New Publications

Aging


Assets and Inequalities


Behavioral Health (cont.)


Health


New Publications (cont.)

Health (cont.)


International Health (cont.)


Management


Social Policy


Other


New Grants

Behavioral Health

Mary Brolin (PI), Robert Dunigan “Evaluation of CSAT’s Grants for the Benefits of Homeless Individuals (GBHI) Program” Funder: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration; subcontract to RTI, International The research team will collaborate with RTI International, Advocates for Human Potential and Danya to conduct a cross-site evaluation of the substance abuse service programs for homeless individuals funded by SAMHSA’s Center for Substance Abuse Treatment. The evaluation will include in-depth case studies of 25 newly funded programs and surveys, telephone interviews and secondary data analysis for all grantees funded since 2004.
Behavioral Health (cont.)

Mary Brolin (PI), Elizabeth Merrick, Lee Panas, Richard Saitz (Boston University School of Medicine)
“The Impact of Screening and Brief Intervention on Healthcare Utilization and Costs for Older Adults”
Funder: National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA)
This two-year study will assess the benefits of Screening and Brief Intervention (SBI) for unhealthy alcohol use among older adults and determine whether SBI in this population results in improved general health and lower healthcare costs. Conclusions will inform federal, state and health policies and practices regarding SBI among this growing population.

Elizabeth Merrick (PI), Dominic Hodgkin
“Mental Health US 2010”
Funder: SAMHSA; subcontract to RTI International
The project will provide targeted content expertise for the development of the Mental Health US 2010 chartbook on mental health and mental health services.

Behavioral Health (cont.)

Eve Wittenberg (PI), Grant Ritter, Don Shepard, Gail Strickler
“Health-Related Quality of Life Impacts of Illness on Family and Caregivers”
Funder: NIH/National Institute of Nursing Research (NINR); subcontract to the University of Michigan
This three-year study will assess the spillover effect of chronic illness on caregivers’ and family members’ health-related quality of life, including how illness affects parents, spouses, and family members, and how to accurately measure these effects. The ultimate goal of this research is to expand the definition of health to include a family or household-level focus rather than an individual-level one, and to consider public health interventions from this perspective.

Constance Horgan (PI), Sharon Reif (co-PI), Deborah Garnick, Dominic Hodgkin, Margaret Lee, Robert Dunigan, Grant Ritter, Lee Panas, Andrea Acevedo
“Washington Circle Performance Measures and Criminal Justice Outcomes”
Funder: National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA)
This project will evaluate the relationship between client achievement of Washington Circle (WC) substance abuse performance measures and subsequent outcomes regarding criminal justice involvement, employment, and substance use. It will examine moderating differences - by gender, race/ethnicity and age - and the effects of prior criminal justice involvement on performance measures and subsequent criminal justice outcomes. The project team will work collaboratively with six states (Connecticut, Massachusetts, New York, North Carolina, Oklahoma, and Washington).

Behavioral Health (cont.)

Susan P. Curnan (PI), Alan Melchior
“Evaluation of the Post Secondary Success Initiative”
Funder: The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation
Brandeis is the evaluation and learning partner for this Gates initiative aimed at doubling the number of young people who access, persist, and complete post-secondary education. The initiative is operating in more than 15 communities where community colleges partner with community-based organizations to meet goals.

Marji Erickson Warfield (PI), Walter Leutz
“Assessing a Participant Directed Service System for Low Income Children with Autism”
Funder: Maternal and Child Health Bureau; subcontract to Human Services Research Institute (HSRI)
The project will evaluate a Medicaid supportive services waiver program in Massachusetts that uses a participant direction (PD) model to choose and manage services for young children with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) and their families. The evaluation has two specific aims: (1) assess how well PD systems are implemented and (2) understand the variation in implementation across families and assess what predicts family well-being and child progress.

Constance Horgan (PI), Elizabeth Merrick, Maureen Stewart
“Provision of Alcohol Services in Private Health Plans”
Funder: National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA)
This four-year study will provide systematic data on the nature and extent of private health plans’ alcohol, drug and mental health services in 2010, the year of implementation of federal parity legislation. The study will conduct the third round of a national survey of health plans on the provision of alcohol, drug and mental health services, building on and comparing with two prior rounds.

Children, Youth, and Families

Deborah Garnick (PI), Constance Horgan, Margaret Lee, Robert Dunigan, Grant Ritter, Lee Panas, Andrea Acevedo
“This Impact of Screening and Brief Intervention on Healthcare Utilization and Costs for Older Adults”
Funder: National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA)
This project will evaluate the relationship between client achievement of Washington Circle (WC) substance abuse performance measures and subsequent outcomes regarding criminal justice involvement, employment, and substance use. It will examine moderating differences - by gender, race/ethnicity and age - and the effects of prior criminal justice involvement on performance measures and subsequent criminal justice outcomes. The project team will work collaboratively with six states (Connecticut, Massachusetts, New York, North Carolina, Oklahoma, and Washington).

