The Center for Correctional Health Networks (CCHNet) is a practice-based research center designed to support the interdisciplinary network members who study and test health care innovations and quality improvement strategies in real world practice settings to determine effectiveness, efficiency and equity of outcomes upon persons with incarceration experiences.

We would love to share the innovative news and professional celebrations of our network partners. To join or to share your news items, send your name and contact information to our email address: CCHNet@uconn.edu

For the latest information regarding CCHNET research, meetings and events, please visit our website at: http://cchnet.uconn.edu or follow us on Twitter, @cchnetuconn!
Journal of Evidence-Based Practice in Correctional Health (JEPCH) by CCHNet is Now Live!

The Journal for Evidence-Based Practice in Correctional Health (JEPCH) is preparing to release its first edition. JEPCH is dedicated to the advancement of correctional health and seeks to provide an inclusive forum for the presentation of evidence-based practices in correctional healthcare for academics, practitioners, and activists from all aspects of correctional health, including incarcerated and community-based populations, criminal justice, human rights, and related fields. The mission of JEPCH is to communicate and discuss evidenced-based approaches to health implemented in practice and to contribute to the development and dissemination of the body of knowledge in healthcare applied to the criminal justice system and populations served so as to foster quality care, improved public health and support social justice.

Articles of interest include case studies, policy analyses, continuing education articles, review of literature, systematic reviews, methods and research papers, program evaluation quality improvement projects and education research. Additionally, editorials, commentaries, letters to the editor and author responses are welcomed. Proposals for “Special Issues” are encouraged.

JEPCH began as the electronic publication of the Center for Correctional Health Networks (CCHNet) in 2015 under the Editor-in-Chief Dr. Deborah Shelton, RN, PhD, NE-BC, CCHP, FAAN and Alex Filimon, Editorial Assistant. JEPCH will publish up to four issues per year: Winter (Jan-Mar); Spring (Apr-Jun); Summer (Jul-Sep); Fall (Oct-Dec) and authors from all disciplines are encouraged to submit their articles at any time for peer review. There is no cost to authors; however, there is a $40 subscription fee.

For more information, contact cchnet@uconn.edu and write JEPCH in the subject line.

Our Editorial Board includes:
Dr. Deborah Shelton, UCONN School of Nursing; Dr. Louise Reagan, CCHNet/NYU School of Nursing; Dr. Sarah Willen, UCONN Human Rights Institute; Dr. William Barta, CCHNet, UCONN School of Nursing; Dr. Marc Stern, Medicine, University of Washington.

Our Reviewers include:
Dr. Annette Maruca, UCONN School of Nursing; Dr. Denise Panosky School of Nursing; Dr. Mazen El Ghaziri, UCONN Health, Division of Occupational Medicine & Environmental Health; Dr. Theresa Kapetanovic, CCHNet, Washington, DC; and Dr. Donna Zucker, UMass, School of Nursing.

CALL FOR REVIEWERS: If you have the expertise, the interest and time to act as a reviewer, please contact Dr. Shelton at Deborah.Shelton@uconn.edu.

Future topics: Do you have ideas and suggestions? Let us know. We welcome articles on topics such as:

- Correctional workforce issues, competencies, educating the future workforce;
- Mental Illness & persons with an incarceration experience (community-based or incarcerated persons);
- Treatment adherence & persons with an incarceration experience (community-based or incarcerated persons)
New Additions to the CCHNet Team

CCHNet Welcomes Two New Board Members!

