Faculty Research and Training Projects
2012-2013
Children, Youth, and Families

Project and Description:
Denver’s Village: Wrapping Families in Community Support Evaluation
This project is a process and outcome evaluation of a five-year grant in collaboration with the City and County of Denver. This goal of this investigation is to increase the number of resource family homes for children in the care of Denver Department of Human Services that reflect the race, color, and national origin of children in care. The Denver program is a community-based, child-centered approach involving collaboration with Denver’s four Community Collaborative Partnership Centers and the Denver Indian Family Resource Center.

Principal Investigator:
Michele D. Hanna, Ph.D.

Sponsor:
Children’s Bureau, Department of Health and Human Services, Administration on Children, Youth, and Families. Washington, D.C.
2008–2013; $300,000

Project and Description:
Foster and Adoptive Identity: The Journey from Foster Care to Adoption
The purpose of this study is to explore and gain further understanding of the meaning and experience of young adults who were adopted from the United States foster care system at an older age (8 years or older). A mixed methods study, tangible outcomes for these youth (self-esteem, well-being, and mental health) will also be explored. This study expands on the preliminary concept of foster care and/or adoptive identity that emerged from a smaller pilot study on adoptive identity.

Principal Investigator:
Michele D. Hanna, Ph.D.

Sponsor:
Research Committee, Graduate School of Social Work
2010-2012; $5,000

Project and Description:
Honoring the Tradition of Strong Indian Families
This program offered by the Denver Indian Family Resource Center utilizes family preservation services to low-income American Indian parents to strengthen family resources and prevent unnecessary out of home placement. The intervention model includes features of wrap around
services, such as a team decision making meeting and individualized treatment plan and intensive case management. The program evaluation for this grant focuses on what lessons can be learned from an intensive analysis of change over time, measured both quantitatively and qualitatively, for the families served.

Investigator(s):
Marian Bussey, Ph.D.
Nancy Lucero, Ph.D.

Sponsor:
Denver Indian Family Resource Center
2009-2011: $30,000

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The Butler Institute for Families (http://www.thebutlerinstitute.org/)
Cathryn Potter, Executive Director

Project and Description:
National Child Welfare Workforce Institute
Funded by the Children’s Bureau, this 5-year project involves serving as evaluation partner for a national child welfare leadership and workforce development project. As evaluator, the Butler Institute serves on the management team for the National Workforce Institute (Katharine Briar Lawson, PI), takes part in collaborative knowledge management and assessment activities, and serves as the evaluation team for all NWI activities.

Investigator(s):
Cathryn Potter, Ph.D.

Sponsor:
Children’s Bureau, Administration for Children Youth and Families, Department of Health and Human Services. Washington, D.C.
2008-2013; $1,810,262

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Project and Description:
Mountains and Plains Child Welfare Implementation Center
Funded by the Children’s Bureau, this 5-year project is a collaborative effort with the University of Texas at Arlington and the Native American Training Institute. Butler Institute program managers lead the Region Eight technical assistance projects and serve as evaluators for the project. The implementation center will award some 5 million dollars to states and tribes for system change initiatives.
**Investigator(s):**  
Cathryn Potter, Ph.D.

**Sponsor:**  
Children’s Bureau, Administration for Children Youth and Families, Department of Health and Human Services. Washington, D.C.  
2008-2013; $906,000

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**Project and Description:**  
_Transforming Tribal Child Protective Services_  
The National Native Children's Trauma Center (NNCTC), part of the National Child Traumatic Stress Network (NCTSN), the Butler Institute for Families as evaluator, local design teams, and a multi-agency National Expert Advisory Council (NEAC) will develop trauma-informed systems that entails evidence-based detection, treatment, and prevention mechanisms for children, families, and STS-afflicted social services professionals in six tribal demonstration sites.

**Investigator(s):**  
Cathryn Potter, Ph.D.

**Sponsor:**  
Children’s Bureau, Administration for Children Youth and Families, Department of Health and Human Services. Washington, D.C.  
2011-2015; $450,000

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**Project and Description:**  
_Western Workforce: A Comprehensive Workforce Intervention_  
Funded by the Children’s Bureau, this 5-year project tests a workforce assessment and intervention model focused on organizational health in three western sites, urban, rural and tribal. The project also embeds a child welfare stipend program in each of the sites.

**Investigator(s):**  
Cathryn Potter, Ph.D.

**Sponsor:**  
Children’s Bureau, Administration for Children Youth and Families, Department of Health and Human Services. Washington, D.C.  
2008-2013; $2,500,000

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**Project and Description:**
*Jefferson County Community Connections*
This project is a five-year demonstration project that tests a model of collaboration between the county-administered TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families) system and the Jefferson County Division of Children, Youth and Families (CYF) to improve outcomes for children and families.

**Investigator(s):**
Cathryn Potter, Ph.D.

**Sponsor:**
Children’s Bureau, Administration for Children Youth and Families, Department of Health and Human Services. Washington, D.C.
2007-2012; $200,000

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**Project and Description:**
*New York Family Assessment Response*
This project provides training, technical assistance, research and evaluation, and other capacity-building services in Differential Response to child welfare professionals across the state of New York. The project is a collaborative with the New York Office of Children and Family Service and Casey Family Program. A growing representation of counties from throughout the state have applied for and been included in this initiative.

