Additionally, she conducted a study at a jail focused on understanding the barriers to accessing primary care immediately following jail release and offering a warm hand-off intervention in hopes of overcoming some of those barriers.

Currently, Dr. Pascoe is seeking funding for a similar project focused on improving access to perinatal care for pregnant women being released from jail in a few counties in Washington State. Her goal is to understand the impacts of incarceration on the pregnancy experience and to identify the impact that early enrollment in prenatal care prior to jail release will have on engagement with prenatal care, readiness for parenthood, and social needs of the mother and baby. By engaging at-risk mothers in appropriate prenatal care prior to release, this project hopes to improve the health and well-being of both mothers and their children for years to come.

EDUCATION

- » **University of Washington | Seattle, WA**
PhD in Nursing Science, 2019
- » **Seattle University | Seattle, WA**
Bachelor of Science (BS) in Nursing, 2013



MEGHAN NOVISKY

Dr. Meghan Novisky is an Assistant Professor of criminology in the department of criminology, anthropology, and sociology at Cleveland State University. She is an interdisciplinary, multi-methods scholar with broad research interests in carceral policy, inequalities, and health. One of her research aims is to encourage the use of evidence-based practices in corrections. To that end, she has worked as a consultant for the University of Cincinnati's Corrections Institute for over ten years, where she trains correctional staff on effective, research-informed programming. Most recently, and in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, she has partnered with the ACLU of Ohio by drafting expert declarations to urge the release or transfer of vulnerable incarcerated adults in prisons and jails.

Meghan's current projects involve collaborating on two multi-methods studies on incarceration-related experiences during the COVID-19 pandemic. One project assesses familial experiences with incarceration during the pandemic, and the second seeks to understand stakeholder perspectives on compassionate release use during COVID-19. She is also partnering on a qualitative project that relies on focus group methodology to explore perspectives on health care access among both incarcerated older adults and their peer caregivers.

EDUCATION

- » **Kent State University | Kent, OH**
PhD in Sociology, 2016
- » **Kent State University | Kent, OH**
Master of Arts (MA) in Justice Studies, 2008
- » **Kent State University | Kent, OH**
Bachelor of Arts (BA) in Psychology and Justice Studies, 2006

216-687-4554
m.novisky@csuohio.edu



BARBARA "BASIA" ANDRAKA-CHRISTOU

Dr. Barbara "Basia" Andraka-Christou is an Associate Professor in the School of Global Health Management and Informatics with a Joint Secondary Appointment in the Department of Internal Medicine at the University of Central Florida (UCF). She is also a licensed attorney in Florida. She leads the UCF Substance Use Policy & Evaluation Research (SUPER) Team.

Her research explores substance use disorder treatment from health services and health policy perspectives. Much of her work focuses on expanding access to medications that treat opioid use disorder.

Dr. Andraka-Christou has authored more than 70 peer-reviewed articles. She is the author of the award-winning book, *The Opioid Fix: America's Addiction Crisis and the Solution They Don't Want You to Have* (Johns Hopkins University Press, 2020). Dr. Andraka-Christou received her JD and PhD from Indiana University and completed a postdoctoral research fellowship there.

CURRENT AFFILIATION

- » **Associate Professor in the School of Global Health Management and Informatics, with a Joint Secondary Appointment in the Department of Internal Medicine at the University of Central Florida (UCF)**

EDUCATION

- » **Fairbanks School of Public Health | Fairbanks, IN**
Postdoctoral Fellowship
- » **Indiana University | Bloomington, IN**
PhD and Juris Doctor (JD) in Law & Social Science
- » **University of Florida | Gainesville, FL**
Bachelor of Arts (BA) in Economics, Summa Cum Laude

407-823-5174
barbara.andraka@ucf.edu



GLORIMAR CARABALLO-CORREA

Glorimar Caraballo-Correa, PhD, is an Adjunct Professor and Evaluator at the Graduate School of Public Health and the School of Medicine at the University of Puerto Rico. Her research work and interests are focused on health services access and utilization, transition of care from prison to community, and stigma towards vulnerable populations such as drug users and prisoners. The expansion of medication-assisted treatment is one of her main interests. Dr. Caraballo-Correa has been involved in research projects that explored the factors associated with access to medication-assisted treatment, focusing on persons exiting prison. On a second research line, she is also working with factors associated with children being removed from their homes due to their parent's drug use. Her interest is in the development of public policy to increase their exit from foster care and reintegration.

EDUCATION

- » **University of Puerto Rico | San Juan, PR**
PhD in Analysis and Administration of Social Policies, 2019
- » **University of Puerto Rico | San Juan, PR**
Master of Science (MS) in Health Services Evaluation and Research, 2008
- » **University of Puerto Rico | San Juan, PR**
Bachelor of Science (BS) in General Sciences, 2002

787-528-1696

glorimar.caraballo1@upr.edu



ESTHER MATTHEWS

Esther Matthews, PhD, is an Assistant Professor of Criminology at Gonzaga University. Her research focuses on punishment, incarceration, and reentry, with a special interest in how continuity of care impacts a variety of reentry outcomes. Additionally, Esther uses survey experiments to better understand how public stigma impedes successful reentry for people with health challenges and histories of incarceration. She has conducted ethnographic investigations of prison life, including extended visits to several prison solitary confinement units designed for individuals who experience mental health challenges. Esther has also evaluated various reentry programs designed to support people returning to their communities.

Esther's research has been featured in the Journal of Offender Rehabilitation and the Washington Post, with several publications under review. One of her current projects includes an investigation into the reentry outcomes of individuals who had a life sentence commuted or overturned, with a special focus on access to physical and mental health care. Esther uses her lived experience in the criminal legal system, along with her academic training, to provide a rich, authentic, and humane understanding of the criminal legal system.

EDUCATION

- » **American University | Washington, DC**
PhD in Justice, Law and Criminology, 2021
- » **American University | Washington, DC**
Master of Science (MS) in Justice, Law and Criminology, 2019
- » **Oregon State University | Corvallis, OR**
Bachelor of Science (BS) in Political Science, 2015

202-313-1693

matthewse@gonzaga.edu



803-323-4577

kirvenjo@winthrop.edu

JOSHUA KIRVEN

Dr. Joshua Kirven is an Associate Professor in the Department of Social Work at Winthrop University. Dr. Kirven is a community practitioner in the areas of fatherhood engagement, neighborhood adversity and safety, social determinants of men's health, and community justice and equity. He has over twenty years of experience as a Licensed Social Worker in mental health, substance use, and community-based practice.

Dr. Kirven is currently a collaborative community affiliate with Anuvia Prevention and Recovery Center, the largest provider in Charlotte, NC. Also, Dr. Kirven is a telehealth trainer and advocate for Pathways Counseling Center, Inc. in St. Paul, MN. Pathways serves adults with mental illness and addictions who are also involved with the criminal justice system. Dr. Kirven has extensive practice experience with micro solution-oriented interventions and macro programming across communities and public-private sectors. Dr. Kirven is a national Subject Matter Expert (SME) for BJA and LISC. He is a Fulbright Scholar and graduate of Hampton University, the University of South Carolina, and The Ohio State University, respectively.

EDUCATION

- » **The Ohio State University | Columbus, OH**
PhD
- » **University of South Carolina | Columbia, SC**
Master in Social Work (MSW)
- » **Hampton University | Hampton, VA**
Bachelor of Science (BS)



541-525-0821

tkdrazdowski@chestnut.org

TESS K. DRAZDOWSKI

Tess K. Drazdowski, PhD, is a Research Scientist and licensed psychologist at the Lighthouse Institute at Chestnut Health Systems. Her research and clinical work focus on important topics for underserved and priority populations. She is interested in investigating how to improve access to evidence-based practices for youth and young adults with substance use and mental health symptoms, particularly for those with criminal legal system involvement. Most recently, her research has concentrated on health services program development, recovery support services, and polysubstance use with a strong focus on emerging adults. She enjoys developing services that are engaging and scalable, training and supervising providers across systems, working with adolescents and young adults from a strength-based perspective, and mentoring those with lived experience with substance use recovery and criminal legal system involvement. Having lived in and near rural Pennsylvania for most of her life, she is passionate about creating programs that can be used in rural and frontier areas.

EDUCATION

- » **University of California Los Angeles Integrated Substance Abuse Programs | Los Angeles, CA**
Postdoctoral Scholar in Integrated Substance Abuse Programs, NIDA T32, 2018
- » **University of Miami Miller School of Medicine, Mailment Center for Child Development | Coral Gables, FL**
Clinical Child Psychology Internship, 2016
- » **Virginia Commonwealth University | Richmond, VA**
Master of Science (MS)/PhD in Clinical/Developmental Psychology, 2016
- » **Loyola University Maryland | Baltimore, MD**
Bachelor of Arts (BA) /Master of Science (MS) in Clinical Psychology, Summa Cum Laude, 2009

LEAP

Investigators
Cohort 3
2022-2023

BRANDON DEL POZO

Brandon served for 23 years as a police officer. His years of patrol created a desire in him to improve police response to substance use disorder. He partnered with researchers across the nation to devise evidence-based strategies centering on harm reduction and the widespread, low-threshold availability of medications for opioid use disorder (MOUD), especially buprenorphine.

After completing his doctoral work on the role of the police in a democracy, Brandon was inspired to further pursue the science needed to address the overdose crisis: MOUDs have long proven effective at saving lives, but they remain greatly underutilized. Realizing our nation's systems of care and public administration are not utilizing medication for opioid use disorder effectively in a time of profound crisis inspired Brandon to turn toward scientific research about bridging this critical gap, especially in policing and other criminal justice settings. He, therefore, embarked on a postdoctoral research fellowship on substance use at The Miriam Hospital/ Brown University.

CURRENT AFFILIATION

- » **Assistant Professor of of Health Services, Policy and Practice at Brown University**

EDUCATION

- » **The Graduate Center, City University of New York | New York, NY**
PhD in Philosophy
- » **Harvard Kennedy School | Cambridge, MA**
Master of Public Administration (MPA)
- » **John Jay College (CUNY) | New York, NY**
Master of Arts (MA) in Criminal Justice
- » **Dartmouth College | Hanover, NH**
Bachelor of Arts (BA) in Philosophy



✉ bdelpozo@lifespan.org



Justin_Berk@brown.edu

JUSTIN BERK

Justin hopes to support patients with opioid use disorder within the criminal justice system through the intersection of public health, management, and research. With an MPH and MBA, his education has created a foundation to understand the complexities of healthcare interventions, their logistics, and implementation challenges. He hopes to seek innovative solutions that incorporate interdisciplinary stakeholders to prevent withdrawal and change the system of how we deliver care to those in jails and prisons. His research interests focus on medication for addiction treatment (MAT) in criminal justice settings. In this proposal, he hopes to explore novel facility-level outcomes to investigate the relationships between MAT and bookings among individuals with opioid use disorder.

CURRENT AFFILIATION

- » **Assistant Professor in the Departments of Medicine and Pediatrics at Brown University**

EDUCATION

- » **Texas Tech University | Lubbock, TX**
Doctor of Medicine (MD), 2015
- » **Texas Tech University | Lubbock, TX**
Masters in Business Administration (MBA) in Health, 2013
- » **Yale University | New Haven, CT**
Masters of Public Health (MPH) in Health Management, Global Health, 2011
- » **Yale University | New Haven, CT**
Bachelor of Arts (BA) in Political Science, Health Policy, 2010

KATHERINE KELTON



katherine.kelton2@gmail.com

Katherine Kelton (she/her/ella) is a licensed psychologist at the Boston VA Healthcare System and an Assistant Professor in the Department of Psychiatry, Boston University Chobanian & Avedisian School of Medicine, specializing in treating trauma-related and substance use disorders. Katherine is an interdisciplinary, multi-methods researcher with broad interests in how sociostructural systemic inequities impact mental health. Informed by her personal life, clinical practice, and public health lens, these topics have spanned incarceration, homelessness, sex work, substance use, and trauma-related disorders. She approaches research through a social justice-advocacy lens and centers on extending space and diverting power to people who hold marginalized identities. At present, her identities that most influence her approach to research include being a white, Mexican American and cisgender, queer woman.

Katherine used the generous funding from the LEAP Investigator program to launch the project Hustle and Health: The impact of health policies and sex worker wellbeing. This is a community-based participatory research study that aims to 1) determine how health and wellness policies impact sex worker practices, safety, resiliency, mental health, and help-seeking behaviors; 2) identify sex worker-led research priorities to facilitate the development of a community empowerment intervention; and 3) develop sex worker-led recommendations for policy changes and healthcare providers. Katherine is currently collaborating on several other projects across institutions and is open to new connections.