**Dr. Miguel de Figueiredo**

Miguel de Figueiredo (Principal Investigator) is an Associate Professor and Terry J. Tondro Research Scholar at the University Of Connecticut School Of Law. His research examines achieving accountability and compliance in challenging settings. One line of this research examines the effect of criminal justice policies on employment and criminal justice outcomes. He has experience with conducting RCTs, surveys, quasi-experimental, and qualitative methods in research that has examined sentencing and voting behavior. His research has been funded by the National Science Foundation, the Social Science Research Council, the Oscar M. Ruebhausen Fund at Yale Law School, the Survey Research Center and the Center for Effective Global Action at the University of California, Berkeley. He is a Ph.D. candidate in political science at the University of California, Berkeley (expected, 2016). de Figueiredo holds a J.D. from Yale Law School, an M.A. from the University of Chicago, and a B.A. from Johns Hopkins University. Welcome Dr. de Figueiredo!

**Dr. Michael Fendrich**

Michael Fendrich, Ph.D. is the Associate Dean for Research and Professor at the UConn School of Social Work. Before coming to UConn in 2014, he was on the faculty of the Helen Bader School of Social Welfare at the University of Wisconsin at Milwaukee (UWM) for 9 years and prior to that, on the faculty for 15 years at the University of Illinois at Chicago, where he was a tenured full professor in the Department of Psychiatry, Institute for Juvenile Research. While at UWM, Dr. Fendrich served as director of the Center for Applied Behavioral Health Research (CABHR) until stepping down from this role in 2013.Dr. Fendrich has served on numerous NIH federal review panels, has been a mentor to graduate students, post-doctoral students, and junior faculty and taught courses in program evaluation and research methods. He has authored numerous peer reviewed manuscripts, book chapters and technical reports and has received millions of dollars in extramural funding to support his research. We are happy to have Dr. Fendrich working with CCHNet!
Growing Correctional Health Nursing Partnerships

*Dr. Annette Maruca, UCONN and Dr. Donna Zucker, UMASS – Amherst*

Dr. Maruca, Clinical Assistant Professor and Dr. Donna Zucker, Associate Professor College of Nursing at University of Massachusetts, Amherst have partnered to conduct a pilot study leading to the development of a self-care management instrument for use in jails and prisons. In phase one, focus groups are being conducted to gain insight and an understanding of how persons with an incarceration experience perceive and define self-care management skills. In phase two, these findings will contribute to modification of an existing self-care instrument, or creation of a novel self-care skills management – corrections specific survey. The new instrument will be piloted tested using a brief 4-session treatment intervention that focuses on rediscovering, reaffirming, and improving self-care behaviors such as maintaining mental health, strengthening coping skills, engaging in social support and establishing person goals as part of offender's transition back to the community life.

Phase one has applied for IRB approval and has received $1500 in seed funding. This project build upon Dr. Maruca’s doctoral work and provides opportunity for nursing student clinical research opportunities.

Dr. Annette Maruca PhD, RN-BC
*University of Connecticut, Storrs*
*School of Nursing*

Dr. Donna Zucker RN, PhD, FAAN
*University of Massachusetts, Amherst*
*School of Nursing*
Continuing Correctional Health Education

FYS, Undergraduate Coursework
Led By Dr. Deborah Shelton, PhD, RN, NE-BC, CCHP, FAAN

As a part of CCHNet’s correctional health education initiative, Dr. Deborah Shelton, PhD, RN, NE-BC, CCHP, FAAN has developed and is teaching a one credit FYS undergraduate seminar for freshman and sophomore honors students at the University of Connecticut, Storrs Campus. The goals of this course are to introduce an applied area of health research, explore career opportunities in correctional health and to gain insight to the incarceration experience through discussion, guest speakers and other applied learning techniques. Throughout the course students will become immersed in the growing field of correctional health and correctional health research and be exposed to unique opportunities for career development, research and understanding about patients served by criminal justice systems.