**Investigator(s):**
Cathryn Potter, Ph.D.

**Sponsor:**
NY OCFS and Casey Family Programs
2012-2013; $800,000

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**Project and Description:**
*National Resource Center for Tribes*
Funded by the Children’s Bureau, this 5 year project creates a National Resource Center for Tribes which will become the Children’s Bureau Network’s focal point for coordinated and culturally competent child welfare training and technical assistance to Tribes. In partnership with the Tribal Law and Policy Institute (TLPI), the Indian Child and Family Resource Center, and The Native American Training Institute, Butler Institute serves as the Project evaluator.

**Investigator(s):**
Cathryn Potter, Ph.D.
Sponsor:
Children’s Bureau, Administration for Children Youth and Families, Department of Health and Human Services. Washington, D.C.
2009-2014; $278,846

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Project and Description:
Colorado Pieces: Partnership in Early Childhood Education
Funded by the Children’s Bureau, this project aims to build infrastructure between child welfare and early childhood service systems in Colorado so that more children in need benefit from supports such as early intervention (EI), Head Start, Early Head Start, and quality childcare.

Investigator(s):
Cathryn Potter, Ph.D.

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Project and Description:
Preventing Re-Victimization among Young Women in Foster Care
This project tests an intervention with adolescent young women in foster care aimed at preventing re-victimization in dating relationships. The project is a collaboration between the University of Denver’s Department of Psychology and the Butler Institute.

Investigator(s):
Anne DePrince, Ph.D., Principal Investigator
Cathryn Potter, Ph.D., Co-Investigator

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Project and Description:
Mile High United Way: Early Literacy Social Innovation Fund
This project is a five-year cross-site evaluation of Mile High United Way’s Social Innovation Fund early literacy portfolio. This includes supporting project evaluators to achieve strong implementation and impact evaluations, as well as performing cross-site evaluation activities across the eleven statewide projects.
Investigator(s):
Cathryn Potter, Ph.D.

Sponsor:
Mile High United Way
2012-2017; $1,000,000

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Project and Description:
*Denver Village*
A collaborative project with Denver Department of Human Services, this project focuses on the recruitment and retention of adoptive and foster families.

Investigator(s):
Michele Hanna, Ph. D.
Cathryn Potter, Ph.D.

Sponsor:
Children’s Bureau, Administration for Children Youth and Families, Department of Health and Human Services. Washington, D.C.
2008-2013; $300,000

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Project and Description:
*Colorado Child Welfare Research and Training Project*
These seven contracts with the State of Colorado provide technical assistance and professional development to Colorado’s child welfare system, including development and delivery of the major portion of the Colorado Child Welfare Training Academy, for new and experienced workers, advanced training for human services managers, collaborative research with state and county agencies and child welfare MSW stipends.

Investigator(s):
Cathryn Potter, Ph.D.

Sponsor:
Colorado State Department of Human Services
2005-2013; $7,326,058

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**Project and Description:**
*Florida Kids Central*
This contract for Devereaux, Kid’s Central in Florida includes the provision of Family Group Decision making technical assistance, curriculum development and training to implement FGDM throughout their network.

**Investigator(s):**
Cathryn Potter, Ph.D.

**Sponsor:**
Kids Central Florida
2012

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**Project and Description:**
*Memphis Project*
In this project, the Butler Institute works collaboratively with the Annie E. Casey Foundation and the Tennessee Department of Children’s Services, Shelby County Region (Memphis) staff to employ a mixed-methods evaluation approach to examine numerous agency climate and culture domains at the individual, unit, and organizational level that are associated with organizational health. The second phase of the project provides strategic intervention to improve agency culture and climate.

**Investigator(s):**
Cathryn Potter, Ph.D.

**Sponsor:**
Annie E. Casey Foundation
2012-2013; $198,000

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**Project and Description:**
*Trainer’s Boot Camp*
The Trainer’s Boot Camp is an intensive, weeklong, professional development program for child welfare trainers developed by the Butler Institute for Families. This set of contracts brought the Trainer’s Boot Camp to Washington, DC, and to the Indiana and Colorado child welfare systems.

**Investigator(s):**
Cathryn Potter, Ph.D.

**Sponsors:**
Participant Fees
2008-2012; $50,000
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Project and Description:
Institute for the Advancement of the American Legal System (IAALS)
This collaboration with the University of Denver’s IAALS provides data analysis support to national research initiatives focused on the federal court system.

Investigator(s):
Cathryn Potter, Ph.D.

Sponsor:
IAALS
2009-2011; $17,000

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Project and Description:
Northeast and Caribbean Implementation Center (NCIC)
This project provides the NCIC with technical assistance in support of their Massachusetts Implementation Project. Work focuses on development of a structured system and training to assist supervisory staff in the use and management of data in the conduct of their jobs.

Investigator(s):
Cathryn Potter, Ph.D.