CURRENT AFFILIATION

- » **PTSD-SUD Staff Psychologist at Boston VA Healthcare System in the Brockton Campus PTSD Clinic**
- » **Assistant Professor, Department of Psychiatry, Boston University Chobanian & Avedisian School of Medicine**

EDUCATION

- » **VA National Center on Homelessness among Veterans and Geriatric Research Education Clinical Center**
Advanced Postdoctoral Fellowship, 2023
- » **Saint Louis University | Saint Louis, MO**
PhD in Clinical Psychology, 2021
- » **Saint Louis University | Saint Louis, MO**
Master of Science in Public Health (MSPH), 2021
- » **Saint Louis University | Saint Louis, MO**
Master of Science (MS) in Psychology, 2018
- » **University of New Mexico | Albuquerque, NM**
Bachelor of Arts (BA) in Psychology and English, 2014



✉ LinseyBelisle@boisestate.edu

LINSEY BELISE

Linsey A. Belisle, PhD, is an Assistant Professor of Criminal Justice in the School of Public Service at Boise State University. She is an applied correctional scholar emphasizing research among populations disproportionately impacted by the criminal and juvenile-legal system. Her recent work focuses on advancing the treatment of justice-involved youth and adults through evidence-based correctional practices, harm reduction, and gender responsiveness. Her recent work appears in *Criminal Justice & Behavior*, *Feminist Criminology*, and *Victims & Offenders*.

CURRENT AFFILIATION

- » **Assistant Professor of Criminal Justice, Boise State University**

EDUCATION

- » **University of Nevada, Las Vegas | Las Vegas, NV**
PhD in Criminal Justice, 2017
- » **North Dakota State University | Fargo, ND**
Master of Criminal Justice in Criminology, 2017
- » **Bushnell University | Eugene, OR**
Bachelor of Arts (BA) in Psychology, 2014



✉ minerva.advisement@gmail.com

MINERVA FRANCIS

Dr. Minerva Francis, EdD, MPH, CHES, is a public health researcher specializing in health education, project management, and digital behavioral change techniques (DBCTs). She is an advocate of marijuana social and economic equity and a subject-matter expert in opioid overdose prevention. She completed a two-year postdoctoral fellowship with the Partnership to End Addiction, the nation's leading non-profit dedicated to addiction prevention, treatment, and recovery, where she managed the closeout and evaluation of a Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) funded program on Promoting the Integration of Primary and Behavioral Health Care (PIPBHC) at three opioid treatment programs (OTPs) in New York City. Her current research focuses on (1) the development of digital interventions to support families impacted by substance use and criminal legal system involvement and (2) the effects of police interactions and avoidance on community health. Dr. Francis is certified as a health education specialist (CHES) and is an early-career affiliate at New York University's Center for Drug Use and HIV/HCV Research (CDUHR). During downtime, she adores time with her family and friends, engaging in community service, learning to play djembe drums for wellness, and hand-building ceramic projects.

CURRENT AFFILIATION

- » **Center for Drug Use and HIV/HCV Research (CDUHR)**

EDUCATION

- » **Columbia University | New York, NY**
Doctor of Education (EdD) in Health and Behavioral Science, 2021
- » **Brooklyn College | New York, NY**
Master in Public Health (MPH)
- » **State University of New York College at Cortland | Cortland, NY**
Bachelor of Science (BS) in Health Science



✉ mksteelysmith@uams.edu

MOLLEE STEELY SMITH

Mollee's research focuses on specialty populations in prisons and corresponding treatment services. She completed her Doctoral Residency with the Arkansas Department of Correction in the Research and Planning Division, where she trained in qualitative and quantitative methodologies, data management, and program evaluation. The first program evaluation she led was for the substance use treatment program. Throughout the evaluation, the need for education and implementation of evidence-based practices became clear.

In her work with the Health and Legal System Lab (HEALS) at the University of Arkansas for Medical Science, she has assisted with several projects involving incarcerated populations, specifically those with histories of trauma, mental illness, and substance abuse. Largely, she is co-investigating a project that focuses on the characteristics of, needs experiences, and services provided to pregnant and postpartum women in prison.

Although originally trained as a criminologist, criminologist, Mollee's work in the HEALS lab, as well as her experience in program evaluation, has sparked a passion for exploring the intersection between health and the criminal justice system in efforts to help develop effective interventions for justice-involved individuals.

CURRENT AFFILIATION

» **Assistant Professor**

EDUCATION

- » **University of Arkansas at Little Rock | Little Rock, AR**
PhD in Criminal Justice/Police Science, 2021
- » **University of Arkansas at Little Rock | Little Rock, AR**
Master of Arts (MA) in Criminal Justice/Police Science, 2018
- » **University of Arkansas at Little Rock | Little Rock, AR**
Bachelor of Arts (BA) in Criminal Justice/Police Science, 2016



✉ mfarnworth@ku.edu

MORGAN FARNWORTH

Morgan Farnworth is a PhD candidate in the School of Public Affairs and Administration at the University of Kansas, specializing in urban health and public policy. She is also a Health Policy Research Scholar, a national leadership program from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. Morgan's research focuses on government as a driver of health equity, particularly how policies and institutions underpinning the social safety net impact health and social outcomes. Her work examines safety net systems at the intersection of welfare and punishment, including behavioral health, housing and renter protections, and the criminal-legal system.

EDUCATION

- » **The University of Kansas | Lawrence, KS**
PhD in Public Administration
- » **Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis | Indianapolis, IN**
Master of Public Affairs in Policy Analysis, 2018
- » **Indiana University Bloomington | Bloomington, IN**
Bachelor of Science (BS) in Public Affairs, Policy Analysis, Labor Studies, 2016



650-995-6589
ojohnson4@uams.edu

ODELL JOHNSON

Dr. Johnson received a master's and certificate degree in Transpersonal Psychology with a specialization in creative arts therapy from Sofia University, Palo Alto, California. He obtained a Doctor of Philosophy in psychology from Saybrook University in Pasadena, California. Currently, Dr. Johnson is a post-doctoral fellow at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences and serves as principal and co-investigator of several studies focused on health disparities in under-resourced and underserved communities.

With the training support received from the JCOIN LEAP program, he was recently awarded a NIH Diversity Supplement [3R01MD01750902S1](#) from the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities. The award will examine how a universal basic supplemental income can improve health and health-seeking attitudes of justice-impacted Black Men aged 18–45 who attend Historically Black Colleges and Universities in Arkansas after reentry from a carceral setting.

In addition, Dr. Johnson is also the founded Research Institute for Social Equity (RISE), a community-based research entity that specializes in participatory action research to improve health and wellbeing through culturally responsive research interventions. His primary research interests center on structural racism and its impact on health and poverty on Black, Indigenous, and People of Color.

CURRENT AFFILIATION

- » **University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences**

EDUCATION

- » **Saybrook University | Pasadena, CA**
PhD in Existential-Humanistic Psychology, 2017
- » **Sofia University | Palo Alto, CA**
Masters in Transpersonal Psychology with specializations; Gestalt & Spiritual Psychology, 2012
- » **St. Louis Christian College | Florissant, MO**
Bachelor of Applied Science (BASc) in Theological Science, 2007



stephanie.prost@louisville.edu

STEPHANIE GRACE PROST

Stephanie Grace Prost's research interests and trajectory in criminal justice and health include three related areas.

First, she is interested in describing the health and quality of life of older adults who are incarcerated. Her studies contributed to reporting significant cohort effects regarding health among older men, distinct risks of post-traumatic stress across varying forms of interpersonal victimization among older women, and health-related consequences of trust among older men.

Second, she is interested in examining approaches to care for older persons and persons with life-limiting illnesses who are incarcerated. She led a primary data collection effort related to prison hospice in the U. S. and found that while peer caregivers continue to support dying patients, their bereavement needs are likely unmet.

Third, and most critically, she desires to develop, implement, and evaluate tailored interventions to enhance the health and quality of life of older persons during incarceration, in preparation for reentry, and post-release.

CURRENT AFFILIATION

- » **Associate Professor at University of Louisville, Raymond A. Kent School of Social Work and Family Science**

EDUCATION

- » **Florida State University | Tallahassee, FL**
PhD in Social Work, 2017
- » **Florida State University | Tallahassee, FL**
Master's in Social Work, 2008
- » **Florida State University | Tallahassee, FL**
Bachelor's in Criminology and Social Work, 2007



TASHA PERDUE

419-651-7233
perdue.112@osu.edu

Tasha Perdue is currently an Assistant Professor at the John Glenn College of Public Affairs at The Ohio State University and an affiliated faculty in the Drug Enforcement and Policy Center in the Moritz College of Law. Broadly, her research contextualizes drug use by exploring public policy and criminal justice responses to drug use disorders to better understand socio-cultural factors associated with risk and protective behaviors and the subsequent impact on substance use trajectories.

Her current project, “Exploring Stigma in the Overdose-Justice Nexus: A Mixed Methods Study of Good Samaritan Laws in Two Overdose Epicenters,” is funded through the Ohio State University Addiction Innovation Initiative. This project examines the implementation of the Good Samaritan Law (GSL) in Dayton and Columbus. The study seeks to understand knowledge of GSLs among people who use drugs and law enforcement officers, while also exploring how socio-demographic characteristics and perceptions of stigma among both groups influence overdose response outcomes.

EDUCATION

- » **University of Southern California | Los Angeles, CA**
PhD in Social Work, 2021
- » **University of Michigan | Ann Arbor, MI**
Master of Social Work (MSW) in Social Policy and Evaluation for Mental Health, 2009
- » **Bowling Green State University | Bowling Green, OH**
Bachelor of Science (BS) in Criminal Justice, Minor in Sociology, 2005

LEAP Scholars

The LEAP Scholar track supported clinicians, criminologists and analysts interested in collaborating on research in justice settings and was one year in duration, focused on the conduct of research in justice settings, formulating research questions, understanding elements of research design, ethical issues concerning research in justice settings, and collaborator roles to ground and translate the conduct of research in justice settings.

A total of 67 individuals participated in four cohorts of the LEAP Scholars program.

Cohort 1, 2020-2021	Cohort 2, 2021-2022	Cohort 3, 2022-2023	Cohort 4, 2023-2024
Shayna S. Bassett	Rachael Matulis	Amber Collins	Jessica Alves
Precious Bedell	Amelia Bailey	Bianca Yulia Planas-García	Leah Benrubi
Lelise Bridgman	Hannah Steinman	Breanne Biondi	Kwasi Baoitey
Pam Carey	Christina Kraus	Cassandra Sarno	Jennifer Bradford
Morgan Hill	Wendy Snee	Daniel Bullman	Vanessa Bright
Ed Hayes	Bennett Allen	Ellen Volo	Vickii Coffey
Susan Lemere	Anne Reeder	Ikenna Achebe	Savannah Eldridge
Zoe Pulitzer	Victoria Conner	Kaitlyn Pederson	Jorge Finke
Charles Sarbeng	Antoinetta De Angelis	Katherine Pereira	Maya Holcomb
Charlotte Matthews	Amy Stephens	Kristen Clancy	Frances (Fran) Jensen
	Rafik Nader Wahbi	Madeline McPherson	Divine Lipscomb
	Levin Schwartz	Mancy Thompson	Laura Lodolo
	Priscilla Wong	Misha Mehrel	Fabiola Plaza
	La Teisha Mosquera	Monica Vohra	Jody Riskowski
	Pryce Michener	Morgan Godvin	Donna M. Saboori
	Sarah Urdiales	Peter Dickson	Marvin Longboan So
		Morgan Maner	Sam Tarplin
		Rachel Silva	Montgomery Turner-Little
		Rebecca Bates	Pamela Valera
		Tess Jurgensen	Khirsten J. Wilson
			Nicole Woodson-DeFauw

LEAP

Scholars

Cohort 1

2020-2021

SHAYNA S. BASSETT

Shayna S. Bassett, PhD, is dedicated to improving and expanding the reach of traditional clinical services to understand diverse populations in community and correctional settings. She has specifically developed expertise in providing treatment for substance use disorders among adolescents and adults involved in the criminal justice system. These experiences have involved training and supervising clinicians, case managers, research staff, and graduate students in various evidence-based practices. Her research has been heavily focused on identifying, implementing, and disseminating effective substance use and behavioral health interventions, particularly as they relate to underserved and justice-involved populations.

She has expertise in clinical training and supervision (with fidelity feedback), and the delivery of assessments, behavioral treatments, and large protocols to effect systems change. She has extensive experience collaborating with community-based organizations to implement evidence-based practices, including scheduling and holding kick-off meetings and training.

EDUCATION

- » **Bedford VA Medical Center | Bedford, MA**
Accredited Predoctoral Internship in Clinical Psychology, 2015
- » **University of Rhode Island | South Kingston, Rhode Island**
PhD in Clinical Psychology, 2015
- » **University of Massachusetts Boston | Boston, MA**
Master of Arts (MA) in Forensic Services, 2010
- » **Northeastern University | Boston, MA**
Master of Science (MS) in Counseling Psychology, 2007



508-679-0033

sbassett@steppingstoneinc.org



PRECIOUS BEDELL

Precious Bedell, MEdm, is devoted to improving the lives of people affected by incarceration. She is a specialist in providing resources and helping those reentering from prisons and jails navigate complex medical, social, and reentry services. She founded and directs the Turning Points Resource Center, a nonprofit that supports the families of those incarcerated, which is a prison ministry at the Episcopal Dioceses of Rochester, NY. She worked on behalf of Rochester's "Ban the Box" campaign, which aims to prevent employment discrimination against those with criminal records. After winning support at the local level, their advocacy continues for support at the state level.