Training for Advanced Practice Nurses in Correctional Settings:
Led Dr. Ivy Alexander PhD, APRN, ANP-BC, FAANP, FAAN

Providing care for inmates is an important and distinct focus area in the scope of primary care. At UConn School of Nursing, we are interested in increasing access to excellent and committed primary care providers for all individuals, especially those in underserved populations and underserved areas. In order to meet this goal, we submitted a training grant to HRSA (Health Resources and Services Administration) to obtain funding for primary care nurse practitioner students who are interested in providing care for the underserved following graduation. The grant provided tuition and living expenses funding for 23 students during 2014-2015 (17 of whom graduated in May 2015) and for 23 students again this year (2015-2016). One goal in the grant was to increase exposure to caring for inmates and raise interest in providing care to inmates following graduation. We are thrilled that one of the Trainees who will graduate this May has chosen to do exactly this. Several trainees have had practicums in prison settings providing care to with inmates. They voiced how much they have learned and how very much they have enjoyed working with inmates. We look forward to continuing this partnership and to educating more nurse practitioners who can provide expert care to incarcerated persons.
Translated in both English and French, the Correction Modified-Global Assessment of Functioning (CM-GAF; Shelton & Wakai, 2014) is a new assessment designed for classifying and identifying functioning behavior in offenders in the correctional setting. Correctional officers and nurses, the frontline staff, commonly observe offender behavior; however, they often lack adequate training in mental health and classifying levels of biopsychosocial functional behavior. The CM-GAF, created with funding by the National Institutes of Mental Health (1R03MH086143-01 and 1R03MH086144-01) has been found valid and reliable with its community companion- the GAF. The CM-GAF scale assigns scores ranging from 0-100, with higher scores indicating higher levels of functioning and lower scores indicating lower levels of functioning. Although further testing of the CM-GAF scale is needed, the results look promising for the implementation of the scale as an easy-to-use standardized assessment tool that is useful to both correctional officers and clinicians as they work collaboratively to manage the patient population in the correctional setting.

Post-Doctoral Work in Diabetes Among Incarcerated Populations

Louise A. Reagan, PhD, APRN, ANP-BC

Dr. Reagan graduated from University of Connecticut’s PhD in Nursing program in August, 2014. Known for her expertise of working with vulnerable community-dwelling populations, the focus of her research has been to engage patients in self-care for chronic illness including diabetes. Dissemination of this work through presentations and publications is underway as she completes a postdoctoral research fellowship at New York University College of Nursing under the mentorship of Drs. Gail Melkus and Deborah Chyun. Dr. Reagan is currently Project Director (NYU site) for an NHLBI-funded multisite RO1 “Diabetes Learning in Virtual Environments (LIVE)”. Dr. Reagan has also become the only accepted nurse scientist into American Diabetes Associations Focus on Fellows Program held prior to the ADA’s scientific sessions in June 2015. As a result of her postdoctoral fellowship, Dr. Reagan has cultivated new relationships and opportunities for future collaborations with leading researchers in diabetes self-management education and support. Dr. Reagan is poised to continue her research to develop evidence based interventions aimed at improving diabetes self-care among currently or soon-to-be released incarcerated persons.
Research Updates

Medication Adherence Study:
Elliott Bosco, School of Pharmacy

The Inmate Self-Care Study seeks to explore those factors that influence medication and treatment adherence among incarcerated persons and the factors that influence their adherence on release. The knowledge gained from the study will contribute to development of future interventions to improve adherence among those returning to the community and thus, decrease recidivism due to untreated symptoms or behaviors.

Thus far, over 40 inmate interviews have been completed by graduate students from the School of Pharmacy under the supervision of Dr. Shelton and Lynne Neff, MS, RN, at Correctional Managed Health Care. Elliott Bosco, PharmD student is Co-I. Study participants are enrolled during the Fall ’15 and Spring ’16 semesters. Preliminary data analysis will begin in the Spring.