Sponsor:
Northeast and Caribbean Implementation Center (NCIC)
2010-2012; $100,000

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Project and Description:
Atlantic Coast Child Welfare Implementation Center (ACCWIC) Mississippi Project
This project provides the ACCWIC with technical assistance in support of their Mississippi Implementation Project. Work focuses on organizational assessment and training to enhance supervisory staff performance in all aspects of their jobs.

Investigator(s):
Cathryn Potter, Ph.D.

Sponsor:
Atlantic Coast Child Welfare Implementation Center (ACCWIC)
2010-2012; $24,000

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Project and Description:
State of Georgia
This system evaluation and technical assistance project assists the Georgia State University and the State of Georgia Department of Children and Family Services to develop, implement and to provide ongoing evaluation for their child welfare training system.

Investigator(s):
Cathryn Potter, Ph.D.

Sponsor:
Northeast and Caribbean Implementation Center (NCIC)
2010-2012; $102,000

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Project and Description:
Military Child Support Enforcement
This project assists the Colorado Child Support Enforcement and four military bases in Colorado assess the needs and develop strategies and policies to address child support issues for children of military personnel. Butler is serving as evaluator of this 3-year project.

Investigator(s):
Cathryn Potter, Ph.D.

Sponsor:
Colorado Department of Human Services, Child Support Enforcement
2011-2014; $84,000

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Youth Development and Adolescent Behavior

Project and Description:
Maximizing Mentoring with Data-Driven Services for Youth
This study identifies methods for using real-time data such as attendance, grades, and reading scores to inform mentors of their mentees’ challenges and successes in school. The project explores how to best assess student success in the context of mentoring, and tests whether data-driven mentoring services are superior in achieving student outcomes compared to traditional mentoring.

Investigator:
Kimberly Bender, Ph.D.
**Sponsor:**
Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Colorado
2011-present; $18,859

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**Project and Description:**
*Outcomes Associated with Multidisciplinary Law Offices in Colorado*
This study evaluates a novel model of providing legal representation to court-involved children and youth. The model involves staffing law offices with attorneys and social workers who collaborate to determine the best interests and needed services for the youth they serve. The Office of the Child’s Representative oversees these services across the state of Colorado and is interested in whether this model is associated with better outcomes for youth compared to traditional models, including consistent services, more contact with youth, increased well-being, and enhanced safety and permanency. The study is being conducted in conjunction with an MSW program evaluation course in which MSW students work as research team members to investigate this new model and associated outcomes to meet their research requirement.

**Investigator(s):**
Kimberly Bender, Ph.D.
Amanda Donnelly, Office of the Child’s Representative

**Sponsor:**
Not currently funded

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**Project and Description:**
*Youth Empowerment and Leadership Development*
Using a positive youth development approach, this project focuses on youth leadership development at three public housing communities. The project provides a group of youth with the tools for active participation in developing programs at a youth center through the Bridge Project, and evaluates the outcomes of this effort.

**Investigator:**
Inna Altschul, Ph.D.

**Sponsor:**
Center for Community Engagement and Service Learning, University of Denver
2007-2011; $10,000
Project and Description:
*Hispanic families in the Fragile Families Child Well-being Study*
Using data from the Fragile Families Child Well-being Study, this project focuses on identifying risk and protective factors associated with child maltreatment in Hispanic families with a particular focus on the role of acculturation.

**Investigator(s):**
Inna Altschul, Ph.D.
Shawna Jo Lee, Ph.D.

**Sponsor:**
Not currently funded

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Project and Description:
*Positive and Coercive Parenting Patterns in Diverse Families*
Using data from the Fragile Families Child Well-being Study, this project tests transactional models of parent-child interactions across multiple waves of data in early childhood.

**Investigator(s):**
Inna Altschul, Ph.D.
Shawna Jo Lee, Ph.D.
Elizabeth T. Gershoff, Ph.D.

**Sponsor:**
Not currently funded

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Project and Description:
*Academic Achievement among Diverse Adolescents*
Using several large national data sets this project aims to determine effects of national policies, such as No Child Left Behind, on the academic outcomes of Latino/a, African American, and low income adolescents.

**Investigator(s):**
Inna Altschul, Ph.D.
Duan Zhang, Ph.D.

**Sponsor:**
Not currently funded

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Project and Description:
The Effects of Engaged Learning on Civic Development and Well-Being
This study addresses the research question: “Do first-year undergraduates who participate in engaged learning demonstrate increased sense of civic engagement and psychosocial well-being when compared to those who do not participate in engaged learning opportunities?” The University of Denver offers undergraduate students a range of engaged learning opportunities such as first-year seminars with a service learning component, hands-on community organizing with local high school students, and leadership programs designed specifically for students of color. The study compares well-being outcomes of 1st-year University of Denver students who participate in such opportunities with those who lead regular campus life. Baseline data account for pre-university engagement and family orientation to civic engagement.

Investigator(s):
Nicole Nicotera, Ph.D.
Sarah McCauley, M.P.A.
Anne De Prince, Ph.D.