Health

Christine Bishop (PI)
“Drug Cost Containment Changes And Quality Of Care For Mentally Ill Dual Enrollees”
Funder: Agency for Health Care Research and Quality (AHRQ); subcontract to Harvard Pilgrim Health Plan
The project will study the impact of the shift from Medicaid drug coverage to Medicare’s Part D program for disabled dually eligible beneficiaries with chronic mental illness in 4 states, 2 whose Medicaid drug programs imposed a cap on prescriptions per month (CA, NC) and 2 that did not (MO, NJ).
New Grants (cont.)

Health (cont.)

Christine Bishop (PI)
“Impact of Medicare Part D on Cancer and Diabetes Disparities among Dual Enrollees”
Funder: National Institute on Aging (NIA); subcontract to Kaiser Foundation Research Institute
The project will study the impact on racial and ethnic disparities in access to prescription drugs of the shift from Medicaid drug coverage to Medicare’s Part D program for aged and disabled dually eligible beneficiaries in 4 states, 2 whose Medicaid drug programs imposed a cap on prescriptions month (CA, NC) and 2 that did not (MO, NJ).

Christine Bishop (PI), Della Hughes, Walter Leutz, Marji Erickson Warfield
“Development of a Master Plan for Implementing the Community First Vision”
Funder: Massachusetts Division of Capital and Asset Management; subcontract to John Snow International
This project will provide expertise concerning long-term care, health policy, and other substantive areas to development of a plan to integrate state-owned capital facilities (state hospitals, state soldiers homes, etc.) into the Commonwealth’s “Community First” initiative.

Robert Mechanic (PI)
“Evaluating the Global Payment Model Developed by Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts”
Funder: Commonwealth Fund; subcontract to Harvard Medical School
In 2009, BCBS MA entered into a multi-year alternative quality contract (AQC) with seven physician groups in Massachusetts, combining a global fee for all care provided to enrollees plus significant performance bonuses for performance against quality benchmarks. This project will evaluate the strategies contracted delivery systems are taking to achieve success under the AQC through semi-structured interviews of key operating and clinical personnel.

Jennifer Perloff (PI)
“Services, Costs, and Geographic Patterns of Services Billed by Nurse Practitioners”
Funder: Robert Wood Johnson Foundation; subcontract to Massachusetts General Hospital
This project, which is being done in conjunction with researchers at MGH and Vanderbilt University, is one of the first systematic reviews of primary care provided by nurse practitioners. The study will utilize Medicare claims to identify patterns and variation in service delivery and cost.

Christopher Tompkins (PI)
“Synthesis of Evidence Related to Twenty High Priority Conditions and Environmental Scan of Performance Measures”
Funder: National Quality Forum; subcontract to Booz Allen Hamilton
This project reviewed existing quality measures and identified measurement gaps for twenty conditions (e.g., acute myocardial infarction, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, diabetes) that the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services identified as impact conditions. Impact conditions impose a heavy burden of illness on patients and account for over 95% of Medicare’s expenditures. This work will help guide NQF on how to prioritize the development of future measures.

International Development

Ricardo Godoy (PI)
“Summer Field Training in Methods of Data Collection”
Funder: National Science Foundation
This project will train PhD students in cultural anthropology at U.S. universities in qualitative and quantitative methods of data collection. Training takes place during June and July among the Tsimané, a native Amazonian society of foragers and farmers in the Bolivian rain forest.

International Health

A.K. Nandakumar (PI), Gary Gaumer, Marwa Farag, Joanne Beswick
“USAID Health Systems 20/20”
Funder: USAID; subcontract to Abt Associates
This contract supports the Health Systems 20/20 Project in Cairo, Egypt with the goal of increasing and sustaining the use of priority health services. Activities under this contract include a preventive health sector assessment study, technical support for two rounds of national health accounts, designing a household health care utilization and expenditure survey, a nationally representative study of the costs and efficiency of hospitals and primary health care services, capacity building for the Health Insurance Organization, an assessment of Egypt Ministry of Health performance, and technical assistance to the MOH in adopting the WHO Workload Indicators of Staffing Need (WISN) methodology.

A.K. Nandakumar (PI)
“Middle East and North Africa (MENA) Region Strategy Study”
Funder: World Bank
This contract funds the writing of two chapters of a World Bank report entitled “MENA Regional Health Strategy: Meeting the Challenges of Health Transition.” One chapter addresses health financing reforms in the MENA region and the other presents a synthesis of health policy reforms.
Presentations

Aging


Assets and Inequalities (cont.)


