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!

The Center for Correctional Health Networks held its first Science Café at the UCONN School of Nursing. The event highlighted cross-disciplinary research in correctional health in order to familiarize participants with the interface of the CT DOC-research health system, identify contemporary issues in correctional health research, and provide opportunities for collaborative research efforts.

Over twenty attendees from Yale University and multiple Schools across the UCONN were able to listen to panel speakers discuss highlights of panelist research interests and opportunities for developing linkages across disciplines, agencies and schools.

Ideas were generated for promotion of collaborative research efforts, and can be found on the CCHNet webpage.

Pictured here are some panelist speakers who shared their insight in correctional health research.

Funding provided by CICATS.
CCHNet launches a new Journal!

Journal of Evidence-Based Practice in Correctional Health

Center for Correctional Health Networks is proud to introduce the launch of our NEW peer reviewed online journal: The Journal for Evidence-based Practice in Correctional Health. This Journal will consist of data-driven articles, systematic reviews (qualitative and quantitative), program evaluations, quality improvement projects, education, and research.

Designed like an encyclopedia for health in the criminal justice sector, thematic issues will be created, and can be added to on an ongoing basis, creating a repository for the content area. A “go-live” deadline will be provided for that thematic issue, and articles received for that date will be reviewed and published electronically. It is our hope that these articles will be turned around in 2-3 months, addressing the need to disseminate evidence.

Our Editorial Board includes:

Dr. Deborah Shelton, UCONN School of Nursing; Dr. Megan Ehret, UCONN School of Pharmacy; 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.

CALL FOR PAPERS: We plan to publish our first annual journal SEPTEMBER 2015. This issue will be on self-care management among persons with an incarceration experience (community-based or incarcerated persons). If you would like to write something for us, our contact information is listed on the website link (http://cchnet.uconn.edu ) and our email is cchnet@uconn.edu. Our submission software goes live on the first of September.

Future topics: Do you have ideas and suggestions? Let us know. Tentatively we are thinking:

September 2016 - Correctional workforce issues, competencies, educating the future workforce
September 2017 - Mental Illness & persons with an incarceration experience (community-based or incarcerated persons)
September 2018 - Treatment adherence & persons with an incarceration experience (community-based or incarcerated persons)
Expanding Correctional Health Education

Minor/Certificate in Correctional Health

The Center for Correctional Health Networks is taking strides to expand education in correctional health through a minor/certificate program supported by the University of Connecticut Curriculum Committee. The education will be interdisciplinary but with a unique focus and lens on correctional health. Students will be presented with up to 15 credits of coursework with in-depth information on statistics, research methods, clinical practice education, introductions to correctional health and more. This graduate and/or post-baccalaureate program will help develop more purposeful and knowledgeable leaders in correctional health in both clinical practice and research.

Excellence in Interprofessional Student Development

Student involvement continues to remain an important priority for the Center for Correctional Health Networks. Participation of undergraduate Honor Program students to Post-doctoral fellows is welcomed through our partnership. Students have the opportunity to collaborate on research projects, independent research, service learning, and volunteer activities. Currently, undergraduate students are helping with data entry, systematic literature review of diabetes and in data collection for new archival projects. Additionally, doctoral and graduate students are developing projects in self-care management and medication adherence. Projects may relate to unique student interests and disciplinary majors applied to correctional health, giving the Center new and fresh ideas from a variety of approaches and perspectives.

Clinical placement for UConn Fundamentals of Nursing involves a beginning clinical practicum course focusing on nursing and interdisciplinary care of persons and families with sub-acute and chronic health issues. These placements enable students to make decisions in clinical care, understand how to appropriately apply their skills in supportive nursing, and create collaborations with health care team members. Internships for UConn nursing students and CMHC summer placement into the DOC allow students to have the opportunity to enhance correctional nursing, provide clinical care and nursing support, and complete a clinical project in conjunction with the nursing staff.