Sponsor:
Bringing Theory to Practice
2011-2014; $8000

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Project and Description:
Assessing Suicidal Intentions of Troubled Youth
The measurement of suicidal intent is crucial for effective interventions and valid research, yet the predominant measure of suicidal intent has shown mixed results with adolescents. This study uses quantitative and qualitative measures with adolescent psychiatric inpatients to better understand how to assess suicidal intent in young people. The study is a collaboration with Denver Health and Hospital, including Chris Sheldon, Ph.D., psychologist, and Colleen Fischer, Ph.D. psychologist.

Investigator(s):
Stacey Freedenthal, Ph.D.

Sponsor:
Not currently funded

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Project and Description:
Predictors of Mental Health Service Use in Recently Suicidal Adults
It is well known that only a minority of suicidal individuals receive formal mental health services. What is less understood is whether suicidal individuals receive other forms of help, including from friends, religious leaders, and support groups. This study uses data from the
2009 National Survey of Drug Use and Health to investigate formal and informal receipt of help by suicidal individuals and patterns, including potential racial disparities, that characterize the receipt of such help.

**Investigator(s):**
Stacey Freedenthal, Ph.D.

**Sponsor:**
Not currently funded

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**Project and Description:**
*The Measurement of Hope as a Proxy for Assessment of Suicidality: A Study of Adolescents*
Numerous barriers impede the measurement of suicidal ideation and intent in community settings, such as schools. Liability issues, stigma, and fears based on myths of suggestibility cause many school principals, for example, to refuse researchers permission to assess suicidality in school-based studies. This study aims to investigate the (inverse) relationship of hope to suicidality, along with the feasibility of using hope as a reverse proxy for suicidality. Data are being collected by Augustine Osman, Ph.D., a psychology professor at the University of Texas San Antonio, and will be analyzed by Dr. Freedenthal.

**Investigator(s):**
Stacey Freedenthal, Ph.D.

**Sponsor:**
Not currently funded

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**Project and Description:**
*Protective Factors among Children and Youth: Development of a Framework and Research Agenda for the Administration on Children, Youth, and Families*
This study is being conducted to provide a foundation for the development of a protective factors framework applicable to child and youth populations served by the Administration on Children, Youth, and Families (ACYF). Literature addressing protective factors for children and youth served by ACYF is being reviewed and summarized. General and population-specific crosswalks of protective factors by ACYF population are illustrated. Finally, intervention models based on knowledge of protective factors are being developed to advance practice, policy, and research relevant to ACYF’s mission.

**Investigator:**
Jeff Jenson, Ph.D.
**Sponsor:**
2011-present; $40,000

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**Project and Description:**
*Empowering Disadvantaged and High-Risk Youth: A Community-University Partnership in Public Housing Communities*
A risk and resilience framework for understanding and preventing adolescent problem behaviors was used to implement a university-community partnership aimed at providing academic enrichment, personal development and wellness, cultural enrichment, and career development activities and interventions to 75 high-risk youth and parents residing in three public housing communities in Denver. Longitudinal data collection assessing the effects of project interventions on academic performance and other behavioral outcomes was conducted from 2006-2010. Analyses of project data are ongoing.

**Investigator:**
Jeff Jenson, Ph.D.

**Sponsor:**
Office of Minority Health, Department of Health and Human Services. Washington, D.C.
2006-2011; $800,000

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**Project and Description:**
*The Bridge Project Early Literacy Program*
This five year study is an evaluation of early literacy interventions for students in grades kindergarten to three. Reading proficiency and scores on standardized instruments among Bridge Project students will be compared to a matched group of students from other Denver public housing neighborhoods. The study is a collaboration between the Bridge Project program and research staff and the Omni Institute of Denver.

**Investigator(s):**
Molly Calhoun, MSW
Jeff Jenson, PhD
Melissa Richmond, PhD & Kate Smiles, Omni Institute

**Sponsor:**
Mile High United Way
2012-2017; $240,000
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**Project and Description:**
*Mentoring At-Risk Girls in Denver Public Housing Neighborhoods*
Implemented at the Denver Bridge Project, this study offers year-round services aimed at ensuring academic success and preventing school dropout among at-risk middle school girls in four public housing communities.

**Investigator(s):**
Jeff Jenson, Ph.D.  
Molly Calhoun, MSW

**Sponsor:**
The Women’s Foundation of Colorado  
2010-11; $75,000

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**Project and Description:**
*Comparative Studies of Risk and Resilience*
The nature of risk and resilience among samples of Japanese, Korean, and African college students are examined in these ongoing investigations.

**Investigator(s):**
Julie Laser, Ph.D.

**Sponsor:**
Not currently funded

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**Project and Description:**
*Risk and Resiliency among Sexual Minority Youth*
This is a community-based, collaborative project with Rainbow Alley, a program of the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender Community Center of Colorado which provides a comprehensive array of services to youth. Using secondary data analysis, it explores various patterns of risk and resiliency among sexual minority youth. Current aspects of the project include examination of cutting and other non-suicidal self-injury behavior in the population, the protective impact of gay-straight alliances and utilization of different services, and the role of student school engagement in the lives of sexual minority youth.

