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 are looking to expand our network. Please contact us to join in our monthly research interest group discussion. We would love to share your news and professional celebrations. 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!

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CCHNet Member Highlights

Our experts and professionals at CCHNet have specialties ranging from a variety of disciplines ranging from nursing to social work, pharmacy, medicine and more in universities and facilities across the country – all with the same goal of improving the care provided through the correctional healthcare system. We value the number of perspectives in our group that contribute to our growth and development. Here is a highlight of some of our members of the CCHNet Research Interest Group community! If you are interested in joining our team, please email cchnet@uconn.edu.

Stephanie Prost, PhD – Social Work

Stephanie Grace Prost completed her Bachelor of Social Work (2007), Bachelor of Science in Criminology and Criminal Justice (2007), and Master of Social Work (2008) at Florida State University. She provided Multisystemic Therapy from 2008-2012 when employed by Eckerd Youth Alternatives, Inc. for the Department of Juvenile Justice for youth on felony probation in the Big Bend Region of Florida. In 2012, she returned to Florida State University to pursue a Doctorate of Philosophy in Social Work and completed her dissertation research in the Louisiana Department of Public Safety. She credits her research interests to her familial experiences with arrest, incarceration, and re-entry and desires strongly to support persons facing incarceration and their families to maintain the greatest quality of life. She is the 2017 recipient of the Group for the Advancement of Doctoral Education in Social Work Student Research Award, the Florida State University Graduate Research & Creativity Award, and the Academic and Health Policy Conference on Correctional Health scholarship. Upon completing her PhD, Stephanie accepted an Assistant Professorship in the University of Louisville, Kent School of Social Work. She resides in Kentucky with her family.

Mary Bouchaud, PhD, MSN, CNS, RN, CRRN

Mary Bouchaud PhD, MSN, CNS, RN, CRRN began her nursing career by receiving her Diploma in Nursing from the Cooper Medical School of Nursing in 1979, followed by her BSN from Widener University (1982), her MSN from Thomas Jefferson University (1994) and, finally her PhD in community and social work from Capella University (2012). She currently is an assistant professor and community clinical coordinator at the Thomas Jefferson University College of Nursing. She has been dedicated to the field of correctional health nursing for almost 20 years. Her research and awards, most recently her 2015 Lindback Distinguished Teaching Award presented by the Thomas Jefferson College of Nursing, show her commitment to education and nursing training. Her current research is focused on analyzing 10 years of collected evaluation data of BSN student experiences completing their community and public health rotation in a 4,000 all-male maximum-security prison.
The Journal for Evidence-based Practice in Correctional Health (JEPCH) is an open access journal developed by CCHNet. Its goal is to present innovative topics in the evidence-based practice in correctional health and in a format so that all interested can retrieve the latest information.

Throughout the year, JEPCH has been expanding continuously. 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.

Since the launch of the inaugural issues last year, JEPCH has received over 950 downloads from 34 different countries around the world. The above global map shows some of the locations of universities and institutions that have sought or referred to the evidence-based practice information found in the JEPCH journal. We hope to continue our goal in providing an open and free journal to all of those looking to improve correctional health practices!

Send your article, case study, and policy analysis or discussion paper today!
JEPCH: Getting Involved

We would like to thank all those authors who submitted their hard work to us over the past year while also encouraging new authors to submit their articles through our journal homepage. Also, the Journal would like to give a final thanks to our subscribers. Without your help and support, we would have never seen this issue come to fruition. Thank you all again! For support in gaining access to our journals or any questions or concerns, feel free to email our support

The Journal for Evidence-based Practice in Correctional Health consists of data-driven articles, systematic reviews (qualitative and quantitative), program evaluations, quality improvement projects, education, and research.

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, Marymount University, Arlington, VA; 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: 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.