Interested students should contact Dr. Denise Panosky, denise.panosky@uconn.edu, CCHNet Education Coordinator, for more information. Information is also available on our website.
The Center for Correctional Health Networks has partnered with the University of Connecticut Archives & Special Collections at the Thomas J. Dodd Research Center for an exciting new initiative. University Archivists and Librarians Betsy Pittman, Kristin Eshelman, and Valori Banfi join with research historian Dr. Jennifer Telford of the Center for Nursing Research, Post-doctoral Scholar Mazen El Ghaziri, from the Center for the Promotion of Health in the New England Workplace (CPHNEW) at UConn Health, and Dr. Deborah Shelton, CCHNet and UCONN School of Nursing with the support of Kathryn Stevens undergraduate Honor Program student volunteer to form this unique team. Several projects are evolving from this dynamic group, including the development of a new archival collection of academic and scholarly works for CCHNet. A second project, entitled “Voices” is also in development with the purpose of creating a collection of oral histories as well as identifying and locating archival material identified by correctional nurse leaders as “essential” for the project.

Since nursing within criminal justice systems is poorly documented, and an emerging field, archival collections documenting the significant work of nursing leaders in this field are non-existent. This project will make UCONN an epicenter for historical correctional health nursing material with the goal of having a body of works accessible to both faculty and students for research.
Awards and Acknowledgments

**Dr. Desiree Díaz AAUP Excellence in Teaching Innovation**

We are pleased to announce that our CCHNet partner, Dr. Desiree Díaz, was the recipient of the Teaching Innovation Award for the 2015 AAUP (American Association of University Professors) Excellence Awards. The awards ceremony took place on Monday, April 6th in the State Capitol Building in the Old Appropriations Room #310 from 9:00am – 10:30am.

Dr. Desiree Díaz, is a Clinical Associate Professor in the School of Nursing and the Director of Simulation. Her innovation in teaching and simulation research has enabled students and existing staff nurses, especially correctional nurses, become more efficient, competent and knowledgeable in clinical practice. The awards committee stated they were “faced with a set of choices that were excellent in so many ways. The award recipients are extended sincere congratulations and deep appreciation from their colleagues and students for such outstanding work.” Congratulations Desiree!

**Dr. Robert Trestman, Storrs Public Lecture**

On Wednesday, April 1st at 3:30pm, Dr. Robert Trestman presented a Public lecture: “The Ethics of Constrained Choice: Improved Health during Incarceration.” All were welcome (faculty and staff, graduate and undergraduate students, community members, etc.) and many attended. Immediately afterward at 5:30pm, there was a smaller dinnertime discussion for faculty, graduate students, post-doctorate students (and exceptional undergrads) to meet with Dr. Trestman and discuss a few papers he and his colleagues have authored on issues related to human rights and the dignity of patients who are incarcerated. Papers were circulated in advance along with several chapters from Dr. Trestman and colleagues’ forthcoming Oxford Textbook of Correctional Psychiatry (2015).
ACCJH (Academic Consortium on Criminal Justice Health)
Boston, MA., March 19th-20th

The 8th ACCJH Conference was held on March 19th-20th at the Hyatt Harbor in Boston, Massachusetts. The goals of the conference were to: Learn about emerging research in correctional health and gain new skills in developing applied research, create opportunities for networking and partnerships and to reflect on emerging health policy issues in correctional health and criminal justice (ACCJH, 2015). We are pleased to have our student researchers and partners, Mackenzie Goodrich BS, Alyssa Zabin and Shelja Patel, representing CCHNet in Boston presenting their innovative projects!

Creating Pathways for Correctional Health Research Translation
Mackenzie Goodrich, BS; Alexander Filimon, BS & Dr. Deborah Shelton

Mackenzie Goodrich, BS, with the support of Alexander Filimon, BS and Dr. Deborah Shelton and the Community Partners in Action and Project STARR have made significant and exciting advancements with their project entitled, Creating Pathways for Correctional Health Research Translation, which seeks to understand how to best disseminate research findings of benefit to post-incarcerated persons.

Two dissemination strategies; a flier and CD have been developed with consumer assistance to help post-incarcerated persons gain access to healthcare-related contact information. This research is currently in its early stages of publication. It is the hope that once the research is published, another grant may be awarded to fund a more professionally made CD and flier that will circulate in Connecticut half-way houses, prisons, and jails. Mackenzie Goodrich, BS, Project Coordinator (pictured) discussed the project at the 8th Academic and Health Policy Conference on Correctional Health in Boston, Massachusetts on March 20, 2015. The project received valuable feedback from colleagues and new network connections were forged that may help to advance this project in the future.