**Investigator(s):**
N. Eugene Walls, Julie Laser, Kristie Seelman, Sarah Nickels, Cynthia Hazel, J. P. Reyes, Joe Longo, Pam Hancock and Cory Barrett.
Sponsor:
Center for Community Engagement & Service Learning, University of Denver
2010-2011; $41,831.

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Gerontology

Project and Description:
Elder Maltreatment Risk and Consequences: Study of Older Adults Resources and Stress (SOARS)
This two-year study will be done in collaboration with the Justice Program for Older Adults of Denver, a coalition of crime victim service organizations, domestic violence agencies, adult protective services, and senior services. By conducting structured interviews with older adults recruited through these service agencies, we will examine how previous trauma experiences, cognitive processes, and mental health needs are related to risk for elder abuse, neglect, and financial exploitation. We also aim to identify the service use patterns of these older adults and what service needs are left unmet.

Investigators:
Leslie Hasche, Ph.D.
Anne DePrince, Ph.D. (University of Denver, Department of Psychology)

Sponsor:
Knoebel Center for Longevity and Health, University of Denver
2012–2014; $49,000

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Project and Description:
Measuring & Understanding Organizational Readiness to Adopt Healthy IDEAS
Conducted in partnership with the National Council on Aging and the evidence-based depression intervention program for older adults, called Healthy IDEAS, this study aims to examine how an online organizational assessment can predict geriatric case management agencies’ adoption of Healthy IDEAS. The National Council on Aging developed the organizational assessment, and they have provided the results from over 100 agencies from across the United States for the study. Study activities involve assessing the predictive ability of the organizational readiness assessment for determining implementation outcomes over time.

Investigator:
Leslie Hasche, Ph.D.
Sponsor:
John A. Hartford Faculty Scholars Fellowship; Gerontological Society of America, Washington D.C.
2010-2012; $100,000

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Project and Description:
Improving Quality of Depression Care: Context & Strategies for Implementing Healthy IDAS
My involvement in this research started as a consultant and now is done as a partner with Enola Proctor. The goal is to further the conceptual development and measurement of strategies used by agencies, intervention developers, and policy and program developers to promote the use of empirically supported treatments. Enola Proctor has lead the way on reviewing literature and publishing about this topic; whereas, I have contributed by facilitating and applying this content to the case example of how geriatric case management agencies across the United States have implemented Healthy IDEAS. Activities have included (1) observational research of statewide conferences and trainings on Healthy IDEAS; and (2) data analysis drawing from my research on assessing organizational readiness to adopt Healthy IDEAS and on the Healthy IDEAS database.

Investigators:
Leslie Hasche, Ph.D.
Enola Proctor, Ph.D. (Washington University in St. Louis)

Sponsor:
Not currently funded

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Project and Description:
Implementation and Service Outcomes of a Risk and Resiliency Review in Senior Housing
During the summer of 2012, we conducted a preliminary pilot test of the Risk and Resiliency Review, which is a screening tool developed by Mercy Housing to identify and intervene on risk factors associated with older adults’ transitions from independent living into institutional settings. In partnership with Mercy Housing, a leading national affordable housing organization, we plan to continue this evaluation work and to pursue funding opportunities to research how screening tools can be feasibly and effectively implemented to improve the quality of resident services for older adults in senior housing.

Investigators:
Leslie Hasche, Ph.D.
Nancy Van DeMark, Ph.D.
Carol Breslau, Vice President of Resident Services, Mercy Housing
Health and Mental Health

Project and Description:
Behavioral Health Disparities Curriculum Infusion Project (BHDCIP). Racial/ethnic disparities in behavioral health care and health status, more recently referred to as “behavioral health disparities,” represent critical areas of concern for our nation. Despite major advancements in health care and technologies over the past 25 years, disparities continue to exist, and in some cases are increasing with marginalized populations encountering the highest risks. Social Workers are central to health and social service delivery. For more than a century, the social work profession has worked to address disparities and social inequities as part of profession’s commitment to social justice. BHDCIP is funded by the Office of Minority Health (OMH) to study the role of social work education in preparing students to address the issue of behavioral health disparities through identifying promising and evidenced based practices and research approaches that represents the best thinking of academics, researchers, practitioners and community representatives and to develop a set of Advanced Social Work Practice Behaviors to prepare future social work practitioners for effective practice in address behavioral health disparities.

Investigator(s):
James Herbert Williams, Ph.D.

Sponsor:
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Minority Health, Washington, DC 2011-2013; $100,000

Project and Description:
Safety Strategies and Coping Skills among Homeless Young Adults
Through mixed quantitative and qualitative data collection methods, this study examines trauma experienced on the streets among homeless young adults. The study builds on previous research investigating the role of transience and substance abuse as both coping methods as well as precipitants to trauma experiences and posttraumatic stress disorder. Approximately 200 young adults in shelters, drop-in services, and transitional housing will participate in Denver, with similar data collection taking place in Austin, TX and Los Angeles, CA. Findings will inform development of a brief trauma-focused psycho-educational group to help youth protect themselves and cope with trauma experiences on the streets.
Investigator(s):
Kimberly Bender, Ph.D.