Future topics: Do you have ideas and suggestions? Let us know.
Research Development

Development of a National Core Curriculum for Correctional Nurses

Correctional healthcare is a rewarding but challenging specialty that requires a specific set of competencies - knowledge, skills, attitudes and abilities. It is important that nurses pursuing a career in correctional health receive standardized education, training, and certification. As a result, Dr. Deborah Shelton and CDR Rosemary Johnson, APRN, MSN, ANP-BC, US Public Health Service Commissioned Corps Officer has reached out to correctional nursing experts and leaders around the country to gather insight on academic topics of importance through a three-round Delphi survey study. The aim of the study is to identify a national core curriculum to ensure all nurses working in prisons, jails or community correctional settings have achieved and maintained appropriate practice standards and competencies for this specialty.

This study follows the Call to Action: A blueprint for Academic Health Sciences in the era of mass incarceration published in a special issue on Correctional Health in the Journal for Health Care to the Poor and Underserved in 2016.

CDR Rosemary Johnson, APRN, MSN, ANP-BC, US Public Health Service Commissioned Corps Officer works at the Danbury facility and is currently a DNP student at Sacred Heart University. She will graduate in May 2017 and has been mentored by Dr. Shelton in leadership to meet her DNP credentials.

Rosemary Johnson
MSN, APRN, ANP-BC

Deborah Shelton, Ph.D., R.N.,
N.E.B.C., C.C.H.P., F.A.A.N.
Professor
Director, Center for Correctional Health Networks
Community Outreach

Community Outreach Forum during Alcohol Awareness Week

Dr. Donna Zucker and members of her SAMHSA Research Group held a Community Forum and Refresher training during Alcohol Awareness week. As part of its new Power of Nursing to Change Health program, the UMass Amherst College of Nursing hosted a networking event with local area school nurses, school psychologists and nursing faculty on April 4, 2017 at the UMass Center at Springfield Tower Square. Last year UMass Amherst received a three-year, $870,000 training grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to develop a training program for student nurses in Screening, Brief Intervention and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT).

The event was a networking forum where nurses and other clinicians shared experiences and learn from one another as they refresh and build on their SBIRT skills forum. The meeting had fabulous results. Please feel free to view the press release using the links below. WWLP-TV 22, 4/4/17; News Office release

Envisioning a First Chance Society
By Jeff Grant, JD, M Div & Sarah Diamond, PhD

Jeff Grant, JD, M Div. and Sarah Diamond, PhD are continuing to seek ways to reach out and educate the community about the criminal justice system. They recently published a thought piece written for Family Re-Entry, Inc. on envisioning a changed world where the “criminal justice problem” is solved by devoting our attention and resources to healing families and communities. Applied to the Connecticut state environment, the aim is to address the root causes of mass incarceration; especially with regards to the association between poverty, zip code, race/ethnicity, health disparities and incarceration. These authors advocate for criminal justice reform by provision of genuine opportunities for those at risk of falling through the cracks and who are being left behind in our post-industrial, globalizing economy.

Research and Study Updates

Transgender Patient Care Simulations

Members of CCHNet are working to bridge gaps and improve patient outcomes through the use of simulation education. Dr. Desiree Diaz, an assistant professor of nursing at the University of Central Florida collaborated with Dr. Annette Maruca of the University of Connecticut to conduct a study on nursing student attitudes and their impact on the quality of care for transgender patients. Diaz and Maruca presented their findings at the International Nursing Association for Clinical Simulation and Learning conference and their article was recently published online in an international journal. With younger generations entering the nursing workforce, Maruca commented that “most of the students were trans-friendly but not necessarily trans-educated”. By utilizing the technology of simulation, students were able to tackle patient care scenarios with a Transgender patient named “Taylor”, empathize and learn more about the specific needs of this population.