Pictured here is Mackenzie Goodrich, presenting her poster at the ACCJH Conference in Boston, MA.
Study of Correctional Nursing Stress
Alyssa Zabin & Dr. Denise Panosky

Alyssa Zabin, an undergraduate honors student majoring in psychology and sociology, was able to present her research study entitled: Occupational Stressors and Health Outcomes for Correctional Nurses at the ACCJH Conference. In addition, she was selected to receive both the University Scholar Award and the UCONN IDEA Grant for her research on Correctional Nursing Stress advised by Dr. Denise Panosky (a member of CCHNet) and two other university professors. The University Scholar nomination is based on academic rigor and research project innovation and allows her to participate in graduate coursework. The UConn IDEA Grant recipients are selected for their academic rigor, creativity, innovation, original research, and service.

This CCHNet project, with the new grant award, will continue to expand and provide CCHNet with a unique psychological and sociological perspective on the stress of correctional nurses, leading to ways to improve the quality of the workplace environment in correctional health.

Correctional Nurse Perceived Competency Following Training
Shelja Patel, SURF Award Recipient & Dr. Deborah Shelton

Shelja Patel presented her University of Connecticut Undergraduate Honors Thesis Project, overseen by Dr. Deborah Shelton, and entitled: Correctional Nurse Perceived Competency Following Training. Her study focused on assessing prison nurse perceived competency to provide patient care after implementation of a 3-year competency training program. Her background in human rights at UCONN enabled her to thoroughly delve into the structural and competency challenges correctional nurses face in providing adequate care to inmates.

Her study involved seven telephone interviews with a 7-item semi-structured interview format. With qualitative analysis, she was able to find that the consented nurses interviewed felt more confident when dealing with codes and in their assessment skills. They felt that the training significantly altered the learning environment of the corrections facilities by moving away from punitive actions and toward a more open, reflective process.
CCHNet at the Eastern Nursing Research Society (ENRS) Conference  

The Eastern Nursing Research Society Conference was held in Washington D.C. this April and focused on theme of: Nursing Science, Evidence, and Policy: Creating a Culture of Health. This three-day conference involved presentations, keynote speakers and multiple research interest groups – some of which focused on the advancements of correctional health. We congratulate Dr. Terri Kapetanovic, Dr. Annette Maruca and Dr. Louise Reagan for attending this prestigious conference and presenting their research.

**Men and women living with continuing physical pain after release from a county correctional facility.**  
*Dr. Terri Kapetanovic*

Terri Kapetanovic PhD, RN, CPHQ, Post-Doctoral Student at CCHNet was invited to present her poster about management of chronic pain after incarceration release. This work resulted from secondary analysis of dissertation data previously collected that explored health promotion of men and women released after an incarceration experience.

**A Booster Intervention in a Connecticut Correctional Institute: A Pilot Study.**  
*Dr. Annette Maruca*

Annette T. Maruca, PhD, RN-BC presented her dissertation which focused on improvement of offender reentry back into society. She was able to explore if a booster treatment intervention would be effective to reinforce treatment gains for incarcerated persons with mental illness who are preparing to be released back to the community.

**Methodological Factors Conducting Research With Incarcerated Persons with Diabetes.**  
*Dr. Louise Reagan*

Louise Regan, PhD, MSN, APRN, Assistant Professor and Post-Doctoral Student at New York University, presented her study on the long-term and chronic self-care management of diabetes in the vulnerable populations within the correctional system.
Research Studies – Updates

Inmate Self Care: Improving Medication Adherence During and After Incarceration
Dr. Megan Ehret & Elliot Bosco, Graduate Student, School of Pharmacy

This qualitative interview study seeks to fill the current gap in knowledge about factors that influence medication and treatment adherence among incarcerated persons and the factors that influence their adherence upon release. The knowledge gained from these interviews will be used to create interventions to improve adherence among those returning to the community and thus, decrease recidivism due to untreated symptoms or behaviors.