Sponsor:
University of Denver, Faculty Development Fund
$3,000; 2009-2010

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Project and Description:
Preventing Victimization among Homeless Youth
This randomized clinical trial introduces a victimization prevention program (Program SAFE) into a homeless youth shelter. The program aims to help homeless youth build skills in risk detection, attention, and safe problem solving in order to avoid victimization on the streets. The program is offered in an intensive group format followed by individual booster sessions provided via cell phone. The manual is adapted from an intervention for preventing intimate partner violence among girls in foster care (HARP) developed by collaborator Anne DePrince. The study pilots this program, examining the feasibility of providing the intervention and determining preliminary outcomes associated with participation.

Investigator(s):
Kimberly Bender, Ph.D.
Anne DePrince, Ph.D. (DU Psychology)

Sponsor:
Public Good Fellowship, University of Denver; $25,000
PROF grant, University of Denver; $30,000
2012-present

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Project and Description:
Pathways to Recidivism among Female Inmates with Histories of Victimization
This study examines the relationships among victimization, mental health, substance use experiences with reoffending among women prisoners. These relationships are investigated in an effort to inform re-entry services that address the unique psychosocial needs of women prisoners as they leave prison. In collaboration with Stephen Tripodi (PI), Dr. Bender is modeling risk and protective factors that predict recidivism among this vulnerable female population.

Investigator(s):
Kimberly Bender, Ph.D.
Stephen Tripodi, Ph.D. (Florida State University)

Sponsor:
Not currently funded
Human-Animal Connection

Project and Description:
*Children exposed to intimate partner violence and animal abuse.* The potentially deleterious effects of children’s exposure to intimate partner violence (IPV) have been well documented and include both externalizing and internalizing problems as well as compromised socio-emotional functioning. Recent research suggests that concomitant exposure to animal abuse may occur in families with pets and who have experienced IPV. Using a prospective design, this project examines levels of IPV and the presence or absence of threatened or actual harm of pets and relate these variables to children’s behavior problems, including their perpetration of animal abuse.

Investigator:
James Herbert Williams, Ph.D.

Sponsor:
National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, Washington DC
2010-2014; $1.5 million

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Project and Description:
*The Colorado Link Project*
This study works toward developing sustainable efforts at data collection assessing the prevalence of animal abuse in Colorado. The collaboration defines existing practices and describes how current animal abuse issues are addressed from initial report to final disposition. The second year of the project focuses on development of an educational curriculum and associated handbook. Emphasis will be placed on having these materials accurately reflect the most critical needs for first responders and to assist systems and multi-disciplinary participants to work effectively together to reduce abuse toward animals and the subsequent impact on human health. At completion of the final year a statewide strategy will be established for dissemination of the standards and guidelines. Phase two will include review of existing treatment intervention with animal abusers, risk assessment instrument development and diagnostic oriented intervention approaches.

Investigator:
Philip Tedeschi, MSW

Sponsor:
Animal Assistance Foundation
2011-2012; $25,000

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Neighborhoods and Communities

**Project and Description:**
*Neighborhoods, Health, and Hardship*
The study is an examination of the social determinants of health and hardship in low-income urban neighborhoods. The study tests the effects of concentrated disadvantage, neighborhood social cohesion, and informal neighborhood social control on the material hardship and mental health of mothers living in low-income neighborhoods.

**Investigator(s):**
Daniel Brisson, Ph.D.

**Sponsor:**
Not currently funded

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**Project and Description:**
*Neighborhood Social Cohesion and Hunger*
*Neighborhood Social Cohesion and Obesity*
These studies examine the association between neighborhood characteristics, hunger, and obesity among mothers living in low-income urban neighborhoods.

**Investigator(s):**
Daniel Brisson, Ph.D.
Richard Smith, Ph.D.

**Sponsor:**
Not currently funded

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**Project and Description:**
*Subsidized Housing: What Works for Family Health and Well-Being*
The study investigates types of subsidized housing and housing support services to determine the most effective options for family health and well-being. The study is a review of existing literature to provide policy and program guidance for those engaged in subsidized housing service provision.

**Investigator(s):**
Daniel Brisson, Ph.D.

**Sponsor:**
Not currently funded
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**Project and Description:**
*Child Care Subsidy Take-Up among TANF Families*
The study is an empirical investigation of the rate at which TANF-eligible families use child care subsidies. The study also includes an investigation of the covariates of child care subsidy take-up.

**Investigator(s):**
Daniel Brisson, Ph.D.
Susan Roll, Ph.D. (California State University-Chico)

**Sponsor:**
University of Maryland
2011-2012; $5,000

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**Project and Description:**
*Bridge for Families*
The study is in the development stage and is intended to improve the health, and well-being of parents living in government subsidized housing and the academic outcomes of their children. In 2011-2012 the project has focused on the development of a ten session dinner curriculum for parents as well as the administrative permissions and relationships necessary to carry out the program.

**Investigator(s):**
Daniel Brisson, Ph.D.
Stephanie Pena Lechuga, MSW

**Sponsor:**
Not currently funded

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**Project and Description:**
*Evaluation of Mercy Housing Family Outcomes*
The study is being conducted in partnership with Mercy Housing to assess the effects of Mercy Housing programs and services on participant outcomes.