CareLink-C in Hartford and Windham Counties

The CareLink-C Study is moving onward as Dr. Deborah Shelton, Dr. Annette Maruca, Dr. Louise Reagan and Dr. William Barta provide training, education and supervision to undergraduate and graduate student “advocates” representing ten UCONN Schools and Departments for the implementation of in-person health education and group meetings at six community-based Connecticut Department of Correction reentry residences in Hartford and Windham counties. Our community clinical partners in addition to the Ct DOC include Perception Programs and Community Solutions.

CareLink-C seeks to teach self-care management (SCM) of one’s health, an evidence-based practice that improves outcomes for people with chronic diseases, to the reentry population. CareLink-C’s approach to SCM is to communicate evidence-based information and teach/practice skills so that people can take better care of themselves. The current feasibility study, funded by the Connecticut Institute for Clinical and Translational Science, seeks to determine if self-care outcomes improve following implementation of CareLink-C; and, if the service system is strengthened following implementation of CareLink-C. Student learning outcomes are also evaluated.
Kyounghae Kim PhD, RN, NP-C, Deborah Shelton PhD, RN, NE-BC, CCHP, FAAN, and Constance Weiskopf PhD, APRN presented the results of their quasi-experimental evaluation design at the Sigma Theta Tau International (STTI) conference. The aim of the study was to examine nurses’ pain assessment and management competencies in correctional facilities in Connecticut. Following the implementation of a simulation-based training consisting of computer-based modules, skills training, simulation and debrief entitled the “Correctional Nurse Competency Program (CNCP)”, a 24-item back pain audit tool was designed for the correctional setting using SOAPE principles—Subjective, Objective, Assessment, Plan, and Evaluation. Responses were coded in a dichotomous format (yes or no). Back pain nursing reports were examined at baseline and at a two-year follow-up post-CNCP implementation. After controlling for facilities, it was determined that the CNCP effective in promoting nurses’ certain pain assessment and management competency skills in correctional facilities.

Future developments will include refinement of pain management protocols for the care and management of pain among criminal justice involved persons. A gap in self care management was identified and will be explored further. UCONN Correctional Managed Health Care Nurses are national leaders in testing evidence-based nursing interventions promoting SCM in prisons and jails. A publication is in process of development.

Impact of Correctional Nursing Competency Program on Back Pain Management Practices

STTI Conference Presentation, West Hartford, CT

Kyounghae Kim PhD, RN, NP-C with her poster: Impact of Correctional Nursing Competency Program on Back Pain Management Practices

Integrating Correctional and Community Health Care: An innovative Approach for Clinical Learning in a Baccalaureate Nursing Program

Mary T Bouchaud PhD, MSN, CNS, RN, CRRN has recently published an article on “Integrating Correctional and Community Health Care: An innovative Approach for Clinical Learning in a Baccalaureate Nursing Program.” This article addressed an increasing dilemma facing many colleges and schools of nursing today, that of limited and decreasing available community partners willing and able to provide clinical mentorship to prepare professional registered nurses for practice in the 21st century. In her article she discusses her college of nursing’s journey in considering the possibility and then reaching out to a previously never considered community organization, a 4000 all male medium and then eventual, maximum security prison. Her follow-up manuscript due for submission on May 30 deals with the findings of an analysis over 10 years of student feedback regarding perceptions and experiences of community clinical rotations in a prison setting. With prisons as micocosms of society, they provide an ideal learning experience for not only technical nursing skills but, more importantly, for reinforcing key learning goals of community and population-based care, cultural awareness and sensitivity, and interpersonal efforts aimed at engaging people in the management of their own chronic conditions. Prison clinical placements, as a result, have grown significantly at the Jefferson College of Nursing and now includes prelicensed baccalaureate students and graduate level advanced practice nursing student placements. These rotations have fostered academic and creative thinking in the new nursing era of fostering community health and wellness.
Awards and Acknowledgments