Parker, J. “Case Manager Financial Education Training.” Training delivered to staff at homeless shelters in the greater Boston area, November 2009. This is part of a series of eight trainings sponsored by the Department of Housing and Community Development and MassCAP using the IASP Financial Education toolkit.


Behavioral Health


Presentations (cont.)

Behavioral Health (cont.)


Larson, M.J. Presented research findings and provided expert advice to National Institute on Drug Abuse Computerized Motivational Incentives Hand-Off Meeting, Bethesda, MD, December 2009.


Children, Youth, and Families

Curnan, S.P. “The Evolving Story of the Summer Stimulus in Four Featured Communities.” Presented at U.S. Department of Labor National Youth Summits, Chicago, IL (October 2009), Washington, DC (December 2009), and Dallas, TX (December 2009).

Presentations (cont.)

**Children, Youth, and Families (cont.)**


**Health**


Mechanic, R. “Bending the Cost Curve: Re-Organizing Healthcare Payments to Keep Care Excellent, the System Solvent, and Information Technology Funded.” Presented at Partners Center for Connected Health Symposium, Rockville, MD, December 2009.


**International Health**


**Labor Markets**

**Presentations (cont.)**

**Management (cont.)**


Gittell, J.H. “Modularity and the Coordination of Complex Work: The Case of Post-Surgical Patient Care.” Presented to Interdisciplinary Committee on Organization Studies Seminar, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI, November 2009.


**Other**


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**Public Engagement**

**Aging**

Christine Bishop organized and chaired the Economics of Aging Interest Group Symposium at the Gerontological Society of America Annual Meeting, November 21, 2009.

**Assets and Inequalities**


**Behavioral Health**

Brandeis, in partnership with the Alliance of State Prescription Monitoring Programs, hosted the 5th National **Harold Rogers Prescription Drug Monitoring Program Meeting** in September 2009 in Washington, DC. More than 120 representatives from 34 states attended. The meeting featured a keynote speech by Gil Kerlikowske, Director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy.

**Other**

Sandra Venner provided oral and written testimony at a September 15, 2009 Massachusetts Legislative joint committee hearing on “An Act to Remove Barriers to Financial Stability and Asset Development for Low and Moderate Income Families.” In her testimony, she cited research conducted by IASP on behalf of the Massachusetts Asset Development Commission.

Public Engagement (cont.)

Behavioral Health (cont.)

Robert Dunigan served as a faculty member at the NIDA Researchers and Scholars Joint Workgroup Meeting, NIDA African American Researchers and Scholars Workgroup, Bethesda, MD, October 14-15, 2009.

Mary Jo Larson began her tenancy as the chair of the program committee for the Association for Medical Education and Research in Substance Abuse (AMERSA) 2010 annual national conference.

Health

Michael Doonan participated in a September 9, 2009 WBUR Commonhealth Live blog during President Obama's address to the nation on health care reform, along with Massachusetts Secretary of Health and Human Services Dr. Judy Ann Bigby. http://commonhealth.wbur.org/about-this-blog/2009/09/live-blogging-tonight-on-commonhealth/

Stuart Altman was quoted in the October 12, 2009 Boston Globe article, “Health plan’s effect on costs may be slight,” by Lisa Wangsness.


The Sillerman Center for the Advancement of Philanthropy organized two colloquia for the 38th Annual Conference of the Association for Research on Nonprofit and Voluntary Associations (ARNOVA), held in Cleveland, OH in November 2009. The first was titled “Teaching Philanthropy: One Way to Develop the Next Generation of Philanthropic and Nonprofit Leaders,” presented by Susan Lanspery. It summarized the Heller School’s graduate experiential philanthropy course developed and taught by Sillerman staff. The second colloquium was “Philanthropy through a Social Justice Lens: Foundations Changing Society by Funding Policy Advocacy and Organizing.” Sillerman Center consultant Jason Franklin discussed “Social Justice Philanthropy: Scope, Definitions and Trends in Recent Research.”

Honors/Awards

The United Way of Mass Bay and Merrimack Valley named Susan Curnan a member of the grants review committee for “Increasing Youth Opportunity” grants, and a member of the “Increasing Youth Opportunity Impact Council.”

Susan Curnan was named a member of the Northeast Institute for Quality Community Action, which includes holding a University seat at the Institute.

Lorraine Klerman served as a reviewer for Title X program grants in New England.

Stuart Altman spoke to the Boston Globe for the November 16th article “Doctors Urge a Focus on Geriatrics,” by Kay Lazar.

Mary Jo Larson was appointed a member of the National Academies Committee on National Statistics in October of 2009.

Mary Jo Larson was invited to join SAMHSA’s Motivational Incentives for Enhanced Drug Abuse Recovery (MIEDAR) 2.0 Blending Team.