Mini Grant Proposal
Desiree Diaz, PhD, RN-BC, CNE, CHSE

Dr. Desiree Diaz has recently applied for a mini grant proposal for her collaborative project entitled: Mobile TeamSTEPPSTM (AHRQ, 2006) and simulation training intervention to improve healthcare worker education and communication in a correctional health environment. Correctional nursing requires communication skills unlike other healthcare delivery systems. In a regulated custodial environment, the risk for communication errors and gaps between healthcare workers and custodial officers (CO) during care delivery, hand-off between nursing teams, discharge and follow-up care is alarmingly high (Tanguay, Trestman, & Weiskopf, 2014). The use of human simulation patients in a mobile simulation van was developed, investigated and led by Dr. Diaz in the Correctional Nursing Competency Program©. The results have had positive outcomes. The purpose of this unique proposal seeks to build on the existing infrastructure while providing an enhancement intervention to improve team communication and decrease gaps in healthcare delivery in correctional settings.

Awards and Acknowledgements

Medication Adherence Study
Kaiko/Li Honors Research Scholarship: Awarded to Elliott Bosco

Elliott Bosco is one of two Pharm.D. students to receive the Kaiko/Li Honors Research Scholarship for his contributions to the Inmate Self Care study. This scholarship is awarded to Pharm.D. students who are in the Honors program, actively engaged in research, and demonstrate academic achievement. The Inmate Self Care study utilizes inmate interviews to identify factors that influence medication and treatment adherence while incarcerated and following their transition back to the community. The ultimate goal of the study is for future development of an inmate-centered intervention to improve adherence rates and ultimately improve population health outcomes. Congratulations Elliott!
Presentations at the 
14th Biennial Custody and Caring Conference

Post-Incarceration: A new consumer movement in self-care 
Deborah Shelton PhD, RN, NE-BC, CCHP, FAAN

Men and women who are released from incarceration frequently have difficulty accessing health care services. Gaps exist in our understanding of how to support individual efforts in self-care management as adults return to the community. This pilot study sought to understand individual level knowledge deficits and informational preferences of post-release persons in an effort to create targeted strategies to assist these highly vulnerable persons to successfully access needed health care. Gender-specific focus groups led to development of consumer informational tools (a bi-lingual flier and a bi-lingual CD) which were later pre and post-tested in the community. Findings suggest that previously incarcerated persons have both computer literacy and reading-comprehension literacy problems, limited access to computers and cell phones, and limited understanding of how the health care system works. Releasees discussed having to memorize information due to the effects of these barriers to literacy and technology. Lack of knowledge regarding the healthcare system increased their experience of frustration and defeat. Most comfortable with person-to-person assistance, participants described a willing but slow learning style, with a need for repetition and support to reduce their anxiety and strengthen their confidence in their self-care skills.

Psychopathy: What does the evidence say about treatment? 
Deborah Shelton PhD, RN, NE-BC, CCHP, FAAN & Chasity Bailey, BS

The results of a systematic literature review was conducted to identify effective treatment options for psychopathy for criminal justice involved individuals receiving care in prisons, forensic hospitals, and mandated in-patient or outpatient treatment programs. Hare (2012) noted that among the general population, one percent of adults are psychopathic compared to the estimated 10 to 15 percent among the prison population. The often violent behaviors combined with the high tendency to reoffend with violent behavior (Hildebrand, de Ruiter & Nijman, 2004) suggest the importance of finding efficacious treatments for this disorder. The results of this review presented in a poster format identified treatment options such as Dialectic Behavioral Therapy, Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing, Metallization Based Therapy, Scheme-based Therapy, and Cognitive Behavioral Therapy along with its many derivatives such as enhanced thinking skills, multi-systemic therapy and aggression control therapy as the most efficacious approaches for this population.
The Link between Correctional Nurse Competencies and Clinical Outcomes

Deborah Shelton PhD, RN, NE-BC, CCHP, FAAN & Louise A. Reagan, PhD, APRN, ANP-BC

Dr. Shelton and Dr. Reagan shared the findings of this 3-year HRSA funded project which demonstrated improvements in care following implementation of a statewide correctional nurse competency program. An evaluation of clinical outcomes assessed through interviews, observations, self-report and chart reviews provided information linking correctional nurse competencies with clinical care outcomes.