Bedell has embarked on a new journey with Professor Josh Dubler in the School of Religion, Arts, and Sciences of the University of Rochester. She will coordinate and develop the Rochester Education Justice Initiative, a program that fosters higher educational opportunities for incarcerated people. Bedell and Dubler have taught a course each spring semester to undergraduate students entitled Incarceration Nation since 2017.

EDUCATION

- » **University of Rochester Margaret Warner School of Education and Human Development | Rochester, NY**
PhD in Education and Human Development

 Preciousbedell13@gmail.com




LESLIE BRIDGMAN

Leslie Bridgman, LCDP, MA, JD, began working in the substance use field as a clinician at the CODAC Newport site. Always drawn to the relationship between the criminal justice system and behavioral health, she set her sights on law school. After graduating, Ms. Bridgman returned to CODAC full-time and assisted in developing and implementing the Opioid Treatment Program at the Rhode Island Department of Corrections (RIDOC). The first of its kind in the nation, the program has contributed to a decrease in overdose-related deaths in Rhode Island.

Currently, Ms. Bridgman serves as CODAC's Director of Correctional Services. In this role, she provides administrative and clinical oversight of the RIDOC OTP, assists in coordinating CODAC's OTP at the Hampden County Sheriff's Department in Ludlow, Massachusetts, and consults with other states looking to implement similar programs within their correctional facilities.

EDUCATION

- » **Roger Williams University School of Law | Bristol, RI**
Juris Doctor (JD), 2016
- » **Rhode Island College | Providence, RI**
Master of Arts (MA) in Agency Counseling, 2012
- » **University of Rhode Island | South Kingstown, RI**
Bachelor of Arts (BA) in Psychology, 2009

 401-741-6735

 Lbridgman@codacinc.org



PAM CAREY

Pam Carey, DPA, recently retired from the State of Texas in January 2020. Prior to retiring, she worked for fifteen years for the Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ) in numerous positions, including twelve years as the Deputy Director of Substance Abuse Treatment. Pam worked for five years with the Texas Youth Commission as an Institutional Case Manager, Director of Security Operations, and Program Administrator for Specialized Treatment.

She has over five years of experience with the Texas Department of Health and Human Services and fifteen years in higher education, teaching criminal justice and business. Pam's credentials include a Doctorate in Public Administration, Master of Arts in Organizational Management, an International certification as a Criminal Justice Addiction Professional, and Peer Recovery Specialist. She is a member of the Action Learning, Action Research Association and currently serves on the Texas Certification Board as an Allied Health Professional and Chair of the Criminal Justice.

EDUCATION

- » **Capella University | Minneapolis, MN**
Doctor of Public Administration in General Public Administration Specialization, 2018
- » **University of Phoenix | Phoenix, AZ**
Master of Arts (MA) in Organizational Management, 2005
- » **Sam Houston State University | Huntsville, TX**
Bachelor of Science in Kinesiology, 1990
- » **Trinity Valley Community College | Athens, TX**
Associate of Arts (AA) in Physical Education, 1985



MORGAN HILL

Morgan A. Hill, MA, is a doctoral student in the Department of Psychological Science at the University of Arkansas. Her work focuses on understanding the unique interactions between psychopathy and other forms of psychopathology (e.g., PTSD), with the goal of using this knowledge to refine the understanding of psychopathy in relation to relevant variables of interest (e.g., recidivism). She is conducting several research projects, including an examination of the effectiveness of trauma screening in drug court programs, a study of characteristics of pre-adjudicated individuals charged with sexual offenses, and a multi-method, laboratory-based study of boldness and fearless dominance and their relationships with the fearlessness aspect of psychopathy.

Her work has been featured in leading psychology journals, including Psychological Assessment, Psychiatry Research, Motivation and Emotion, and Assessment. She has co-authored several book chapters, including a chapter on evidence-based assessment and treatment approaches for adolescents who have engaged in sexually abusive behavior.

EDUCATION

- » **University of Arkansas | Fayetteville, AR**
Master of Arts (MA) in Clinical Psychology (APA Accredited), 2018
- » **University of Arkansas | Fayetteville, AR**
Doctoral Program in Psychology (APA Accredited Clinical), 2016
- » **University of Arkansas | Fayetteville, AR**
Bachelor of Arts in Psychology, 2014

936-668-1492
pdcarey123@gmail.com

479-936-0615
morgan.hill0411@gmail.com



EDMOND HAYES

Ed Hayes is an Assistant Superintendent at the Franklin County Sheriff's Office (FCSO) in rural Western Massachusetts. During his 10-year tenure as Treatment Director, FCSO has been recognized nationally as a demonstration site by SAMHSA as well as the Bureau of Justice Assistance for its work with incarcerated clients with co-occurring mental health and substance use disorders. The FCSO treatment program was the first in Massachusetts and one of the first in the nation to offer a comprehensive treatment approach for incarcerated clients living with opioid use disorder by becoming a fully licensed Opioid Treatment Program (OTP). Ed was a 2020 National Institute of Health LEAP Scholar (Learning Experience to Advance Practice) and has a background in clinical social work and the provision of special education for adult learners. Ed now serves as Administrative Director of the FCSO OTP.

CURRENT AFFILIATION

- » **Franklin County Sheriff's Office**

EDUCATION

- » **College of the Holy Cross | Worcester, MA**
Bachelor of Arts (BA) in Music and Biology
- » **Fitchburg State University | Fitchburg, MA**
Master of Education (MEd) in Teaching and Curriculum Development
- » **Westfield State University | Westfield, MA**
Masters in Social Work (MSW)

413-774-4014 ext 2158

ehayes@fcs0-ma.us



SUSAN LEMERE

Susan Lemere, MSW, LICSW, is a clinical social worker in Massachusetts working toward her doctorate in Public Health at the University of Massachusetts in Amherst.

Her clinical and research interests include the development and evaluation of treatment approaches for incarcerated and formerly incarcerated people, ethnographic research, and trauma-informed treatment. She has worked extensively in mental health and addiction treatment programs in a variety of settings.

EDUCATION

- » **University of Massachusetts Amherst | Amherst, MA**
PhD in Community Health Education
- » **Smith College | Northampton, MA**
Master of Social Work (MSW), 1994
- » **University of Massachusetts | Amherst, MA**
Bachelor of Arts (BA) in Education, 1992

slemere@umass.edu



ZOE PULITZER

Zoe Pulitzer, MEd, MPH, works within New York City Health and Hospitals Correctional Health Services, providing health care and discharge planning services to individuals incarcerated in New York City jails. She has experience at the intersection of criminal justice and health in multiple settings, including the nonprofit sector, court-based research, and the jail facilities on Rikers Island.

She is passionate about addressing social determinants of health as they relate to the criminal justice system. Zoe has a BS in Psychology from the University of Maryland, an MEd from Brooklyn College, and an MPH from Columbia University.

EDUCATION

- » **Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health | New York, NY**
Master of Public Health (MPH), 2018
- » **City University of New York-Brooklyn College | New York, NY**
Master of Science in Education (MEd), 2016
- » **University of Maryland | College Park, MD**
Bachelor of Science (BS) in Psychology, 2014

347-774-8291

pulitzez@nychhc.org



CHARLES SARBENG

Charles D. Sarbeng, DNP, FNP-BC, PMHNP-BC, CCHP, earned a Master of Nursing degree (MSN) as a Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP) in 2005. In 2012, he completed his Doctor of Nursing Practice at the University of Maryland at Baltimore. His capstone defense was on "HIV and TB Drug- to Drug Interactions." He also obtained his Primary Mental Health Nurse Practitioner certification from the University of Cincinnati. Charles' experience in health care as an administrator, educator, and clinician has prepared him to function at an advanced level of decision-making. His holistic approach to patient-centered care focuses not only on the physical illness but on a multifaceted approach. This includes; the family's physiological, emotional, spiritual, and mental wellness. As a Nurse Practitioner, he focuses on these issues through health wellness promotion, early screening and detection, education, diagnosing, implementation, and preventive measures.

As he always says, "there is nothing more rewarding than knowing that at the end of the day, you have made a difference in someone's life. You've made your patient smile." He believes that healing and wholeness are woven fabrics of body, mind, and spirit.

EDUCATION

- » **University of Cincinnati | Cincinnati, OH**
Mental Health Nurse Practitioner Certification, 2018
- » **University of Maryland | College Park, MD**
Doctor of Nursing Practices (DNP), 2012
- » **University of Maryland | College Park, MD**
Global Health Certification Diploma, 2012
- » **University of Maryland | College Park, MD**
Professional Teaching Certification Diploma, 2012
- » **University of Maryland Baltimore | Baltimore, MD**
Masters of Science in Nurse Practitioner, 2005
- » **Holy Family University | Philadelphia, PA**
Bachelor of Science (BS), 1996

202-271-0506

Csarbeng@aol.com



CHARLOTTE MATTHEWS

Charlotte Matthews, DSW, LCSW, began her social work career in 2001, working for the State of Florida's Public Assistance Program. Interested in systems work and policy, she graduated with her Master's in Social Work from Florida State University in 2006. She began working for the US Department of Veteran Affairs (VA) in 2007 and went on to develop the Veterans Justice Outreach program through the 50-county coverage area of north Florida and South Georgia. Charlotte completed her Doctor of Social Work (DSW) at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, in 2019. She now works as Program Coordinator for the VA's substance abuse treatment program in Jacksonville, FL.

Her interests include the use of person-centered care modalities to improve outcomes for justice-involved individuals (especially the elderly) and the application of trauma-informed care in the criminal justice system.

EDUCATION

- » **University of Tennessee | Knoxville, TN**
Doctor of Social Work (DSW), 2019
- » **Florida State University | Tallahassee, FL**
Master of Social Work (MSW), 2006
- » **Fontbonne University | St. Louis, MO**
Bachelor of Arts (BA) in Human Services, 2000

LEAP
Scholars
Cohort 2
2021-2022



RACHAEL MATULIS

Rachael Matulis, MPH, brings nearly 15 years of experience in the health policy arena, including a wide array of experience in public, private, and non-profit sectors. She currently supports Delaware's Division of Medicaid & Medical Assistance on the Substance Use Disorder Prevention that Promotes Opioid Recovery and Treatment for Patients and Communities (SUPPORT) Act Planning grant, which includes assessing substance use disorder needs and strategies to expand provider capacity and access to medication-assisted treatment in the state.

Ms. Matulis has published numerous papers focused on Medicaid payment and delivery system reforms; her professional interests include expanding access to medication-assisted treatment in jails/ prisons and integrating health care data with data from other systems, including criminal justice. Ms. Matulis is based in Ponte Vedra, Florida.

EDUCATION

- » **Columbia University, Joseph L. Mailman School of Public Health | New York, NY**
Master of Public Health in Health Policy and Management, 2008
- » **University of Florida | Gainesville, FL**
Bachelor of Science (BS) in Health Science Education, Summa Cum Laude, 2004

646-387-2047

rachael@bowlingbizpa.com



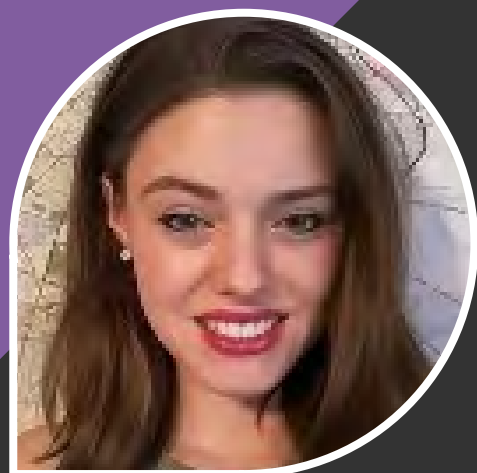
AMELIA BAILEY

Amelia Bailey is a second-year doctoral student attending the School of Public Health at Brown University. She is interested in reducing substance use-related harm through the development, implementation, and evaluation of multidisciplinary interventions to treat substance use disorders. She is particularly interested in investigating how systemic, social, and behavioral factors impact treatment outcomes among people with opioid use disorder who are involved with the criminal legal system and who engage in intentional stimulant use. Prior to arriving at Brown, she evaluated community and correctional-based substance use treatment programs in rural Massachusetts and Maine. Amelia completed her MPH in Community Health Education at the University of Massachusetts Amherst.

EDUCATION

- » **Brown University School of Public Health | Providence, RI**
PhD
- » **University of Massachusetts Amherst | Amherst, MA**
Master of Public Health (MPH) in Community Health Education, 2022
- » **University of Southern Maine | Portland, ME**
Bachelor of Arts (BA) in Psychology, 2019

amelia_bailey@brown.edu



HANNAH STEINMAN

Hannah Steinman is a PhD student at Temple University. She received her BA from the University of Arkansas in Criminal Justice, Sociology, and Arabic language in 2018 and her MA in Sociology with a concentration in Criminology in 2020.

