


BEHAVIORAL HEALTH


DISABILITIES


**INTERNATIONAL HEALTH**


**SOCIAL WELFARE**

Tatjana Meschede (PI)
“Evaluation of the Housing First for Homeless Families Program in Massachusetts’ South Shore Region”
Funder: Father Bill’s and MainSpring
This two-year project will evaluate the successes and challenges of a new model of prevention, diversion, triage, and housing stabilization of homeless families in Massachusetts’ South Shore region.

Thomas Shapiro and Janet Boguslaw (Co-PIs)
“Asset Development: The Research and Learning Cluster Partnership”
Funder: Charles Stewart Mott Foundation
This project supports the development of policy initiatives that address the issue of scale (defined as expanding successes from thousands to millions of families in a cost-efficient manner) and other asset building challenges by continuing to document and disseminate information about promising strategies.

Sandra Venner (PI), Thomas Shapiro
Funder: Compass Working Capital
This study will evaluate a pilot program designed to help participants achieve greater financial stability and increased income and savings, in order to inform federal housing programs and policy.

Mary Jo Larson (PI), Elizabeth Merrick, Beth Mohr, Grant Ritter, Rachel Sayko Adams, Constance Horgan
“First Longitudinal Study of Missed Treatment Opportunities using Department of Defense and Veterans Administration Data”
Funder: National Institute on Drug Abuse
This project will provide data useful to quality improvement programs in the military health system (MHS) and Veterans Administration (VA) on urgent issues requiring clinical and policy attention. The team will investigate the substance abuse and psychological outcomes of receiving early identification and linkage to behavioral health care in Army members returning from Iraq and Afghanistan.

Alan Melchior (PI)
“Evaluation of the KUPEE (Kentucky University Partnership for Environmental Education) Energy Initiative”
Funder: Corporation for National and Community Service/Learn and Serve America program
The project is an evaluation of a 4-college effort to integrate service-learning practice into the teaching of environmental education by engaging graduate-level education students in energy-related service projects as part of their graduate curriculum. The goal of the initiative is to provide teachers with practical experience with service learning to better prepare them to use service learning in their own classrooms.

Dominic Hodgkin (PI), Constance Horgan, Mary Jo Larson, Elizabeth Merrick, Susan Parish, Grant Ritter, Maureen Stewart, Marji Erickson Warfield
“Disability, Aging, and Long-Term Care Policy and Data”
Funder: Department of Health and Human Services–Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation (ASPE); Abt Associates
The research team will conduct various analyses that ASPE will request in the areas of mental health and disability.

Peter Kreiner (PI), Meelee Kim
“Integrating Prescription Drug Monitoring Programs with Prevention”
Funder: Carnevale Associates
This project examines how data from state prescription drug monitoring programs (PDMP) can be used to support state and local prescription drug abuse prevention efforts. The team is working with the prescription drug monitoring program director, the state prevention director, and a local prevention practitioner in five states to develop recommendations about the use of PDMP data to support prevention.

Susan P. Curnan (PI)
“Evaluating Summer Youth Employment in Washington, DC”
Funder: Department of Employment Services, Washington, DC
Washington, DC, has supported a summer jobs program for 20,000 youth for the past several years. The project will evaluate the effectiveness of the program in preparing teenagers for work and to examine the implementation and management carried out by government and nonprofits.

Susan P. Curnan and Della Hughes (Co-PIs)
“Evaluation of the Good Neighborhoods/Good Schools Initiative in Detroit”
Funder: The Skillman Foundation
This is a new grant for the Center for Youth and Communities’ ongoing work as evaluation and learning partners for the nation’s largest place-based community change initiative.
Children, Youth and Families (Cont.)

Susan P. Curnan (PI), Christopher Kingsley
“Ending Family Homelessness”
Funder: The Fireman Foundation/Families First, Inc.
The project team is conducting a series of 10 “Family Homelessness Emergency Assistance Forums” around the state to develop new policy aimed at ending family homelessness.

Disabilities

Susan Parish (PI), Sandy Magana
Funder: Maternal and Child Health Bureau (Health Resources and Services Administration)
The team is investigating the extent and correlates of racial and ethnic disparities in the financial burden that families bear in raising children with autism, as well as the health care access of children with autism.

Health

Deborah Gurewich (PI), Donald Shepard
“Community Health Center Performance in Texas”
Funder: Texas Association of Community Health Centers
This analysis will compare the cost and quality performance of Community Health Centers (CHCs) relative to other primary care providers. The study updates an ongoing evaluation of Texas CHCs using more recent data.