Correctional nurses comprise one of the largest group of health care workers in prisons, jails and community correctional settings. Along with their counterparts - correctional officers, they have perhaps the most difficult health care jobs in existence today. Although the ANA Scope and Standards of Correctional Nursing Practice (2013) guides clinical correctional nursing care, few aspects of correctional nursing have been empirically tested and published regarding the translation of these standards into practical and applied competencies. As a result, the quality of nursing care is irregular and correctional systems of care remain fragmented; nurse preparation, satisfaction and retention are poor; and clinical evidence or best practices are not finding their way into these systems.

Making the Connection: Diabetes Self-care Behavior and Knowledge among Incarcerated Persons with Diabetes

Louise A. Reagan, PhD, APRN, ANP-BC

Dr. Reagan presented her ongoing work describing incarcerated persons’ performance of diabetes self-care. Diabetes occurs in the prison population at similar or slightly greater prevalence than in the community dwelling population. The purpose of this cross sectional study of 123 incarcerated persons with diabetes was to describe their frequency of performing diabetes self-care behaviors and their knowledge about diabetes. The Self-Care Inventory-Revised (SCI-R) (LaGreca, 2004) and the Spoken Knowledge in Low Literacy for Diabetes (SKILLD) (Rothman et al., 2005) were used to measure self-care and diabetes knowledge respectively.

Findings of this study suggested that although diabetes knowledge was above average for this sample, incarcerated persons demonstrated clinically significant knowledge deficits. Additionally, key self-care behaviors were being performed but the incarcerated persons understanding of the reason for performing these behaviors was poor. Findings from this study illustrate the discrepancy between the often regimented performance of self-care behaviors and the incarcerated person’s poor understanding of the meaning of these self-care behaviors. Recommendations will be made for application to the diabetes and chronic illness self-care management education provided by nurses in the correctional setting. Long-term goals are development and testing of diabetes interventions to promote self-care management for individuals as they transition to the community.
Correctional Nursing Stress: A review of differences among correctional nurses
Denise Panosky DNP, RN, CNE, CCHP, FCNS

Dr. Panosky presented her ongoing work on correctional nursing stress. Correctional nurses practice under conditions where safety and security can often take precedence over healthcare. Inmate patients do not always cooperate, can be under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs, and often reflect the effects of prolonged poor healthcare as evidenced by higher prevalence of chronic medical and mental health conditions. Nurses must still provide mandated services to all offenders, confidently and competently, which can be challenging. Potential conflicts may arise between correctional nurses who deliver patient care and those who maintain custody. Such conflicts can affect patient care, but also affect nurses’ stress levels.

During focus groups it was noted that there are a variety of stressors and differences among correctional nurses related to facility environments and/or workloads, demographics of nurses, nursing licensures, and/or years of experience working as a correctional nurse. Dr. Panosky was able to present a review of differences in stress and compare sources of stress of these nurses. Identification would help nursing administration know where to specifically focus interventions to help these nurses decrease stress in the workplace. Some interventions will help all correctional nurses, but other interventions may be needed specifically for facility type or demographic/characteristics attributes. Knowing this information may be very beneficial, especially when higher stress is identified among certain nurses and/or type of facility.

Left to Right: Linda Starr RN, RPN, BNg SACAE, a keynote speaker from Flinders University in Australia and Dr. Denise Panosky DNP, RN, CNE, CCHP, FCNS at the 14th Biennial Custody & Caring Conference
Online Presence in CCHNet and More Information

Please visit our dedicated website found at http://cchnet.uconn.edu/ and twitter account @cchnetuconn, for an update on CCHNET and the activities of our many academic network members in New England and beyond. It is our goal to more readily provide avenues for research into public health practice and policy to the next generation of academics and policymakers. Over the past year, we have networked with many diverse organizations from around the country including but not limited to, Rebuilding Re-Entry, Prison Reform Movement, Academic Consortium on Criminal Justice Health and The Correctional Association of NY. We will continue our efforts in outreach and partnerships into the future.