**Investigator(s):**
Daniel Brisson, Ph.D.
Sponsor:
Not currently funded

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Project and Description
*Civic Leadership and Moral Action: Multicultural Leadership Strategies that Strengthen the Capacity of Community to Enact the Common Good*
Civic leadership has always been an important factor in motivating and mobilizing individuals and groups in society to facilitate creating the good life for citizens. This qualitative project seeks to understand the process of individuals in civic leadership roles as they move from moral vision, values and beliefs to moral action taken within the public realm. The research also examines how context - institutional influences, social relationships, cultural influences, and leadership capacity - impact leadership behavior and vision. The purpose of the project is to offer new insights into the critical process of moral development, moral identity, and moral behavior of leaders, and describe the strategies used to produce civic action. The results will inform the development of a training model for civic leadership.

**Investigator**
Susan S. Manning, Ph.D.

**Sponsor**
Center of Civic Ethics, University of Denver

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Project and Description
*The Evaluation of Denver Housing Authority's Park Avenue HOPE VI Revitalization Project*
This HOPE VI project replaces public housing with newly constructed and expanded units of mixed income housing. The study is a five-year process and outcome program evaluation that examines the impact of the project on the lives of former/returning residents of the public housing units and the lives of those in the surrounding community.

**Investigator(s):**
William Cloud, Ph.D.

**Sponsor:**
Denver Housing Authority
2010-2016; $75,000

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**Project and Description**  
*The Evaluation of Denver Housing Authority's 2007 ROSS Family and Homeownership Program*  
The Program is designed to provide comprehensive resources and information to public housing residents that will enable them to increase their job skills, attain employment, increase their earning capacities, improve their financial stability, and work towards home ownership.

**Investigator(s):**  
William Cloud, Ph.D.  
Daniel Brisson, Ph.D.

**Sponsor:**  
Denver Housing Authority  
2012; $4,500

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**Project and Description:**  
*Models of Women’s Community Organizing*  
This qualitative study examines models of community organizing used by women’s organizations in Colorado and Western states.

**Investigator(s):**  
Jean East, Ph.D.

**Sponsor:**  
GSSW Research Committee  
2010-2011; $2,500

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**Project Description:**  
*Curriculum Development using Technology*  
This grant is training faculty for developing a new curriculum model and integrating new technologies in teaching.

**Investigator:**  
Jean East, Ph.D.

**Sponsor:**  
University of Denver, Office for Teaching and Learning  
2010-2011; $19,998

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International Development

Project and Description:
*Human Security in Northern Kenya: Assessment, Capacity-Building and Operational Tools to Promote Sustainable Livelihoods and Conflict Management*

The work of this project on human insecurity in North Rift and North East Kenya aims to reduce vulnerability and increase human security of communities affected by conflict in Northern Kenya by building the capacity of the community and empowering vulnerable groups affected by conflict through identification and promotion of sustainable livelihood and conflict management strategies. The rationale for capacity building and conflict management is to empower people through exchange of information, promotion of knowledge and building of skills for improved livelihoods and to enable the local community to deal with conflicts in a sustainable manner. Through identification and promotion of both sustainable livelihood and conflict management strategies, the project attempt to address the two aspects of human security: freedom from fear (conflict) and freedom from want (creation of sustainable livelihoods).

**Investigator(s):**
James Herbert Williams, Ph.D., Jack Jones, Ph.D.
Asfaw Kumssa, Ph.D., United Nations Centre for Regional Development

**Sponsor:**
University of Denver, Graduate School of Social Work, Denver, CO., United Nations Centre for Regional Development. Nairobi, Kenya. 2008-2011; $150,000

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Project and Description:
*Strengthening Networks of Refugee and Immigrant Service Providers*

**Investigator(s):**
Julie Laser, Ph.D.
Eric DesMarais
A collaboration with the Denver Coalition for Integration and the Human Rights and Community Relations Office of the City of Denver

**Sponsor:**
University of Denver, Public Good Grant
2011-2012; $8,000

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Education

Project and Description:
*Methods for Integrating Evidence Based Practice into the MSW Curriculum*
This study introduces an innovative technology to teach MSW students to utilize empirically-supported interventions in providing mental health treatment to children and adolescents. The study investigates the utility of these tools for MSW students, learning outcomes associated with this instruction, and students’ changes in attitudes toward Evidence Based Practice (EBP). A second phase of the study integrates the latest methods for teaching the Evidence Based Practice Process into a required research sequence, examining students' changes in attitudes, acceptance, and plans to use EBP associated with this new instruction.

**Investigator(s):**
Kimberly Bender, Ph.D.

**Sponsor:**
Center for Teaching and Learning, University of Denver
2010-2012; $20,000

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Project and Description:
*Increasing Social Work Students’ Information Competencies through Online Interactive Course Tutorials*
Developing and evaluating the effectiveness of online video instructional tutorials on information literacy for two GSSW foundation courses, History of Social Welfare and Social Work, and Research Methods and Design.