Currently, Dr. Ehret, associate professor, with three School of Pharmacy students, Elliott Bosco, Samantha Steiger, and Anna Keogh are visiting inmates at York and Garner Correctional Institutions to discuss reasons for and against adherence to medications. The students have helped to develop the interview questions and the collection process. Various other School of Pharmacy students are assisting in the transcription of the interviews and analysis of the data collected.

*We would also like to congratulate Elliot for being one of three winners of the Spring 2015 PharmD Research Grant competition!*  

Pictured from Left to Right: Elliot Bosco, Samantha Steiger, and Anna Keogh

Psychometric Validation of Satisfaction using Simulated Clinical Learning Experience (or education) Survey for Correctional Nurses
Dr. Desiree Diaz, Dr. Louise Reagan, Dr. William Barta, & Dr. Deborah Shelton

The development of a 19 item Stimulated Satisfaction Clinical Learning Experience – Corrections (SSCLEE-C) is the only instrument available for ongoing assessment of correctional nurse satisfaction with simulated clinical learning experiences. The aim of the study was to provide data regarding its modification and establish the validity of the modified instrument. 197 correctional nurses responded to the 19 item with a five-point Likert scale response format. These data were used for exploratory and confirmatory factor analysis (CFA) of the original instrument. The four-factor solution was reduced to a three factor, 9 item CFA which exhibited more desirable psychometric properties. This new 3-factor instrument included fidelity, objectives and problem solving labelling.
Publications, Presentations, and Grants

Publications:


Presentations:


Trestman, R.L. “Correctional Mental Health: A Best Practices Sampler”, New York State Correctional Mental Health Staff, December, 2014. This presentation reviewed highlights of several best and evolving mental health practices for jails and prisons. The focus being on the challenges, ideas, and opportunities in correctional mental health. Included in the presentation was brief discussions of a range of critical topics: 1)
an application of implementation science to correctional mental health; 2) techniques to reduce use of restraint; 3) formulary issues and community continuity; 4) managing attention deficit/hyperactivity disorders; 5) the recovery model in corrections; 6) treating dual diagnosis patients; 7) incarcerated veterans; 8) adolescents in adult facilities; 9) caring for aging inmates; and 10) conflict resolution among healthcare professionals.


**Grants:**

**Received:**

Dr. Deborah Shelton received a $2,850 grant for RESEARCH IN AN ERA OF MASS INCARCERATION from the Connecticut Institute for Clinical and Translational Science. The funding will be used to sponsor a Core Interest Group conference with the goal of highlighting opportunities for cross-disciplinary collaboration in correctional health.

**Submitted:**

Dr. Deborah Shelton: CareLink-C; CDOC Reintegration Units; PI; Hillman Foundation; $600,000 for 2015-2017.

Dr. Deborah Shelton and Dr. Lisa Barry (UCHC) submitted SELF-CARE IN SOON-TOBE-RELEASED OLDER PRISONERS: A PILOT STUDY for a CHIP-Psychiatry Dual-PI Seed Grant for Collaborative Research in Mental Health and Health Behavior. The goal of the project is to develop and test educational materials regarding self-care for older prisoners who are transitioning to the community. The central hypothesis is that these educational materials will increase older prisoners’ knowledge regarding self-care in the community and will ultimately influence self-care behaviors. The request is for $34,927 for the two year project.
Save the Dates!

National Nurses Week: May 4-8, 2015.
“Excellence in Correctional Nursing: The UCONN Way”

UConn Correctional Managed Health Care joins with the UConn School of Nursing to honor all nurses who work in the Connecticut criminal justice system. Correctional nurses will be celebrated by highlighting their work through a day-long educational event to include a poster session, grand rounds, and keynote presentations by clinical ethicist and Associate Professor in Residence, Dr. Barbara Jacobs; and Dr. Deborah Shelton, Professor and Director for the Center for Correctional Health Networks. The event will be held at John Dempsey Hospital on May 6, 2015. For additional information contact Candice Pettigrew, RN, BSN. Email: pettigrew@uchc.edu

CCHNet will release its FIRST EDITION of the peer-reviewed Journal of Evidence-Based Practice in Correctional Health

September 1st, 2015
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!
http://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:

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