During her undergraduate studies, she interned with the United States Marshals Service and the Terrorism Research Center. For her master's, she explored Risk Terrain Modeling in Little Rock, AR, through an 80-20 framework, receiving her certification through Rutgers in Risk Terrain Modeling.

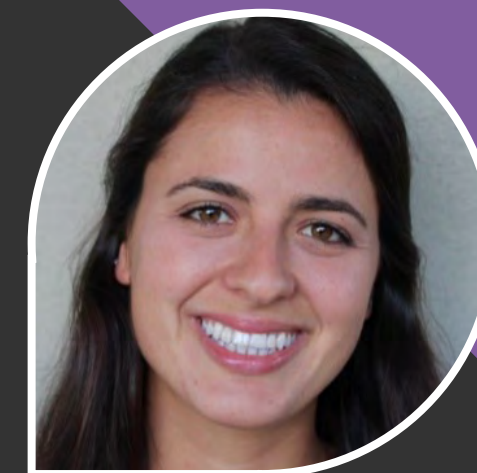
Her research interests include environmental criminology, GIS, and public health & policing. She hopes to learn more about research surrounding the link between corrections, communities, and addiction, along with the building of partnerships, networks, and the dissemination process that are paramount to expanding a public health framework across the criminal justice field.

EDUCATION

- » **Temple University | Philadelphia, PA**
PhD in Criminal Justice
- » **University of Arkansas | Fayetteville, AR**
Master of Arts (MA) in Sociology, Concentration in Criminology, 2020
- » **University of Arkansas | Fayetteville, AR**
Bachelor of Arts (BA) in Criminal Justice & Sociology, 2018

618-407-8284

tun51475@temple.edu



CHRISTINA KRAUS

Before deciding on a career in medicine, Christina Kraus' interest in community health led her to pursue her undergraduate degree in Public Health at Santa Clara University. In combination with her studies, Christina's work as an Emergency Medical Technician exposed her to the intersectionality of health care, substance use, homelessness, and justice-involved populations. She has been a researcher in Dr. Alysse Wurcel's Infectious Disease and Geographic Medicine lab since November 2020. Christina has contributed to projects that are focused on investigating the inequities leading to higher infectious disease burden among people who are incarcerated and people who use drugs. Of note, she completed and published a study analyzing COVID-19 vaccine preparedness in jails and prisons and the barriers/facilitators to equitable vaccine distribution. Christina is now in her fourth year at Tufts University School of Medicine and hopes to soon continue her work with justice-involved populations as it relates to women's health in residency.

EDUCATION

- » **Tufts University | Medford, MA**
Doctor of Medicine (MD), expected 2024
- » **Santa Clara University | Santa Clara, CA**
Bachelor of Science (BS) in Public Health Science, 2018

christina.kraus@tufts.edu



WENDY SNEE

Wendy Snee is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW) registered with the Academy of Clinical Social Workers (ACSW). She has been with the North Florida/South Georgia Veterans Health Administration since 2012. Over the last several years, Wendy has been working with the NF/SG Veterans Justice Programs, to assist veterans involved with the criminal justice system and partnering with several Veterans Treatment Courts in Florida's 4th Judicial Circuit. She moved to North Florida to take a position with Fleet and Family Services at U.S. Naval Station Mayport, providing clinical services to active-duty service members and their families. Prior to her move from Pennsylvania, she was a Clinical Administrator for nine school-based partial hospitalization sites and maintained a private practice. She is also certified by the State of Florida Supreme Court as a Family Mediator and provides this service, as well as counseling and parenting coordination in her small private practice.

Wendy has been active with NASW Florida, having served as a board member for the Florida Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers, serving as Second Vice President, and as unit chair for NE Florida NASW. She was honored to be selected as 2023 Social Worker of the Year for NE Florida.

She has been active in her community as secretary and treasurer with her local Rotary Club in Pennsylvania. She served as secretary and president of the local General Federation of Women's Clubs (GFWC) in Pennsylvania and Jacksonville, Florida, as well as working with several political organizations.

She is a volunteer Guardian ad Litem with the Duval County, Florida, program. Wendy has been a member of Jacksonville First Coast League of Women Voters for several years, working as Director of Health Care, and most recently, Director of Reproductive Health and Justice. Additionally, she serves as vice president for her local homeowner's association. She is an enthusiastic skier – having spent many years with the National Ski Patrol and Professional Ski Instructors of America. She resides in Jacksonville, Florida.

EDUCATION

- » **Marywood University | Scranton, PA**
Master of Social Work (MSW)
- » **Albright College | Reading, PA**
Bachelor of Arts (BA) in Education, Summa Cum Laude

✉ wendy.snee@va.gov
wendy@sneecounselingandmediation.com



BENNETT ALLEN

Bennett Allen is an Assistant Professor of Epidemiology in the Department of Population Health at the NYU Grossman School of Medicine, where he is affiliated with the Center for Opioid Epidemiology and Policy. His research evaluates programs and policies in substance use, overdose prevention, and behavioral health using epidemiological and machine learning methods and has been supported by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. Dr. Allen received a PhD in Epidemiology from the NYU Grossman School of Medicine and an MPA in Public Policy from the NYU Wagner School of Public Service. Prior to joining NYU, he worked in substance use and mental health policy for the New York City government.

CURRENT AFFILIATION

- » **Assistant Professor, Department of Population Health, NYU Grossman School of Medicine**

EDUCATION

- » **NYU Grossman School of Medicine | New York, NY**
PhD in Epidemiology
- » **New York University | New York, NY**
Masters in Public Administration (MPA) in Public Policy, 2019
- » **New York University | New York, NY**
Bachelor of Arts (BA) in Comparative Literature, 2011

☎ **646-501-3708**

✉ bennett.allen@nyulangone.org

📍 **180 Madison Ave, 5th Floor,
Office 5-54, New York, NY 10016**



503-602-9911

anne.reeder@uconn.edu

ANNE REEDER

Anne Reeder holds a BA in history from Macalester College (2009), a BSN from Michigan State University (2010), and an MPH from the Colorado School of Public Health (2014). Her research foci include correctional mental healthcare, health services research, and healthcare policy development and implementation.

Prior to pursuing a PhD from the University of Connecticut School of Nursing, Anne worked in a variety of settings as a registered nurse, including corrections, maternal-child community health, community-based detox, public health, and at a federally-qualified health center.

EDUCATION

- » **University of Connecticut | Storrs, CT**
PhD in Nursing, 2022
- » **Colorado School of Public Health | Aurora, CO**
Masters of Public Health (MPH) in Public Health Nutrition, 2014
- » **Michigan State University | Lansing, MI**
Bachelor of Science (BS) In Nursing with Honors, 2010
- » **Macalester College | Saint Paul, MN**
Bachelor of Arts (BA) in History with Honors, 2009



770-595-5474

vac20w@fsu.edu

VICTORIA CONNER

Victoria A. Conner, BS, is a Research Technician for the Institute for Justice Research and Development (IJRD) at Florida State University. While obtaining her Bachelor of Science in Criminology, she began devoting her studies and research to mass incarceration, reentry programs, and social justice.

From 2016 - 2020, she was an annual recipient of the Dean's List Award from the University of West Georgia. Ms. Conner received the Outstanding Criminology Senior Award in 2020 for her educational perseverance, volunteer involvement, and leadership. From 2019 - 2020, Ms. Conner held the Student Criminology Association (SCA) Vice President position at The University of West Georgia, where she coordinated guest speakers from the FBI, GBI, and State Attorney General's Office and participated in volunteer opportunities at state correctional facilities.

Ms. Conner is looking to advance the research and awareness on correctional health, successful reentry, and modern-day social justice phenomena.

EDUCATION

- » **Florida State University | Tallahassee, FL**
Master of Social Work (MSW), 2020-Present
- » **Florida State University | Tallahassee, FL**
Master of Criminology, 2020-Present
- » **University of West Georgia | Carrollton, GA**
Bachelor of Science (BS) in Criminology, 2020



ANTOINETTA DE ANGELIS

Antoinetta (Tonie) DeAngelis is a dedicated Massachusetts Trial Court employee who has employed entrepreneurial thinking and innovative practices within the Trial Court and in support of new programs and initiatives. Chief DeAngelis began her career as an associate probation officer in 1998. She was promoted through the ranks and served as a probation officer in Hampden County for thirteen years. In May 2013, she was appointed as the chief probation officer of Greenfield District Court, which serves 19 cities and towns in Franklin County, Massachusetts. She is proud to be a lead instructor at the Massachusetts Probation Service Training and Operations Center, developing and delivering curricula that meet the needs of probation personnel in an ever-changing social service landscape. Chief DeAngelis is committed to reducing recidivism, increasing community safety, and assisting clients in realizing long-term positive change.

CURRENT AFFILIATION

- » **Massachusetts Trial Court**

EDUCATION

- » **Bay Path University | Longmeadow, MA**
Master in Business Administration (MBA)
- » **Westfield State College | Westfield, MA**
Master of Science (MS) in Criminal Justice
- » **Michigan State University | Lansing, MI**
Judicial Administration Certificate
- » **Boston University | Boston, MA**
Bachelor of Arts (BA) in Political Science

413-774-5531

antoinetta.deangelis@jud.
state.ma.us



AMY STEPHENS

Amy Stephens is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker from Oklahoma City. Currently, she is a Veterans Justice Outreach Specialist at the Oklahoma City VA, providing outreach and care coordination to justice-involved veterans. In addition to other positions with the VA, she's practiced social work in Infectious Diseases and Family Medicine settings and taught as community faculty at the University of Oklahoma Zarrow School of Social Work.


Prior to her career in professional social work, Amy conducted research and program evaluation for the direct services arm of the Annie E. Casey Foundation in New Haven, Connecticut. Her professional interest in the intersection of practice and policy began while working dual undergraduate internships at a rural child welfare office and Oklahoma's Institute for Child Advocacy.

EDUCATION

- » **University of Oklahoma | Norman, OK**
Master of Social Work (MSW)
- » **Iowa State University | Ames, IA**
Master of Science (MS) in Human Development & Family Studies
- » **Oklahoma State University | Stillwater, OK**
Bachelor of Science (BS) in Family Relations & Child Development

amy.stephens1@va.gov



 (626) 533-1614
 rnwahbi@g.ucla.edu

RAFIK NADER WAHBI

Rafik Nader Wahbi, MPH, is a first-year PhD student at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health. He is interested in the ways the carceral system and drug policy are used to create and recreate racial hierarchies. Rafik seeks to shift the public health carceral gaze away from the marginalized populations we study to the institutions, laws, and policies that drive incarceration-related inequities. Common narratives about people with substance use disorders who have been exposed to the carceral system marginalize these populations further, stigmatizing them and exacerbating the harm done to them.

His research is situated within a framework that views the carceral system as harmful, especially for the Black, Indigenous, Latinx, and other communities of color it systemically targets.

EDUCATION

- » **University of California Los Angeles | Los Angeles, CA**
PhD in Community Health Sciences, Expected 2025
- » **Boston University | Boston, MA**
Master in Public Health (MPH) in Community Health Sciences, 2020
- » **University of California Davis | Davis, CA**
Bachelor of Science (BS) in Neurobiology, Physiology, and Behavior, 2015
- » **Pasadena City College | Pasadena, CA**
Associate of Science (AS) in Biology and Chemistry, 2013



 lschwartz@fcsso-ma.us

LEVIN SCHWARTZ

Levin Schwartz, LICSW, received his MSW from Smith College and his BA from UMass. Levin serves as the Assistant Deputy Superintendent of Clinical & Reentry Services at the Franklin County Sheriff's Office (FCSO), also as an Internship Supervisor for Smith College, as Chair of the Association for Contextual and Behavioral Science (ACBS) Forensic group, and serves on the nomination committee for the Massachusetts Police Reform Bill commission. At FCSO, Levin co-developed and implemented a nationally recognized mindfulness-based forensic treatment program - utilizing treatment as a means to attain public safety.

The success of Levin's work has brought national attention to FCSO; he received the NASW- MA "Greatest Contribution to Social Work" award (2019) and the North Quabbin Community Coalition "Bridge Builder Award" (2017). Levin employs available forums to highlight the important need for modern evidence-based treatment for the underserved, vulnerable, incarcerated population.

EDUCATION

- » **Smith College School for Social Work | Northampton, MA**
Master in Social Work (MSW), 2011
- » **University of Massachusetts Amherst | Amherst, MA**
Ethnomusicology, 2000



PRISCILLA WONG

Priscilla Wong currently serves as Special Assistant to the Chief Medical Officer for NYC Health + Hospitals Division of Correctional Health Services, which provides health care for people who are incarcerated in the NYC jail system. She provides administrative and programmatic support and manages various ongoing projects and initiatives that aim to improve the health of people who are incarcerated. During her graduate studies, she served as the Co-President of the student group Queer Health Task Force and was a Research Assistant for Project S. T. A. Y., which provides health care services for young adults living with or are at risk of HIV infection in NYC. Her research interests include substance use among people who are incarcerated and improving health outcomes for women and LGBTQ individuals who are incarcerated.