**Investigators:**
John Kayser, Ph.D.
Marian Bussey, Ph.D.
Jenny Bowers

**Sponsor:**
University of Denver, Center for Teaching and Learning
2011-2012; $20,000

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Project and Description:
*Social Work Education for African Americans during the Segregation Era: Analysis of Two Southern Schools*

**Investigator(s):**
John Kayser, Ph.D.
Midori Nishaki, Fukuoka University of Education (Japan)
Lynn Hoke, Archivist, Episcopal Diocese of North Carolina.

**Sponsor:**
Not currently funded

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**Project and Description:**
*The History of Social Work Training in Colorado, 1890-1935*
This project is an historical research investigation examining the early history of social work training in Colorado.

**Investigator(s):**
John Kayser, Ph.D.

**Sponsor:**
Not currently funded

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**Project and Description:**
*Exclusionary Practices in Social Work*
Historical research aimed at understanding the history of segregation in social work education prior to the 1964 Civil Rights Act.

**Investigator(s):**
John Kayser, Ph.D.

**Sponsor:**
Not currently funded

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**Project and Description:**
*Social Work Workforce Development*
The goal of the project is to develop a sustainable community capacity building effort in Northwest Colorado that will address behavioral healthcare workforce needs in social work. The objectives of the program are to establish a community advisory council to contribute to articulation and provision of social work education in the region, to expand the role and capacity of Northwest Colorado communities to effectively identify their behavioral healthcare needs and promote behavioral health and wellness, to implement local social work recruitment and retention strategies, and to enhance the infrastructure available to support and coordinate social work behavioral healthcare workforce development efforts.
**Project and Description:**

*Technology and Social Work Education*

This research is a two-year project that includes three studies on technology integration in social work education. The first study is a mixed method study that includes a survey and focus groups of Deans at social work schools in the United States to get leadership and organizational perspectives on technology in social work. The second study engaged a faculty development process as a learning community with six GSSW faculty and two staff, and the third study involved the same group in the delivery of social work classes using web based technologies.

**Investigator(s):**
Walter LaMendola, Ph.D.
Jean East, Ph.D.

**Sponsor:**
University of Denver, Center for Teaching and Learning
2010-2011; $20,000

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**Project and Description:**

*Teaching and Learning about Privilege*

This project explores various aspects of the issue of privilege in the context of graduate education and social work practice. It explores learning trajectories and ally social identity development, themes in resistance to examining and challenging privilege, and the impact of education about privilege on social work practice.

**Investigator(s):**
N. Eugene Walls, Ph.D.
Kristie Seelman
Sarah Nickels

**Sponsor:**
Not currently funded
**Project and Description:**

*Barriers to Full Citizenship: Transgender Experiences on Colorado Campuses*

This is a community-based, collaborative project with the Colorado Anti-Violence Program, exploring various types of barriers that trans-identified and gender variant students, staff, and faculty experience on college and university campuses in Colorado that inhibit or prevent their full participation and citizenship in campus communities.

**Investigator(s):**
N. Eugene Walls, Ph.D.
Kristie Seelman

**Sponsor:**
Center for Community Engagement and Service Learning, University of Denver 2010-2012; $7,359.

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**Project and Description:**

*Portrayal of Social Workers in the Media*

**Investigator(s):**
Julie Laser, Ph.D.
Laurie Walowitz
A collaboration with NASW of Colorado

**Sponsor:**
Not currently funded

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**Multicultural Studies**

**Project and Description:**

*Queer Latino Parenting: A Grounded Theory View of Intersectionality*

The purpose of this study is to examine the experience of parenting from the values and cultural perspective of Gay, Lesbian, and Bi-Sexual parents. The project investigates Queer Latino Parents description of their parenting philosophy, goals, and strengths in the context of their social support system as well as within larger social structures such as the school system.

**Investigator(s):**
Deborah Ortega, Ph.D.
Sponsor:
University of Denver, Center for Multiculturalism
2011-2012; $1,650

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Project and Description:
Living Scared: Experiences of Immigration Detention
This project investigates the effect of immigration detention center and increased immigration enforcement on immigrants and refugees. The study uses qualitative interviews and an anonymous letter writing campaign to collect the stories of immigrants and citizen relatives.

Investigator(s):
Debora Ortega, Ph.D.
Ashley Hanna Michel
Badiah Haffejee

Sponsor:
University of Denver, Latino Center for Community Engagement and Scholarship
2012-2014; $10,000

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Project and Description:
Short Chutes or Long Ladders: Pathways to (Im)Mobility among Latino Immigrant Youth
The purpose of this study is to address the pathways to upward mobility for Latino immigrant youth by exploring the formal and formal mechanisms that aid or deter Latino immigrant students’ educational aspirations. Specifically, the project will examine the possible pathways to mobility which we conceive of as short chutes, where youth attain some level of upward mobility but find their progress stalled once they graduate from college, or long ladders, where youth have seemingly upward trajectories that are hampered by formal and informal obstacles along the way.

Investigator(s):
Debora Ortega, Ph.D.
Lisa Martinez, Ph.D.
Maria Salazar, Ph.D.

Sponsor:
University of Denver, Faculty Senate, PROF Grant
2010-present; $29,000

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