Donald Shepard was co-author of the American Association of Cardiovascular and Pulmonary Rehabilitation (AACVPR)’s “Paper of the Year” (2009).

Marji Erickson Warfield served as a reviewer for Maternal and Child Health Bureau grant proposals in December of 2009.

Labor Markets

Dean Lisa Lynch appeared on PBS’s “NewsHour,” discussing labor market conditions, in September and December 2009.

Dean Lisa Lynch participated in Massachusetts Governor Deval Patrick’s Economic Summit in October 2009, outlining conditions in local and national labor markets.
Student Recognition

Publications


Deborah McLellan, fourth year NIAAA trainee, received a 2-year F31 fellowship from the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism to further her research project, “Effects of Cigarette Prices on Drinking Patterns by Demographic Group.”

As part of the research of the Institute for Child Youth and Family Policy, PhD students April Chang and Tom Mackie are conducting research on Early Intervention service use by young children in foster care, under the supervision of Dr. Laurel Leslie at Tufts Medical Center. This grant is funded by the Deborah Munroe Noonan Memorial Fund, and aims to increase access to and utilization of Early Intervention services through research, collaboration, and training interventions.

Presentations


Honors/Awards

A team of students in Susan Curnan’s class, HS 511b - Contemporary Issues in the Management of Child, Youth, and Family Services, conducted an intensive field study in Rhode Island and were invited to share their report, “Strengthening Families Rhode Island,” through a nationwide webinar sponsored by the National Alliance of Children’s Trust and Prevention Funds – a very high visibility honor.

Jack Gettens received Honorable Mention for the John Heinz Dissertation Award, presented by the National Academy of Social Insurance, for his dissertation entitled “Medicaid Expansions: The Work and Program Participation of Persons with Disability.” Barry Friedman was chair of Jack’s dissertation committee.

Deborah McEllan, fourth year NIAAA trainee, received a 2-year F31 fellowship from the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism to further her research project, “Effects of Cigarette Prices on Drinking Patterns by Demographic Group.”


The Lurie Seminar Series presented three speakers during the fall of 2009. On September 15, Tara Brown, Assistant Professor of Education at Brandeis, spoke on “Behavioral and Emotional Disabilities and School Exclusion: Moving from an Individualistic to an Ecological Perspective.” Dr. Jim Perrin and Karen Kuhlthau of Massachusetts General Hospital’s Center for Child and Adolescent Health Policy presented “Quality of Life for Children with Autism” and “Addressing Autism Care through Collaborative Networks” on September 29. On October 22, Tom Hehir of Harvard University spoke on “Promoting Educational Equity for Students with Disabilities.”

The Massachusetts Health Policy Forum, under the direction of Michael Doonan, presented “Medicaid Prescription Drug Quality and Cost Management: Options, Opportunity and Progress,” with Issue Brief authors and presenters Jeffrey Prattas and Cindy Thomas, on November 13, 2009.

The Massachusetts Health Policy Forum also sponsored an event on “Healthy Aging in the Commonwealth: Pathways to Lifelong Wellness” in Boston on December 14, 2009. Walter Leutz was the Issue Brief author and presenter.

The new PhD Concentration in Global Health and Development began in the fall 2009 semester with five students from three countries. Students in this concentration learn how to apply cutting-edge research to solving development and health problems in low- and middle-income countries. The focus is on getting solutions implemented at scale with a specific focus on the poor.

The Sillerman Center, with Associated Grant Makers (AGM), presented “Breakfast with the Experts: Ready by 21,” on September 30, 2009 at AGM’s offices in Boston. Elizabeth Gaines, State and Local Policy Director, Forum for Youth Investment, was the speaker.

The Sillerman Center hosted the event, “NCRP’s Criteria for Philanthropy at its Best: How to Move the Field Towards a Social Justice and Social Change Agenda,” at the Heller School on October 29, 2009. Aaron Dorfman, Executive Director, The National Committee for Responsive Philanthropy, along with academic respondent Dr. Susan Ostrander, Professor of Sociology, Tufts University, and foundation respondent Henry Allen, Executive Director, The Discount Foundation, led a lively discussion on the newly published criteria.


Combined Jewish Philanthropies and the Sillerman Center sponsored the Young Leadership Group Acharai Event held at Brandeis on November 18, 2009. Andrew Hahn along with Claudia Jacobs presented on “Philanthropy and Evaluation: Challenge for the Field.”

“Pathways to Lasting Social Change: A Conversation with Luis A. Ubinas” was presented by the Sillerman Center and the Heller School’s 50th Anniversary Series on November 19, 2009. Andrew Hahn presided over a conversation with Luis Ubinas, president of the Ford Foundation, who spoke about new directions for mobilizing philanthropic resources for social change to a full Zinner Forum.