EDUCATION

- » **Columbia University | New York, NY**
Master in Public Health (MPH) in Sociomedical Sciences, 2017
- » **University of California, Irvine | Irvine, CA**
Bachelor of Arts (BA) in Public Health Policy and Psychology, 2014

 wongpriscilla14@gmail.com



LATEISHA MOSQUERA

LaTeisha Mosquera is a 2018 graduate of Northwestern University School of Police Staff and Command. She is also a 2022 graduate of Northwestern University's Executive Management Program. In July 2022, she completed the Harvard Kennedy School Senior Executives in State and Local Government. She holds a BS in Criminal Justice Administration and Servant Leadership Specialist, and an AS in Criminal Justice.

aTeisha is currently employed with the Richmond County Sheriff's Office in Augusta, Georgia. The Richmond County Sheriff's Office is the largest full-service agency in Georgia. She serves in dual roles as the Chief of Staff to over seven hundred and fifty employees. She is one of twenty in leadership roles on the Sheriff's assigned Command Staff. She brings the "millennial-mindset" and a female in law enforcement perspective to this agency and Command Staff, which encourages an understanding of how and why some of the fledgling personnel address and overcome issues today.


LaTeisha founded the Augusta GIVING BACK program, which aimed to deter gun crimes in the Augusta community. This program offers services to victims and offenders associated with gun crimes. The services range from substance abuse, mental health, educational, medical, parenting, etc. Through this program individuals are afforded the specific services to ensure they are a productive citizen and not a victim of their circumstances.

CURRENT AFFILIATION

- » **Chief of Staff for the Richmond County Sheriff**

EDUCATION

- » **Northwestern University | Evanston, IL**
Supervision of Police Personnel
- » **Harvard Kennedy School | Cambridge, MA**
Senior Executives in State and Local Government
- » **Columbia Southern University | Orange Beach, AL**
Certificate in Servant Leadership, 2020
- » **Columbia Southern University | Orange Beach, AL**
Bachelor of Science (BS) in Criminal Justice Administration, 2020
- » **Michigan State University | Lansing, MI**
Certificate in Innovations Suite Researcher- Practitioner Fellows Academy, 2019
- » **Northwestern University | Evanston, IL**
Professional Studies in School of Police Staff and Command, 2018
- » **Central Georgia Technical College | Warner Robins, GA**
Associate of Science (AS) in Criminal Justice, 2011

 **706-550-5730**

 missquera@gmail.com



PRYCE MICHENER

Pryce Michener is from Lawton, Oklahoma, and is an MD/ PhD student at the University of Massachusetts Medical School. He graduated summa cum laude from Rhodes College in Memphis, Tennessee, with a double degree in Biology and German. He is working towards his doctorate in Clinical and Population Health Research with a focus on improving health outcomes for people who use opioids and/ or are impacted by carceralization. As a future physician-scientist, he hopes to work directly with patients as a family medicine doctor and use his research to improve community health.

His current work focuses on the implementation of medications for opioid use disorder in Massachusetts jails using both qualitative and quantitative methods, but in the past, he has also studied the evolution of Australian plants, fish immunogenetics, and transposable elements in endangered gibbons.

EDUCATION

- » **University of Massachusetts Medical School, Worcester | Worcester, MA**
Doctor of Medicine (MD), PhD, Master of Arts (MA) in Clinical and Population Health Research (CPHR)
- » **Rhodes College | Memphis, TN**
Bachelor of Arts (BA)/ Bachelor of Science (BS) in Biology and German Studies

 pryce.michener@umassmed.edu

SARAH URDIALES

Sarah is a licensed master-level social worker who has worked in crisis psychiatric services at various levels for over seven years. She became interested in the overlap between interactions with the legal system and incarceration with severe and persistent mental health issues due to her interactions with the hundreds of clients she served during this time. Additional research interests include the effects of child maltreatment and exposure to the child welfare system on the mental health of adolescents, deliberate self-harm, and intergenerational trauma.

Sarah is a first-year doctoral student at The University of Texas Health Science Center in Houston in the Department of Health Promotion and Behavioral Sciences.

EDUCATION

- » **The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston | Houston, TX**
PhD in Health Promotion and Behavioral Sciences
- » **The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston | Houston, TX**
Master of Public Health (MPH), 2019
- » **University of Houston | Houston, TX**
Master of Social Work (MSW) in Clinical Social Work and a Child Trauma Fellow, 2019
- » **University of Houston-Clear Lake | Houston, TX**
Bachelor of Science (BS) in Psychology and Anthropology, 2015

 sarah.a.urdiales@uth.tmc.edu

LEAP

s c h o l a r s

Cohort 3

2022-2023

AMBER COLLINS



📞 502-229-7872

✉️ Ambercollins18@yahoo.com

Amber is a 2017 graduate of Eastern Kentucky University, where she received her Bachelor of Criminal Justice, and in 2021, received her Master of Education from Lindsey Wilson Human Development and Counseling. She is the Owner and CEO of Panacea Healthcare.

She shares: "I love my work and enjoy offering my clients a safe and supportive environment for them to grow and explore themselves. My style is both conversational and relational. I offer an authentic presence with a collaborative, understanding relationship in which self-discovery can be non-threatening and, perhaps, even fun. I am committed to sharing everything I know, which I believe will help heal the difficulties in one's life. I am inspired each day by the courage clients have each moment they show up for therapy."

Her research is focused on curriculum development and social determinants of health.

EDUCATION

- » **Lindsey Wilson Human Development and Counseling | Columbia, KY**
Master of Education (MSEd), 2021
- » **Eastern Kentucky University | Richmond, KY**
Bachelor of Criminal Justice, 2017
- » **Hazard Community and Tech College | Hazard, KY**
Nursing (RN) Associate, 2007



BIANCA YULIA PLANAS-GARCÍA

Bianca Yulia Planas-García is a fifth-year PhD student majoring in Clinical Psychology at Albizu University. Since 2021, she has been a Research Assistant at the Graduate School of Public Health at the University of Puerto Rico Medical Sciences Campus. Her research has focused on exploring transdiagnostic factors among justice-involved individuals with substance use disorders. She has collaborated with multiple research teams on topics related to stigma, substance use disorders, HIV, and social determinants of health within the Latinx Community. Bianca has collaborated through JCOIN's Massachusetts Hub on exploring perspectives from community providers in promoting collaborations between jails and community-based treatment services to expand MOUD access among justice-involved populations. Recently, Bianca has been working in Puerto Rico researching buprenorphine acceptability among providers in jails and federally qualified health centers to understand better how to close treatment gaps among Latinxs with opioid use disorder.

EDUCATION

- » **Albizu University | Doral, FL**
PhD in Clinical Psychology
- » **Albizu University | Doral, FL**
Master of Science (MS) in Clinical Psychology, 2022
- » **University of Puerto Rico | San Juan, PR**
Bachelor of Arts (BA) in Psychology, 2019

787-246-8819
bianca.planas@upr.edu



BREANNE BIONDI

Breanne Biondi is a PhD student in Health Services and Policy Research at Boston University School of Public Health (BUSPH). She is a predoctoral fellow in the Integrated Care for Addiction, HIV, and HCV Research and Education NIDA- funded T 32 training program. In addition, Breanne is a member of the Medicaid Policy Lab at BUSPH, an interdisciplinary group of faculty and students that engage in scholarship focused on Medicaid, as well as a Teaching Assistant for an advanced quantitative methods course.

Breanne's recent work focuses on COVID-19 policies and vaccination rates among incarcerated persons and the impact of the Comprehensive Addiction Recovery Act on access to medications for opioid use disorder (MOUD) among pregnant women. Breanne previously worked at Yale University in the AIDS Program as a Research Associate, where she coordinated studies that focused on substance use disorders and their intersection with HIV and other infectious diseases.

EDUCATION

- » **Boston University School of Public Health | Boston, MA**
PhD in Health Services Research
- » **Rutgers School of Public Health | New Brunswick, NJ**
Master of Public Health (MPH) in Epidemiology, 2016
- » **Muhlenberg College | Allentown, PA**
Bachelor of Arts (BA) in Psychology, 2013

973-985-6518
bebiondi@bu.edu
@BreBiondi



CASSANDRA SARNO

Cassandra Sarno is a dedicated professional who is passionate about improving the continuum of care for those in the criminal justice system. Always interested in health services, she began working at Baystate Health, the largest healthcare system in western Massachusetts, in 2014.

Throughout her time at Baystate, Cassandra also pursued her education at the College of Our Lady of the Elms, ultimately completing a Master of Business Administration with a Healthcare Leadership concentration. While coursework included traditional “business know-how,” it also focused on the notion of implementing evidence-based research to improve population health outcomes. This public health coursework, as well as the increase in awareness of the opioid epidemic in America, inspired her career shift to correctional healthcare.

She began work at the Hampden County Sheriff’s Department as a Healthcare Project Coordinator in February 2020, weeks prior to the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic. Her critical thinking allowed her to jump in and assist with the changing operational needs. She quickly learned the importance of medical documentation and reporting. Her work is mainly focused on augmenting data collection processes for the Sheriff’s Department Opioid Treatment Program.

EDUCATION

- » **College of Our Lady of the Elms | Chicopee, MA**
Master of Business Administration (MBA), 2020
- » **College of Our Lady of the Elms | Chicopee, MA**
Bachelor of the Arts (BA) in Healthcare Management & Marketing, 2019

413-858-0363
cassandra.sarno@sdh.state.ma.us



DANIEL BULLMAN

Daniel Bullman is a PhD student at the University of Louisville’s Kent School of Social Work and Family Studies, which focuses on family resiliency and health outcomes after incarceration. Daniel currently serves on the University’s Higher Education after Prison initiative supporting legal system-impacted individuals attending UofL and on the board of directors for the Academic Consortium for Criminal Justice Health as a student member. Daniel received his Associate in Behavioral Health from Vincennes University, a Bachelor’s in Applied Behavior Analysis from Ball State University, and a Master of Public Health from Georgia Southern University.

EDUCATION

- » **University of Louisville | Louisville, KY**
PhD
- » **Georgia Southern University | Statesboro, GA**
Master of Public Health (MPH)
- » **Ball State University | Muncie, IN**
Bachelor of Science in Applied Behavior Analysis, 2021
- » **Vincennes University | Vincennes IN**
Associate of Science (AS) in Behavioral Science – Substance Use, 2019

(502) 509-4558
daniel.bullman@louisville.edu



ELLEN VOLO

Ellen Volo currently leads Fairfax County's cross-system, robust response to the opioid epidemic, which includes over 30 programs and strategies. Prior to that, Ellen worked on the Fairfax County Government Relations team, representing the county's interests at the state and federal levels and as a consultant on federal social service programs.

EDUCATION

- » **George Mason University | Fairfax, VA**
Master of Public Policy (MPP), 2014
- » **Dickinson College | Carlisle, PA**
Bachelor of Arts (BA) in American Studies and Political Science, 2009



IKENNA ACHEBE

Ikenna Achebe is a Program Associate at the Center for Behavioral and Youth Justice at the Division of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry at Columbia University and an Adjunct Assistant Professor for the Freedom Prep Program at the City University of New York (CUNY), a program that offers justice-involved young people the opportunity to take introductory college courses and supports transition to college degree programs. He is also a Commissioned Officer in the Medical Services Corps of the United States Army Reserve and serves as a Policy Research Associate for Prison to Professionals, a program that promotes and advocates for higher education for currently and formerly incarcerated men and women.

He currently serves as the Community Chair of the Newark Community Collaborative Board in Newark, NJ, serves on the Community Advisory Board at Harlem Hospital in New York City, and chairs the Mental Health and Patient Care committees within the Community Advisory Board. He also serves as a member of the Community Coalition for Mental Health, the Association for Clinicians for the Underserved, and Physicians for Criminal Justice Reform.

EDUCATION

- » **Temple University | Philadelphia, PA**
Master of Arts (MA) in Urban Bioethics, 2021
- » **Washington University of Health and Science | San Pedro, Belize**
Doctor of Medicine (MD), 2020
- » **Drexel University | Philadelphia, PA**
Master of Public Health (MPH), 2016
- » **Drexel University | Philadelphia, PA**
Graduate Certificate in Epidemiology and Biostatistics, 2014
- » **New Jersey Institute of Technology & Rutgers University | Newark, NJ & New Brunswick, NJ**
Bachelor of Arts (BA) in Biological Science, 2011

📞 973-632-9953

✉️ ikenna.achebe@columbia.edu



 kmp071@shsu.edu

KAITLYN PEDERSON


Kaitlyn M. Pederson, MA, began her higher education career at Idaho State University, obtaining a BS in Psychology, a minor in Sociology, and an AA in Criminal Justice. On to graduate school, Kaitlyn attended Boise State University and received her MA in Criminal Justice. Currently, Kaitlyn is a fifth-year doctoral student at Sam Houston State University, working towards her PhD in Criminal Justice and Criminology.


Kaitlyn's research is predominantly within the broad area of corrections but has a strong emphasis on mental health, substance use, and other special issues within the criminal legal system. Some of her recent research can be seen in Criminal Justice & Behavior and Crime & Delinquency. Soon to be a Ph.D candidate, Kaitlyn's dissertation will focus on the complex relationship concerning the overrepresentation of mental health and substance use within the criminal legal system.