Secondary Sources:

As part of The Center of Correctional Health Network’s continuing pursuit of a far reaching network of researchers and scholars in the field of correctional health, we have developed a list of secondary data resources to provide guidance for those planning on conducting research in the field. Users will find valuable census data about prisoners past and present as well as data corresponding to juveniles, race, gender, drug use, lifestyle, prison assault, and more. Access levels, pricing data and application requirements are listed for all resources. It is our hope that this list will help encourage researchers to pursue work within this oft overlooked field

http://tinyurl.com/cchnetsources
Publications, Presentations, and Grants

Publications:

Journal Publications


**Books and Chapters**


**Other Publications**


Presentations:


Trestman, R. L. The University of Connecticut, School of Law, Volume 48 Symposium: The Other One Percent: Prison Reform from Sentencing to Parole held on Friday, November 6, 2015 from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm Presented By: Connecticut Law Review. Dr. Trestman served on a Prison Conditions Panel along with Brett Dignam, Clinical Professor of Law, Columbia Law School, Keramet Reiter, Assistant Professor of Criminology, Law & Society and Law, UC Irvine School of Social Ecology, Jonathan Simon, Adrian A. Kragen Professor of Law; Director, Center for the Study of Law and Society, Berkeley Law. The panel was moderated by Susan Schmeiser, Professor of Law, UConn School of Law.

Trestman, R. L. The First Annual Inter-professional Education Dean’s Afternoon on Friday, October 30 from 1:00-4:00 PM. IPE Dean’s Afternoon was a joint venture by various health profession schools at UConn including School of Medicine, Dental Medicine, Pharmacy, Nursing, Social Work, Physical Therapy, and Dietetics. The goal was to introduce entry level health professional students to inter-professional education and have them engage in the process with a case discussion and was held simultaneously at three different campuses: UConn in Storrs, UCH in Farmington, and 61 Woodland Street (Judicial Building) in Hartford.

Trestman, R. L. The Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, the Federal Judicial Center, and the Association of State Correctional Administrators sponsored a collaborative summit during which five topics were discussed among all of the stakeholders in the prison conditions arena. The first day of the summit included a discussion of mental and medical health care delivery in prisons and jails. Dr. Trestman served on a panel for the Ninth Circuit Corrections Summit held on November 4-5, 2015 in Sacramento, CA.
Grants:


2016-2017. “UCONN Faculty Scholar” Shelton PI, $2,000; submitted


2015-2016. “Accelerating Knowledge Translation to Optimize Quality of Care Behind Bars” Shelton PI, R03, AHRQ, $100,000 submitted

2015-2018. “TeamSTEPPS Simulation Intervention for Missed Care Events in Correctional Settings.” Diaz PI & Shelton Co-PI, R18, AHRQ $750,000 unfunded
Reminder: JEPCH Reviewer Board and Article Submissions

The Journal for Evidence-based Practices in Correctional Health (JEPCH) has grown across state and national lines in the past few months. We have attained reviewers from across the academic and professional spectrum in hopes creating a flourishing community centered around correctional health research. Please come join us as a peer reviewer or submit articles to us via cchnet@uconn.edu.

Please Support the Research Fund

The Donald R. Squier Memorial Scholarship fund has been established to develop a source of funding for future correctional health research scholars. We are soliciting tax deductible donations on an ongoing basis. Send your donation to:

UCONN Foundation
The Donald Squier Memorial Fund
2390 Alumni Drive, Unit 3206
Storrs, CT 06269-3206.
Our newsletter is Biannual! To share your stories, contact us at:

Center for Correctional Health Networks
(CCHNet)
Email: cchnet@uconn.edu
Phone: 860-486-2184
Any questions about CCHNet? Check our website and Twitter page!
http://cchnet.uconn.edu
@cchnetuconn!

We at CCHNet wish you a safe and happy season’s greetings!