Christopher Tompkins (PI), Palmira Santos, Grant Ritter, Jon Chilingerian, Robert Mechanic
“Healing Without Harm: A Multi-site Demonstration”
Funder: NIH; subcontract to Ascension Health
The research team will work with Ascension Health to help the organization make changes in order to provide excellent healthcare, with zero preventable errors. This study will research a two-pronged strategy to make this happen in obstetrics units at test sites by instituting: 1) an improved and uniform medical liability response model and 2) new, evidence-based and uniform obstetrical practices. The goal is to enhance patient safety and reduce the number and severity of medical liability claims.

International Development

Ricardo Godoy (PI), Victoria Reyes Garcia (University of Barcelona)
“The Effects of Roads on Indigenous People’s Well-Being and Use of Natural Resources: A Natural Experiment in Lowland Bolivia”
Funder: National Science Foundation
The researchers plan to use the proposed road construction as a natural experiment to assess the effect of sudden exposure to the market and the modern world on a wide range of human and environmental indicators of the well-being of native Amazonians.

International Health

A.K. Nandakumar (PI), Joanne Beswick, Maria Creciun, Sareh Khoshi, Wu Zeng, Gary Gaumer
“Technical and Analytical Support for Health Financing”
Funder: Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation
This contract supports the Global Health team by providing technical and analytical support in areas of vaccine delivery, maternal and neo-natal child health, national health accounts and a variety of policy and financing topics.

Philanthropy

The Sillerman Center
“Learning by Giving”
Funder: Sunshine Lady Foundation
$10,000 was given to the Sillerman Center for the students in the undergraduate Social Justice and Philanthropy course, taught by Elenore Garton, to distribute to local nonprofit organizations.
AGING


ASSETS AND INEQUALITIES


BEHAVIORAL HEALTH


Gurewich, D. “Coordinating Primary Care and Substance Abuse Treatment Services.” Presented at AcademyHealth Annual Research Meeting, Boston, MA, June 2010.


Halasa, Y. “Costing for Reproductive Health Programs.” Trainer at WHO/UNFPA Regional Reproductive Health Workshop, Cairo, Egypt, June 22-July 1, 2010.


Joan Kaufman was featured in an article published by Wellesley Weston Magazine on May 18, 2010. The article was based on an interview with Dr. Kaufman about her work in public health and the health policy sector in China.


In June 2010 Peter Kreiner gave an invited presentation to the Florida Prescription Drug Monitoring Program Implementation Task Force in Tallahassee, FL, describing performance measures and the collaboration of Brandeis’ Prescription Monitoring Program Center of Excellence with the Florida implementation team.

Medical News Today reported on Dominic Hodgkin’s study of funding cuts for mental health services in its July 19, 2010 article, “Current Economic Crisis Finds Few Bright Spots In Mental Health Spending.”

The Waltham Daily News Tribune spotlighted Walter Leutz and Ann Bookman of Heller’s Communities for Healthy Aging initiative in an August 17, 2010 article, “Grants to aid Waltham’s seniors.”

Jody Hoffer Gittell was interviewed on Sound Medicine, a public radio program from Indiana University, on May 6, 2010 about her book High Performance Healthcare: Using the Power of Relationships to Achieve Quality, Efficiency and Resilience.

Jody Hoffer Gittell was quoted in a June 17, 2010 TIME magazine article, “Spirit May Soar Again But Airline Tensions Simmer,” about the Spirit Airlines pilots strike.


Sajed Kamal gave the keynote address at a seminar on renewable energy in Dhaka, Bangladesh in July 2010. Asia Pulse reported on the speech in a July 26, 2010 article.
Jody Hoffer Gittell was named a Visiting Faculty Director, MIT Leadership Center, from July 2010 to June 2011.

Stuart Altman was named among Modern Healthcare’s 100 Most Powerful People in Healthcare for 2010. This is the 7th time he has received this honor.

Jody Hoffer Gittell was named a Visiting Investigator from September 2010 through mid-January 2011 at the Institut Català de Recerca en Patrimoni Cultural (the Catalan Institute for Research in Cultural Heritage), which is affiliated with the Universitat de Girona in Catalonia, Spain.

“Psychotropic Medication Use in Dependent Children of Active Duty Soldiers Following Parent’s Deployment,” a paper by Beth A. Mohr, Mary Jo Larson, Rachel Sayko Adams, Jennifer Perloff, Michael J. Keane and Thomas V. Williams, was awarded Best Abstract in Theme by AcademyHealth.

Eve Wittenberg was invited as a member of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Special Emphasis Panel on Prevention Research Centers Comparative Effectiveness Research Program in May 2010.

Constance Horgan received the 2010 Robert E. Anderson Service Award for Distinguished Contributions in the Field of Addiction Research, Training, and Evaluation from the National Association of State Alcohol and Drug Abuse Directors (NASADAD) in Norfolk, VA on June 4, 2010.