EDUCATION

- » **Sam Houston State University | Huntsville, TX**
Doctor of Philosophy in Criminal Justice
- » **Boise State University | Boise, ID**
Master of Arts (MA) in Criminal Justice, 2018
- » **Idaho State University | Boise, ID**
Bachelor of Science (BS) in Psychology, 2016
- » **Idaho State University | Boise, ID**
Associate of Arts (AA) in Criminal Justice, 2016



 **703-627-1078**

 kpereira2@wisc.edu

KATHERINE PEREIRA

Katherine (Katie) Pereira is a second-year clinical psychology PhD student at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She is Native Hawaiian but grew up outside of Washington D.C. in Northern Virginia. She received her bachelor's degrees in neuroscience and psychology at Virginia Tech and her master's degree in psychology at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Through various research projects and clinical work, she has worked with people struggling with a variety of mental health issues, including depression, schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, anxiety, psychopathy, and other externalizing disorders. She is passionate about developing diversity, equity, and inclusion policies and initiatives within academia, clinical science, and science policy broadly.

EDUCATION

- » **University of Wisconsin-Madison | Madison, WI**
PhD in Clinical Psychology, Doctoral Program
- » **University of Wisconsin-Madison | Madison, WI**
Masters of Science (MS) in Psychology, 2021
- » **Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University | Blacksburg, VA**
Bachelor of Science (BS) in Neuroscience and Psychology, 2018



KRISTEN CLANCY

Dr. Kristen M. Clancy, PharmD, MHA, has worked or volunteered for non-profit organizations in public health and safety for over 20 years, her entire professional career. In addition to being a practicing pharmacist, Dr. Clancy has been an EMT, police dispatcher, health inspector, vet tech, pharm tech, med tech, techie tech, and all-around inquisitive and outspoken community advocate.

Dr. Clancy is the founder and Director of Rx Recovery, a non-profit organization whose mission is to help patients obtain their prescription medications (especially MAT) through logistics, education, and collaboration.

EDUCATION

- » **Texas A&M Health Science Center | Bryan, TX**
Doctorate of Pharmacy
- » **University of Texas Rio Grande Valley | Edinburg, TX**
Master of Healthcare Administration
- » **Texas A&M University | College Station, TX**
Bachelor of Science (BS) in Nutritional Sciences –Molecular and Experimental Nutrition
- » **Texas A&M University | College Station, TX**
Bachelor of Science (BS)

 (409) 292-8568

 Dr.Kristen.M.Clancy.PharmD.MHA@gmail.com



MADELINE MCPHERSON

Madeline McPherson, MS, is a doctoral student in the Department of Criminology, Law & Society at George Mason University. In her department, Madeline currently works as a Graduate Research Assistant with the Center for Evidence-Based Crime Policy (CEBCP) and the Early Justice Strategies (EJS) Lab. Madeline is a former justice practitioner, having worked in policy and legislative affairs for the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections and the International Association of Chiefs of Police. Her research interests center on corrections policy and practice with a focus on improving carceral systems and quality of life outcomes for incarcerated people.

EDUCATION

- » **George Mason University | Fairfax, VA**
PhD in Criminology, Law & Society
- » **American University | Washington, DC**
Master of Science (MS) in Justice, Law, and Criminology, 2015
- » **Duquesne University | Pittsburgh, PA**
Bachelor of Arts (BA) in Psychology, Sociology, 2013

 mmcpher@gmu.edu



619-754-5536

mancythompson@yahoo.com

MANCY THOMPSON

In his various roles as a former Trainer, Client Services Specialist, Veteran's Advocate, Case Manager, and Facilitator, Mancy Thompson brings with him, from both a professional and personal level, an understanding of the unique challenges many clients face daily. He has incorporated his educational training as a Credentialed Substance Abuse Counselor (CASAC-T) along with his Credential in Family Development to assist program participants to become more self-sufficient.

Mancy shares, "On February 07, 2011, I was released on parole after 23 ½ of incarceration [...]. In April of 2011, I voluntarily enrolled in the Job Readiness Training Program at the Second Chance. After completing the JRT program, I went on to gain successful and full-time employment.

"[...] I went to prison for what I did, not who I am. I have continued to work on issues that I have, as well as giving back to my community by helping others, I am a P 2 P scholar, (Prison Cells-to-PhD). I am the face of those we serve; I would challenge that if we as a community aren't going to provide an opportunity to those returning to our communities to be the best parent, son, daughter, neighbor, and citizen they can be, then what is our goal?"

EDUCATION

- » **Pacific Career Development Institute**
Associate of Arts and Sciences (A.A.S.)
- » **Legal Assistant/Paralegal, 1992 - 1995**
- » **Forest Park. Certificate of Paralegal Studies**
- » **Administrative Assistant and Secretarial Science General, 1979 - 1982**



305-491-2770

mishamehrel@gmail.com

MISHA MEHREL

Misha Asher Rashad Mehrel is the son of immigrant parents from Iran and Germany who eventually settled in Miami, Florida, where he grew up. After attending a magnet arts high school and training as a painter, he developed a passion for storytelling and documentary-making, which led him to NYU's film school.

After working as an editor, he gravitated towards more hands-on social justice initiatives. This eventually led to his acceptance at Smith College's SSW. He has since worked as a full-time clinical intern at a methadone clinic in Seattle with their sentenced King County Drug Court clients, and in September of 2021, he began at Franklin County's Sheriff's office as a clinical intern providing casework and psychotherapy for inmates.

EDUCATION

- » **Smith College School of Social Work | Northampton, MA**
Master of Social Work (MSW) Candidate
- » **New York University | New York, NY**
Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA) in Film & Television, 2012



MONICA VOHRA

Dr. Monica Vohra is an internist by training. Monica graduated from Morehouse School of Medicine in 2011 and completed her residency in Internal Medicine at Georgetown/ Washington Hospital Center in 2014. After completing her residency, Monica joined a federally qualified health center in Washington, D.C., where she served as a primary care physician and consultant for Physicians for Human Rights. In pursuit of improving population health, Monica attended Harvard T. H. Chan School of Public Health, where she received her master's in public health in 2019. Monica has spent over ten years providing healthcare services to historically marginalized populations. In 2020, she joined the Office of Clinical Affairs at Commonwealth Medicine as Associate Medical Director.

Monica's primary focus in that role is enhancing healthcare services for Medicaid beneficiaries and utilizing evidence-based data to drive population-level policy.

EDUCATION

- » **Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health | Cambridge, MA**
Masters of Public Health (MPH), 2019
- » **Morehouse School of Medicine | Atlanta, GA**
Doctor of Medicine (MD), 2011
- » **Emory University | Atlanta, GA**
Bachelor of Arts (BA) in Psychology, 2003



MORGAN GODVIN

Morgan Godvin is an engagement editor with JSTOR Daily and is assigned to the American Prison Newspapers collection. A recent graduate of the Oregon Health Sciences University and Portland State University Joint School of Public Health, her majors were Community Health Promotion and Spanish. She is a narrative fellow with the Health in Justice Action Lab at Northeastern University.

Morgan was incarcerated for her friend's accidental overdose and now strives to implement measures that prevent, rather than punish, drug overdoses. She is the Founder and Executive Director of Beats Overdose, which provides overdose prevention outreach to the music industry. She has lived in Mexico and South America, and sees extensive networking and traveling as a way to aggregate the good ideas found globally and apply them locally.

EDUCATION

- » **Oregon Health and Science University- Portland State University (OHSU-PSU) | Portland, OR**
Bachelor of Arts (BA) in Community Health Promotion and Spanish, 2021

 morgangodvin@gmail.com



PETER DICKSON

Peter Dickson holds a Master of Public Health and a Master of Divinity from Emory University.

While at Emory, he taught college-level classes at a maximum security prison and helped conduct a qualitative study on the experiences of COVID-19 for incarcerated persons.

Apart from school, he teaches conflict resolution and meditation classes.

EDUCATION

- » **Boston University | Boston, MA**
Juris Doctor (JD)
- » **Emory University | Atlanta, GA**
Joint Master of Public Health & Master of Divinity, 2021
- » **Emory University | Atlanta, GA**
Bachelor of Arts (BA) in Philosophy and Religion, 2016

305-498-4975

pdickson@bu.edu



MORGAN MANER

Morgan Maner is a first-year medical student at the Brody School of Medicine at East Carolina University. Broadly, her current research interests include health equity and how criminal-legal involvement manifests as a structural determinant of health.

Morgan previously worked as a project coordinator at the UNC School of Medicine's Re-Envisioning Health and Justice Lab, where she managed an NIH RADx-Up grant to characterize the transmission of COVID-19 in carceral settings. She also holds a Master of Science in Global Health and Social Justice from King's College London, where she wrote her dissertation on the marginalization of trans people in primary care settings.

EDUCATION

- » **Brody School of Medicine at East Carolina University | Greenville, NC**
Doctor of Medicine (MD) Candidate
- » **Brown University | Providence, RI**
Master of Science (MS) in Medical Sciences, 2020
- » **King's College London | London, England**
Master of Science (MS) in Global Health and Social Justice, 2018
- » **Elon University | Elon, NC**
Bachelor of Arts (BA) in Public Health, 2017

336-380-6016

morgan_maner@alumni.brown.edu



RACHEL SILVA

During Rachel Silva's initial decade of work in medicine from residency training to her current role as medical director of the Hennepin County Jail, the largest jail in Minnesota, she has worked clinically with patients experiencing incarceration. In this work, she has had the opportunity to learn from patients about the challenges incarcerated patients face when seeking healthcare inside jail and once they return to the community. She has also had the responsibility of overseeing current policies and procedures and has implemented a variety of new initiatives.

In her work as Medical Director at the Hennepin County Jail, she has worked with a dedicated team of nurses, providers, and administrative staff to implement a number of initiatives, including the expansion of Hepatitis A vaccination in response to a community outbreak, collaboration with a local outpatient treatment program to continue methadone for patients with opioid use disorder, and expansion of community collaboration for patients living with HIV and AIDS. She also works with learners from students in medicine and public health from the University of Minnesota to resident physicians from a variety of institutions.

EDUCATION

- » **University of Iowa | Iowa City, IA**
Doctor of Medicine (MD), 2011
- » **University of Iowa School of Public Health | Iowa City, IA**
Master of Public Health (MPH), 2011
- » **Grinnell College | Grinnell, IA**
Bachelor of Arts (BA) in Anthropology, 2004

515-473-4379

rachel.silva@hcmcd.org



REBECCA BATES

Rebecca Bates is passionate about providing healthcare for vulnerable populations and believes healthcare is a right for all. She is the technical assistance (TA) program manager at A Division for Advancing Prevention and Treatment (ADAPT) and provides TA for substance use prevention and treatment programs in High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTAs) across the U.S. She also manages federally funded implementation grants in primary care clinics and with justice-involved youth.

Previously, as a family nurse practitioner, she staffed two interdisciplinary free clinics where nursing and social work students learned to provide evidence-based healthcare, utilize telehealth, and address social determinants of health. In these clinics, uninsured patients, including individuals who were immigrants/ refugees, formerly incarcerated, or homeless and now living with chronic diseases, including substance use disorders, were offered integrated primary care and behavioral health services. After completing her Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP), Rebecca taught health policy, population health, and business of practice courses and mentored doctoral nursing students through their DNP projects. She is currently a PhD student exploring sub-cultural factors of adolescent opioid use using qualitative and participatory action research methodologies.

EDUCATION

- » **George Mason University | Fairfax, VA**
PhD in Nursing
- » **Old Dominion University | Norfolk, VA**
Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP), 2015
- » **Saint Louis University | Saint Louis, MO**
Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) in Family Nurse Practitioner/ Educator, 2009
- » **University of Oklahoma | Norman, OK**
Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN), 2000
- » **Wittenberg University | Springfield, OH**
Bachelor of Arts (BA) in English Literature, 1996

315-777-1774

rbates2@gmu.edu



TESS JURGENSEN

Tess has a Bachelor's degree in Public Health from the University of Massachusetts Amherst, where she graduated in 2015 as a member of the Commonwealth Honors College. As a candidate in the UMass Master of Public Policy & Administration and Master of Public Health dual degree program, Tess's primary areas of specialization include substance use disorders, the opioid crisis, and the intersection of behavioral health and criminal justice systems.

Tess has interned with the Massachusetts Department of Public Health and Tapestry before working as a Program Associate for the Opioid Task Force of Franklin County and the North Quabbin Region. Currently, Tess works for the Massachusetts Trial Court on a statewide project that focuses on court responses to addiction and mental illness.

EDUCATION

- » **University of Massachusetts Amherst | Amherst, MA**
Master of Public Policy & Administration/Master of Public Health (MPH)
- » **University of Massachusetts Amherst | Amherst, MA**
Bachelor of Science (BS) in Public Health Sciences, 2015

LEAP
Scholars
Cohort 4
2023-2024



JESSICA ALVES

Jessica Alves identifies as an African American woman who is currently the Program Manager for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Trial Court: Office of Community Corrections. In addition to Jessica's experience and personal qualities, she has a solid educational foundation and passion for the criminal justice rehabilitation system. Jessica obtained a Masters in Psychological Studies and has extensive experience providing services to high-risk mental health and substance use across the age continuum for over eight years. Jessica takes pride in developing strong relationships as the foundation of the work that she does. In her free time, Jessica is a mother to a 9-year-old, a wife, and enjoys running with her running club.