American Academy of Nursing

Dr. Deborah Shelton selected as an expert panelist

Dr. Deborah Shelton, director of CCHNet, is continuing to contribute to nursing education by partaking in an American Academy of Nursing (AAN) manuscript project. The goals of this upcoming project is to develop a concept analysis for “transitions of care”. Six expert panelists were selected to participate in a Task Force for their aptitudes in content expertise and theoretical skill. Dr. Shelton has been requested to submit a manuscript for antecedents of psychological and mental health nursing no later than June 15th, 2017 for publication. The AAN seeks to advance healthcare and nursing policy through knowledge dissemination. Its expansive network contains 2,400 nursing Fellows, who have demonstrated leadership in education, practice and research. Members of the Academy are recognized for their extraordinary nursing careers and are responsible for continuing to positively impact the nursing field through the collaboration and shaping of policy. Congratulations!

American Nurses Association

Mary Muse, MS, CHP-A, CCHP-RN and Dr. Deborah Shelton to Co-Chair Scope and Standards for Correctional Nursing Revision

A taskforce is currently being organized to undertake the update and revision of the Score and Standards for Practice in Correctional Nursing, last revised in 2013. Mary Muse, Director for Nursing in the Wisconsin Department of Corrections, brings her years of experience as a nursing leader in correctional nursing. She is the American Nurses Association liaison to the Board of the National Commission on Correctional Healthcare. Deborah Shelton, Professor, brings her experience as an academician and researcher.

Nursing has a vast array of sub-specialties where a registered nurse may decide to dedicate their career to a specific type of nursing or patient population. To demonstrate development of expertise in that specialty to employers, nurses pursue certification. Many employers reward nurses who become certified by promoting them, offering them higher compensation and giving them greater responsibilities. A nurse who specializes and chooses to become certified must meet certain education, experience and exam criteria met to achieve the credential.

We will bring updates over the next 12-months as the taskforce conducts its work.
A Look Ahead

Correctional Worker Health Symposium (8/17/17)

The Second National Symposium for Correctional Worker Health is to be held 8/17/17 at the Saint Louis University School of Law in St. Louis, MO. This symposium is a collaboration with the Center for the Promotion of Health in the New England Workplace (CPH-NEW) and Saint Louis University with the goal to join correction leaders, correctional officers (CO), and university researchers to advance research, programs and policies for CO health and wellness. Highlights include: interstate comparisons of CO health, a look into interventions for posttraumatic stress disorders, mental health, and CO family life and work balance, labor management, workforce led efforts to deal with substance misuse, and more.

Space is limited and registration is required. We would like to congratulate Mazen El Ghaziri, PhD, MPH, RN, a member of our CCHNet Research Interest Group (RIG), for coordinating the plan for this exciting event!
Publications, Presentations, and Grants

Journal Publications:


Books and Chapters:

Presentations:


Grants:

Submitted:


Save the Dates!
Upcoming Conferences and Call for Papers

- Reimagining Justice: A conversation on the national impact of crime and incarceration, June 14-15, 2017 Hartford Marriott Downtown, Hartford. Criminal justice professionals throughout the country are looking to discuss models, solutions and policies to help end the cycle of mass incarceration. A wide range of disciplines are invited to ensure a holistic point of view and to help community leaders obtain real results.

- Second National Symposium for Correctional Worker Health, August 17, 2017. Saint Louis University Law School, St. Louis, MO.

- Custody and Caring: Biennial International Conference on the Nurse’s Role in the Criminal Justice System. October 4-6, 2017. Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada.

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

JEPCH
The Center for Correctional Health Networks

May 2017
Final Reminders

**JEPCCH Reviewer Board and Article Submissions:**
The Journal for Evidence-based Practices in Correctional Health (JEPCCH) 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.

**Online Presence in CCHNet:**
Please visit our dedicated website found at [http://cchnet.uconn.edu/](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 often overlooked field.

[http://tinyurl.com/cchnetsources](http://tinyurl.com/cchnetsources)
Our newsletter is Biannual! To share your stories, contact us at:
Center for Correctional Health Networks
(CCHNet)
Email: cchnet@uconn.edu
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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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