Nina Kammerer was invited to be Visiting Investigator from September 2010 through mid-January 2011 at the Institut Català de Recerca en Patrimoni Cultural (the Catalan Institute for Research in Cultural Heritage), which is affiliated with the Universitat de Girona in Catalonia, Spain.

Eve Wittenberg was the commencement speaker for the Interdepartmental program in Health: Science, Society and Policy at Brandeis University in May, 2010.
Jennifer L. Meagher, PhD student, was awarded the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) Dissertation Award to assist in the research of her dissertation, "Nursing Home Compare: Predictors and Impact of Differing Organizational Response."

MBA student Beth Bryant was awarded a Sillerman internship at the GreenLight Foundation.

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Allyson Peller was the winner of the 2009 Durand Jacobs Award for her 2008 paper entitled "Parameters for Safer Gambling Behavior: Examining the Empirical Research." The Durand Jacobs Award recognizes outstanding work related to the psychology of addictive behaviors, and is dedicated to Dr. Durand Jacobs’ lifelong efforts to mentor students.

Andrea Shaye, MBA student, was awarded a Sillerman internship at the Hyams Foundation.

PhD student Miranda Waggoner received a Dissertation Improvement Grant from the National Science Foundation in May 2010.

PhD students April Chang and Tom Mackie organized and facilitated training sessions at the "Forum on DCF/EI Collaboration: Making a Difference in the Lives of Young Children," held in Boston on February 5, 2010. The program was sponsored by Tufts Medical Center and the MA Department of Children and Families.

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Heller faculty members Stuart Altman, Peter Conrad, Anita Hill, and Joan Kaufman spoke at a panel on June 12 for the Brandeis Alumni Association reunion on campus. The panel was entitled “Healthcare: More or Less.”


In June 2010 the Executive Education Program held its annual Leadership Program in Health Policy and Management. The intensive one-week program included program sessions and case studies relating the latest in national health policy and management.

The Health Industry Forum held several forums during the spring and summer months:

- At the July 8, 2010 conference, “Meaningful Use, Health IT, and Health System Redesign: A Conversation with National Coordinator for Health Information Technology David Blumenthal,” Dr. David Blumenthal discussed underlying objectives for meaningful health information technology use.
- On August 5, 2010, the Health Industry Forum and Health Affairs held a forum entitled “Advancing Electronic Health Records Adoption and Meaningful Use.” The conference was a follow-up to the July meeting, with presentations by Dr. Blumenthal and Marilyn Tavenner, Principal Deputy Administrator, Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

The Institute on Assets and Social Policy (IASP), in partnership with the Insight Center’s Closing the Racial Wealth Gap Initiative and Demos, held a webinar entitled “The Widening Racial Wealth Gap and the Future of Our Economy” in May 2010. IASP director Thomas Shapiro discussed the IASP/Demos report “The Racial Wealth Gap Increases Fourfold,” the reasons for the gap, and innovative policy solutions to close the racial wealth gap and ensure economic security for all Americans.

IASP’s Jonas Parker conducted Financial Education Toolkit Workshops in Peabody, Plymouth, and Springfield, MA in May and June 2010. The purpose of the workshops was to train staff at homeless shelters to use a Financial Education Toolkit developed by IASP and the Massachusetts Association for Community Action (MASCAP) under a grant from the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD). The workshops were underwritten by a grant from Citizens Bank.

The Massachusetts Health Policy Forum held a conference on June 2, 2010, entitled “Massachusetts Health Care Reform: Impact on Women’s Health.” The forum outlined the role of women’s health in health care reform, discussed the impact of health care reform on women in Massachusetts, and drew lessons for ongoing efforts in Massachusetts and the U.S.

On June 21, 2010 Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts Foundation and the Massachusetts Health Policy Forum held a forum entitled “A Celebration of Health Care Reform: From Massachusetts to the Nation.” The forum celebrated this landmark achievement and discussed the implications for the Commonwealth moving forward. Speakers included Senator John Kerry and Massachusetts Health and Human Services Secretary Judy-Ann Bigby.

The Sillerman Center for the Advancement of Philanthropy and the Institute on Healthcare Systems of the Schneider Institutes for Health Policy presented the conference, “Foundations and Health Care Reform 2010,” on July 27 and 28, 2010. The conference, which was funded by grants and gifts from Grantmakers in Health, the California HealthCare Foundation, the Jewish Healthcare Foundation, and the Commonwealth Fund, brought together health leaders from over 60 health care foundations around the country to better understand the new Obama health care legislation with help from Schneider Institutes researchers. The primary focus was the role of regional actors in leveraging or supporting reform.


To kick off the MA Program in Sustainable International Development’s Capstone Week, Luther S. Luedtke, President and CEO of Education Development Center, gave a lecture on May 14, 2010 entitled “Appropriate Technologies for Sustainable Development.”