EDUCATION

- » **Cambridge College | Boston, MA**
Master of Education (MEd) in Psychological Studies, 2020
- » **Pine Manor College | Chestnut Hill, MA**
Bachelor of Arts (BA) in Psychology, 2013

978-596-0836 (Office)
781-298-5344 (Cell)

Office of Community Corrections,
33 E. Merrimack Street, Lowell MA



LEAH BENRUBI

Leah Benrubi is a third-year medical student at Tufts University School of Medicine. She is passionate about advancing access to healthcare among people experiencing homelessness and addressing substance use disorder on medical and policy levels.

During her time in medical school, she has served as president of the student organization Healthcare Alliance for the Homeless, coordinating 1400+ hours of volunteer work among her peers and partnering with community advocates to connect with the medical school. She also runs the Addiction Medicine Interest Group, which provides mentorship and research opportunities for students interested in the field. She participates in an inter-professional school group, Student Coalition on Addiction, that focuses on policy changes related to substance use disorder and harm reduction.

Leah's prior research focused on examining the illicit drug supply in Massachusetts for trends in skin and soft tissue infection rates. She aimed to amplify the voices of people directly affected through mixed-method designs to identify themes related to stigma in the healthcare setting for people who use drugs. Her current research is focused on using implementation science to increase HIV testing in the emergency department, with the goal of improving access to status-neutral care.

EDUCATION

- » **Tufts University | Medford, MA**
Bachelor of Science (BS) in Psychology
- » **Tufts University School of Medicine | Boston, MA**
Doctor of Medicine (MD) Candidate

leah.benrubi@tufts.edu



585-261-9253

Kwasi_Boaitey@urmc.rochester.edu

KWASI BOAITEY

Kwasi Boaitey is a dedicated wellness professional with over 20 years of experience. Kwasi serves as the Director of Culturally Responsive Management (CRM) at the University of Rochester Office of Equity & Inclusion. Kwasi is currently a PhD candidate in Human Development at the University of Rochester Warner School of Education focusing, on identity development, posttraumatic growth, and racialized trauma. Kwasi is a New York State Licensed Clinical Social worker, an International Coaching Federation Professional Certified Leadership Coach, an NYS Part B Certified Meditator, a Certified Substance Abuse Professional, a Registered Yoga Teacher, and an NSCA-Certified Personal Trainer.

Kwasi comes to this work through experiencing 87,600 consecutive hours of incarceration -774 of which were in isolation-in the NYS Department of Corrections. Kwasi has harnessed the skill of joyful discomfort through mentorship, loss, triumph, and friendship. Clients, patients, and students often liken Kwasi to the constant gardener as he has learned how to cultivate the human spirit in places where others would offer that the soil is not rich with nutrients and there is limited light and water for growth. Kwasi is also the owner of Upperlevel Fitness Inc., where his focus is on using relational modalities of mindfulness, movement, and cultural humility to facilitate open lines of communication, client resilience, and stress management. His work continues with organizations, individuals, families, and adolescents facing professional and personal life challenges.

EDUCATION

- » **University of Rochester | Rochester, NY**
PhD Candidate (ABD) in Human Development
- » **The State University of New York at Buffalo | Buffalo, NY**
Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW) and Master of Social Worker (MSW)
- » **Roberts Wesleyan University | Rochester, NY**
Bachelor of Science (BS) in Organizational Management



Jennifer.bradford@umassmemorial.org

JENNIFER BRADFORD

Jennifer Bradford, MD, MPH, is an Assistant Professor in the UMass Department of Family Medicine and Community Health (FMCH). Dr. Bradford is board-certified in family medicine and addiction medicine. She is the Medical Director of Community Healthlink Detox Continuum program, where she offers substance use disorder treatment in both outpatient and inpatient settings. She also provides trauma-informed primary care for individuals who have experienced commercial sexual exploitation. In addition, Dr. Bradford is the Director of Inclusion and Social Justice within the FMCH Department and creates opportunities to make diversity and inclusion an integral part of clinical care. She advises the Massachusetts Office of Clinical Affairs on policy initiatives related to substance use disorders.

EDUCATION

- » **Tufts University School of Medicine | Boston, MA**
Doctor of Medicine (MD), 2010
- » **University of Massachusetts Amherst | Amherst, MA**
Master of Public Health (MPH), 2015



VANESSA BRIGHT

Vanessa Bright is a mom, educator, leader, author, and entrepreneur. In 2019, Vanessa started Maryland Reentry Resource Center with a desire to use her experience, resources, and expertise to empower formerly incarcerated individuals to become thriving and productive citizens in the communities to which they return. Her inspiration is focused on upholding human dignity and creating opportunities that help individuals and organizations remove the social and financial barriers to success.

Vanessa is the author of two books, *Dollars and Cents for Parents and Children* and *Create Your Life Plan Now: Your Roadmap to Reentry*.

Vanessa holds a Bachelor of Business Management from the University of Georgia, an MBA from Howard University, and a Master of Social Work from Catholic University. She is also a Licensed Master Social Worker.

EDUCATION

- » **University of Georgia | Athens, GA**
Bachelor of Arts (BA)
- » **Howard University | Washington, DC**
Master of Business Administration (MBA)
- » **Catholic University of America | Washington, DC**
Master of Social Work (MSW)

585-261-9253

vanessa@mdrrc.org



VICKII COFFEY

Dr. Vickii Coffey is an Associate Professor in the Social Work Department at Governors State University (GSU). She earned a master's degree in Social Work from the University of Chicago, Crown Family School of Social Work Policy and Practice, and a doctorate degree in Criminology, Law, and Justice from the University of Illinois at Chicago. At GSU, Dr. Coffey teaches a diverse range of social work courses with a primary emphasis on diversity and social justice.

Prior to her career in academia, Dr. Coffey worked as Executive Director (E.D.) for non-profit, Chicago-based domestic violence and human service agencies. As an E.D., she served on local and national advisory councils that developed and implemented social policy and safety initiatives to intervene in and stop violence against women. Her past service includes appointments to the National Advisory Council on Violence Against Women (U.S. Department of Justice) and the Taskforce on Domestic Violence (U.S. Department of Defense). Most notably, Dr. Coffey is a past Presidential National Crime Victims Service Award recipient.

Currently, Dr. Coffey serves on the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority Board (ICJIA) by gubernatorial appointment. The primary role of ICJIA is to ensure that the criminal justice system in Illinois is efficient, effective, and equitable.

Dr. Coffey's distinct research interests are: mass incarceration, reentry, violence against women, and the intersections of race, class, and gender across each of these spectrums. In recent years, her research investigations have focused on barriers and facilitators to quality health care and cancer health disparities in populations of incarcerated and formerly incarcerated people. Her most recent study, *'Barriers and Facilitators to Quality Health Care for Incarcerated and Formerly Incarcerated African Americans'* is currently in progress with an anticipated publication in 2024.

EDUCATION

- » **The University of Chicago | Chicago, IL**
Master of Science in Administration (MSA) in Social Work
- » **University of Illinois at Chicago | Chicago, IL**
Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)



SAVANNAH ELDRIDGE

Savannah Eldridge is a registered nurse and founder of Be Frank 4 Justice. She formed Be Frank 4 Justice to help ensure access to justice after realizing obstacles while assisting her brother Frank appeal the egregious life sentence that he received under the outdated habitual offender statute. Through the organization, she advocates for meaningful changes in the criminal legal system and the empowerment of system-impacted families.

In 2020, she formed the Coalition to Abolish Slavery-Texas, working to end the practice of slavery in the Texas prison system. She also serves as a steering committee member for the Statewide Leadership Council, Board of Directors for the Texas Inmate Families Association (TIFA), as Co-Director of State Operations for the Abolish Slavery National Network, and as Chair of the Criminal Justice Committee for NAACP 6304.

EDUCATION

» **BSN, RN, CRRN**

 seldrige@befranktx.org



JORGE FINKE

Jorge Finke, MD, is a Primary Care Physician at Bowdoin Street Health Center in Boston, where he provides care to patients of all ages. He also manages methadone for patients with opioid use disorder at Spectrum Health Systems in Waltham, as well as two local correctional facilities in the Boston metropolitan area. He received his MD from the University of Massachusetts Medical School, where he stayed for his family medicine residency. He is currently a lecturer at Harvard Medical School and frequently precepts residents as well as medical students on their primary care rotations.

He is passionate about the practice of evidence-based medicine and is a contributing editor for American Family Physician. He has long had an interest in caring for patients with opioid use disorder and is in the process of starting an office-based addiction treatment program at Bowdoin Street Health Center. His interests include retention in and discontinuation from substance use treatment and their effects on relapse rates.

EDUCATION

» **University of Massachusetts Medical School | Worcester, MA**
Doctor of Medicine (MD)

 jfinke@bidmc.harvard.edu



MAYA HOLCOMB

Maya Holcomb first began exploring the field of psychological research as an undergraduate student at the State University of New York at New Paltz, where she completed an internship at the Global Psychiatric Epidemiology Group at Columbia University and the New York State Psychiatric Institute. After obtaining her Bachelor of Science in Psychobiology, she began working as a Research Assistant within the Center for Behavioral Health and Youth Justice on a community-based participatory research project within the RADx-UP consortium, examining the efficacy of rapid COVID-19 testing engagement strategies for people who use opioids, where she coordinated the project at one of the two research sites. She is currently a Research Coordinator for the e-Connect Scale-Up project, which aims to assist probation officers in identifying and referring justice-involved youth with behavioral health needs to the necessary treatment.

Maya is passionate about research centering the experience of underserved communities. Her academic interests are rooted in the construction of culturally informed therapeutic tools, their real-world application, and how they can address the social determinants of health that impact at-risk populations.

EDUCATION

- » **The State University of New York (SUNY) at New Paltz | New Paltz, NY**
Bachelor of Science (BS) in Psychobiology, 2021

516-662-7542

maya.holcomb@nyspi.columbia.edu



FRANCES (FRAN) JENSEN, MD, MS

Dr. Frances Jensen is a board-certified internist and has maintained a clinical focus on addiction medicine throughout her career. Currently, she serves as the Maine Medical Director of Better Life Partners (BLP), overseeing the treatment of individuals with OUD/AUD, using telehealth as a tool to provide medication, group counseling, and care coordination. Currently, she is developing a Re-Entry Patient and Advisory Board, which includes members of the justice-involved population, to ensure that BLP includes their voices in all components of our service delivery model. Prior to joining BLP, Dr. Jensen served as the Medical Director of the Office of MaineCare Services, where she provided subject matter expertise on value-based models of healthcare delivery, the physician's perspective on coverage policies, and data-driven approaches to improve the health of Medicaid beneficiaries. She also has served as the Chief Medical Officer of a Health Information Technology company that developed case management platforms for individuals receiving Home and Community-Based Services; clinically, she provided MOUD to justice-involved individuals out of a mobile clinic in Baltimore. From 2013-2018, Dr. Jensen directed a team that designed several state-based, multi-payer alternative payment models while at the CMS Innovation Center and served on the Federal HHS Taskforce to combat the Opioid Epidemic. She has a BA from Bowdoin College, an MS from the University of Idaho, and an MD from Johns Hopkins, where she also completed her residency in Internal Medicine and fellowship in Emergency Medicine and the Law.

EDUCATION

- » **Bowdoin College | Brunswick, ME**
Bachelor of Arts (BA) in Physics, 1987
Summa Cum Laude, Highest Honors
- » **University of Idaho | Moscow, ID**
Master of Science (MS) in Zoology, 1992
- » **The Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine | Baltimore, MD**
Doctor of Medicine (MD), 1997
- » **The Johns Hopkins Hospital | Baltimore, MD**
Residency in Internal Medicine, 2000
Fellowship in Emergency Medicine and the Law, 2007

fran.jensen@betterlifepartners.com
franjensen1@verizon.net



DIVINE LIPSCOMB

Divine Lipscomb is an accomplished scholar and advocate, boasting a diverse educational background that includes an AA in Business Administration, a BS in Rehabilitation and Human Services, and a current pursuit of an MEd in Rehabilitation and Clinical Mental Health. With a profound interest in understanding the impacts of trauma before, during, and after incarceration, Lipscomb's research focuses on this critical area, shedding light on the nuanced challenges faced by individuals within the criminal justice system. As a formerly incarcerated scholar, Lipscomb actively contributes to Penn State's Prison Education Program, leveraging personal experiences and academic expertise to support others in similar situations. Their remarkable contributions have earned Lipscomb prestigious accolades, such as Penn State's Rock Ethics 2020 Stand Up Award and the Outstanding Adult Student Award. Lipscomb's groundbreaking achievements also extend to the community, as the first African American and formerly incarcerated member of the State College Borough Council, showcasing a commitment to advocacy, education, and societal change.

EDUCATION

- » **Monroe College | New York City, NY**
Associate in Arts (AA) in Business Administration, 2008
- » **The Pennsylvania State University | State College, PA**
Bachelor of Science (BS) in Rehabilitation and Human Services, 2022
Master of Education (MEd) in Rehabilitation and Clinical Mental Health, 2024
- » **International Institute for Restorative Practices | Bethlehem, PA**
Certified Restorative Practices & Circles, 2020
Certified Restorative Justice Conferences, 2023



814-780-3048



divine.lipscomb@gmail.com



LAURA LODOLO

Laura Lodolo (she/her) is a MD/MPH candidate at Tufts University School of Medicine (TUSM) in Boston, Massachusetts. Laura became passionate about caring for populations experiencing substance use, mental illness, and incarceration while working as a medical scribe for San Luis Obispo County Behavioral Health and volunteering at the San Luis Obispo County jail. These experiences inspired her to pursue a dual degree and learn more about health-systems and health policy. During medical school, Laura was Co-President of Phoenix Project, a community-service learning club at TUSM that teaches health education workshops at South Bay House of Corrections, a jail in Boston, MA. She is also part of a research team studying health care in carceral settings and has published research on stakeholders' perspectives on opt-out vaccination in jails. Laura is applying to Emergency Medicine programs for residency and is interested in completing her training at a safety-net hospital where she will continue pursuing her interests in health equity and carceral health.

EDUCATION

- » **California Polytechnic State University | San Luis Obispo, CA**
Bachelor of Science (BS) in Biological Sciences; Minor in Psychology and Child Development, 2019
- » **Tufts University School of Medicine | Boston, MA**
Doctor of Medicine (MD)/Master of Public Health (MPH) Candidate, 2024



laura.lodolo@tufts.edu



 fplaza1@pride.hofstra.edu

FABIOLA PLAZA

Fabiola Plaza is a fourth-year medical student at the Donald and Barbara Zucker School of Medicine at Hofstra/Northwell. Native to Venezuela, she grew up as one of seven children in South Florida. She then attended Columbia University, majoring in Neuroscience and Music. While at Columbia, Fabiola discovered her love for medicine and giving back to the community. After graduating in 2019, she worked as a research assistant for the Dynamic Social Cognition Lab, which investigated the neural correlates behind negative symptoms of schizophrenia. In 2020, she entered medical school, where she sought opportunities to volunteer. She became involved in the student council, the school's Committee for Anti-Racism and Allyship (CARA), and the Latino Medical Student Association at the school, regional, and national levels.

Her current research involves investigating potential health provider bias against those who are justice-involved and also establishing training and education in order to address this potential bias and teach healthcare professionals the importance of trauma-informed care when working with those who are justice-involved.

EDUCATION

- » **Columbia University | New York City, NY**
Neuroscience and Music
- » **Donald and Barbara Zucker School of Medicine at Hofstra/Northwell | Uniondale, NY**
Doctor of Medicine (MD) Candidate



 Jody.Riskowski@nebraska.gov

JODY RISKOWSKI

Jody's background, although varied, is focused on helping people develop to become better versions of themselves. With a strong background in research, her prerogative is to use evidence-based practices to improve the lives of the people she serves. Currently, she is a community health educator with our correctional services, and her goal is to empower our population to make good choices to improve their health and well-being.

EDUCATION

- » Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering
- » Master of Arts in Educational Administration
- » PhD in Biomedical Engineering
- » Master of Public Health (MPH) (in progress)



DONNA M. SABOORI

Donna Saboori is a third-year medical student at Penn State College of Medicine. Her research focuses on pediatric emergency medicine, trauma-informed care, addiction medicine, and neurocritical care topics. She is interested in improving patient literacy and advocacy, as well as studying the role of ED observation units.

EDUCATION

- » **Penn State College of Medicine | Hershey, PA**
Doctor of Medicine (MD) Candidate, Class of 2025
- » **Albright College | Reading, PA**
Bachelor of Science (BS) in Biology with Co-Concentration in Spanish



dsaboori@pennstatehealth.
psu.edu



MARVIN LONGBOAN SO

Marvin is a community-based researcher and primary care doctor. He is committed to developing clinical and public health innovations for families and children impacted by the criminal legal system.

EDUCATION

- » **University of Minnesota | Minneapolis, MN**
Doctor of Medicine (MD)
- » **Harvard University | Cambridge, MA**
Master of Public Health (MPH) in Social and Behavioral Sciences
- » **University of California Berkeley | Berkeley, CA**
Bachelor of Arts (BA) in Public Health and Forestry and Natural Resources



510-853-3309



marso@lifelongmedical.org



SAM TARPLIN

Sam Tarplin has several roles relating to substance use disorders (SUDs) intersection with the justice system. He is a Research Coordinator at Baystate Health in Springfield, MA where he is involved with several qualitative and quantitative studies. These studies look at how SUDs are handled and treated within carceral settings. Sam is also a lecturer in UMass Amherst's Sociology Department where he teaches an undergraduate course called Drugs and Society. Additionally, he is frequently invited to testify as an expert witness in criminal cases related to SUD.

Sam is a person in long-term recovery from opioid use disorder (OUD). He leverages his personal, lived experience to better connect to research participants, personalize his lesson planning, and specialize his court testimony. His areas of interest include health knowledge and beliefs among people who inject drugs, stigma's relationship to health outcomes, and ethical considerations when working with PWID as research participants.

EDUCATION

- » **University of Massachusetts Amherst | Amherst, MA**
Master of Public Health (MPH), Concentration in Community Health Education, 2023
- » **University of Massachusetts Amherst | Amherst, MA**
Bachelor's Degree with Individual Concentration (BDIC), Concentration in Addiction Studies, 2020
- » **Cape Cod Community College | Barnstable, MA**
Associate's Degree (AA) in Human Services, 2019

774-392-3836
starplin@umass.edu

MONTGOMERY TURNER-LITTLE

Montgomery Turner-Little is the Program Coordinator for the Family Justice Center Alliance. In this role, he provides technical assistance to domestic violence programs and Family Justice Centers nationwide. He earned a BS in Health Science Studies from Baylor University and an MPH in Health Promotion and Behavioral Sciences from the University of Texas Health Science Center of Houston where he assisted in research on childhood obesity. Prior to the Alliance, Montgomery was a Population Health Specialist for a mental health organization in Tarrant County.

EDUCATION

- » **University of Texas Health Science Center of Houston | Houston, TX**
Master of Public Health (MPH) in Health Promotion and Behavioral Science with a Graduate Certificate in Health Disparities, 2021
- » **Baylor University | Waco, TX**
Bachelor of Science in Education (BSEd), 2014



m_turner_little@yahoo.com
(Professional email)
Montgomery@allianceforhope.com (Work email)



PAMELA VALERA

Pamela Valera is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Urban-Global Public Health. She serves as the Concentration Lead for the MPH/MSW Dual Degree program at the School of Public Health, Rutgers University, the State University of New Jersey. Dr. Valera's research focuses on the drivers of health inequities in marginalized groups (including people who use drugs, people living with HIV, those at risk for HIV, and those involved in the criminal justice system).

At the Rutgers School of Public Health, she co-founded the Community Health Justice Lab (<http://www.chjl.org>), where members address inequity in health promotion activities among medically underserved and hidden populations. Dr. Valera can be reached at pv181@sph.rutgers.edu.

EDUCATION

- » **University of South Carolina | Columbia, SC**
PhD in Social Work

774-392-3836

pv181@sph.rutgers.edu



KHIRSTEN J. WILSON

Khirsten J. Wilson is a Clinical Psychology doctoral student at the University of Notre Dame. Her work focuses on advancing knowledge through community-engaged and culturally responsive research to promote psychological health and strengthen families amongst Black youth experiencing adversity. She is interested in sociocultural and contextual factors (e.g., structural inequities) that may influence the development of chronic mental illness, including the risk of suicidality, amongst youth in under-resourced communities. Wilson is also interested in social support networks within the context of youth community violence exposure and subsequent risk of antisocial behavior, particularly as it relates to the cyclical nature of youth perpetration of community violence.

As a future clinical psychologist, Wilson will prioritize the importance of social and contextual resources in the psychological underpinnings in the development of youth antisocial behavior. Her current research as a graduate student centers on attitudinal (e.g., impulsivity, emotion dysregulation) and environmental factors that predispose youth to suicide and other adverse gun-related outcomes. She will continue her work in the future by contextualizing youths' experiences with chronic stressors (e.g., community violence, social victimization) and social support networks (e.g., mentors, family, nonbiological kinships) in the prediction of adolescent risky behavior, with the ultimate goal of furthering research and evidence-based practice that centers the voices of Black youth experiencing poverty.

EDUCATION

- » **University of Notre Dame | Norte Dame, IN**
PhD in Clinical Psychology (in progress)
- » **Mississippi State University | Starkville, MS**
Bachelor of Science (BS) in Psychology, Cum Laude

kwilso25@nd.edu
khirstenjwilson@gmail.com



NICOLE WOODSON-DEFAUW, MD

Nicole Woodson-DeFauw, MD, is an addiction medicine fellow at the University of Iowa Addiction and Recovery Collaborative and a physician at the Iowa Medical and Classification Center. She completed her residency at the University of Iowa's Family Medicine-Psychiatry combined residency program, where she was able to focus on holistic and integrated care of medicine and psychiatry. During her residency, Dr. Woodson-DeFauw was a 2020-2022 APA SAMHSA Substance Use Disorder Minority Fellow, where she created a mentorship program in psychiatry for underrepresented minorities and a Health Equity Grand Rounds Lecture Series for the hospital's Department of Psychiatry.

Dr. Woodson-DeFauw's interests include mentoring and teaching medical students, integrated medicine, social determinants of health, advocacy, and addiction medicine. Upon graduation from her fellowship, she hopes to continue advocating for addiction treatment for justice-involved populations and creating opportunities to improve access to care.

EDUCATION

- » **University of Iowa | Iowa City, IA**
Hospitals and Clinics Family Medicine & Psychiatry Combined Residency Program, 2023
- » **Meharry Medical College | Nashville, TN**
Doctor of Medicine (MD), 2018
- » **Luther College | Decorah, IA**
Bachelor of Arts (BA) in Biology, 2013

 Nicole-woodson@uiowa.edu

LEAP Faculty

We are grateful to all of the JCOIN team members who have provided training and mentorship to our LEAP Scholars and Investigators since the program's formation. We are also grateful to the NIDA JCOIN leadership, who supported LEAP and provided opportunities for networking and training.

The following are the Core LEAP Faculty:

DAVID J. FARABEE

David J. Farabee, Ph.D. is a Research Professor in the Department of Population Health at New York University Grossman School of Medicine. Dr. Farabee was the co-lead of the LEAP Investigators from 2019 to 2024.



WARREN FERGUSON

Warren Ferguson, M.D. is a Professor Emeritus in the Department of Family Medicine & Community Health at the University of Massachusetts Chan Medical School. Dr. Ferguson served as the co-PI for the Capacity Building Core and provided training to Scholars and Investigators from 2019 to 2023.



CARRIE PETTUS

Carrie Pettus, Ph.D. is the Founder and CEO of Wellbeing & Equity Innovations, a national equity-centered translational research nonprofit. Dr. Pettus was the co-lead for LEAP Scholars in 2023 to 2024.





EKATERINA PIVOVAROVA

Ekaterina Pivovarova, Ph.D. is an Associate Professor in the Department of Family Medicine and Community Health at the University of Massachusetts Chan Medical School. Dr. Pivovarova was the co-lead for LEAP Scholars from 2022 to 2024 and took over as co-PI of the Capacity Building Core in 2023.



DANIELLE S. RUDE

Danielle S. Rudes, Ph.D. is a Professor of Criminal Justice and Criminology at Sam Houston State University. She is also Deputy Director of the Center for Advancing Correctional Excellence (ACE!). Dr. Rudes is the co-PI of the Capacity Building Core and the lead of the LEAP Investigators 2019 to 2024 and a MPI of the JCOIN Coordination and Translation Center.



SANDRA SPRINGER

Sandra Springer, M.D. is a Professor of Medicine in the Department of Internal Medicine, Section of Infectious Diseases at the Yale School of Medicine. Dr. Springer co-lead the LEAP Investigator track from 2019 to 2021.



FAYE S. TAXMAN

Faye S. Taxman, Ph.D. is a Professor at the Schar School of Policy and Government at George Mason University. She is also the Director of the Center for Advancing Correctional Excellence (ACE!). Dr. Taxman is the MPI of the JCOIN Coordination and Translation Center. She co-led the LEAP Investigators from 2019 to 2024.

This product was funded under the JCOIN cooperative agreement, funded at the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to the Coordination and Translation Center (U2CDA050097, Taxman; subcontract to Addiction Policy Forum, Hulsey).

The contents are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official views of NIDA, NIH, or the participating sites.

JCOIN
JUSTICE COMMUNITY
OPIOID INNOVATION
NETWORK

 **CTC**
JCOIN Coordination and Translation Center