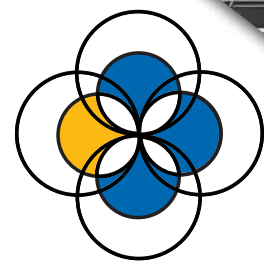




CENTER FOR  
**Health &  
Human Services**  
R E S E A R C H



**FY 2018 ANNUAL REPORT**

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# LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

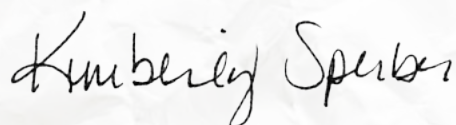
On behalf of our team, I am pleased to present the Fiscal Year 2018 Annual Report for the Center for Health and Human Services Research (CHHSR). Since the last Annual Report was published, our team has continued to work diligently to identify, execute, and disseminate the results of research and technical assistance projects to help Talbert House and similar agencies to both produce and use science in their daily operations.

Our work at the CHHSR is driven by the Talbert House mission to improve social behavior and enhance personal recovery and growth. Partnering with practitioners, external investigators, student interns, academic institutions, trade associations, external and internal funders, and a variety of social service agencies is integral to achieving this mission. This year's report highlights some of these important partners and the projects that were possible with their support. These highlighted projects focus on strategies to reduce opioid overdose deaths for high risk populations, technical assistance resources for practitioners working with clients at risk of opioid overdose death, barriers to engaging mothers and nonresidential fathers into co-parenting services, and curriculum development for at-risk youth. These works are varied in scope and focus, but they share one thing in common—they have contributed to achieving the mission of Talbert House while also producing valuable information for the larger practitioner community. Congratulations to all of our investigators, practitioner partners, student interns, funders, and agency partners that have made this possible.

Moving forward, the CHHSR team remains committed to leveraging internal and external resources to identify high priority projects that produce optimal outcomes for all of our stakeholders. We will continue to build on our history of scholarship through partnership in order to shape evidence-based practice, to inform policy, and to advocate for Talbert House clients and their communities. We look forward to sharing the results of these efforts with you in our next annual report.

Building a stronger community....one life at a time.

Sincerely,



Kimberly Sperber, Ph.D.  
Director





## Evaluating Mother and Non-Residential Father Engagement in Co-Parenting Services in a Fatherhood Program

In FY18 our randomized clinical trial of enhanced co-parenting services funded by the Fatherhood Research Practice Network changed to an open clinical trial. Under the new design, study aims were to: (1) examine characteristics of 97 nonresidential fathers participating in the fatherhood program, (2) examine predictors of father engagement in coparenting services for these 97 fathers, and (3) identify barriers to engagement in coparenting services for both nonresidential fathers and the mothers of their children based on interviews with 16 mothers and 30 fathers.

At baseline, study fathers reported high levels of maternal undermining of their parenting attempts, little to no positive coparenting alliance, and destructive communication behaviors between themselves and the child's mother. These same difficulties in their relationship with the child's mother were significantly associated with participation in co-parenting services during the study timeframe. Qualitative interviews revealed that nonresidential fathers and the mothers of their children both appeared to largely view coparenting services as valuable even though engagement in coparenting services was low. Themes from the interviews suggested that drivers to low engagement in coparenting services were: the poor quality of the relationship between the coparents, the mother's distrust of the fatherhood program to represent her interests, practical barriers such as scheduling conflicts, lack of systematic communication/outreach protocols, and a need for more effective advertising of the existence and intent of the co-parenting services.

Final results and implications for practice are under review by the study's funders. Findings will be disseminated in a brief Summary Report and a comprehensive Final Report, which will be available on the CHHSR website this Fall.



**Ray Rush, LICDC-CS**

Associate Director,  
Turning Point

Ray has nearly 30 years of clinical experience working directly with clients at Talbert House. He served as the liaison between Turning Point staff, clients and the research team during the implementation of the PEER-OPPs program, working to ensure successful client recruitment and data collection processes were established and maintained. Ray and his team were diligent in ensuring a strong practitioner-researcher collaboration throughout the project.

## A Quasi-Experimental Comparison of Opioid Overdose Prevention Programs Delivered in Southern Ohio Correctional Facilities

This study was designed to assess the feasibility, acceptability, and effectiveness of an enhanced intervention entitled "PEER-OPPs" [Post -Entry, -Exit, and -Recovery, Opioid Overdose Prevention Program(s)]. Research and intervention activities were delivered across secure/locked community correctional facilities in southern Ohio. Participating facilities included jail-based facilities (n=3), Community Based Correctional Facilities (n=1), halfway houses (n=4), and drug court or other residential treatment facilities (n=3).

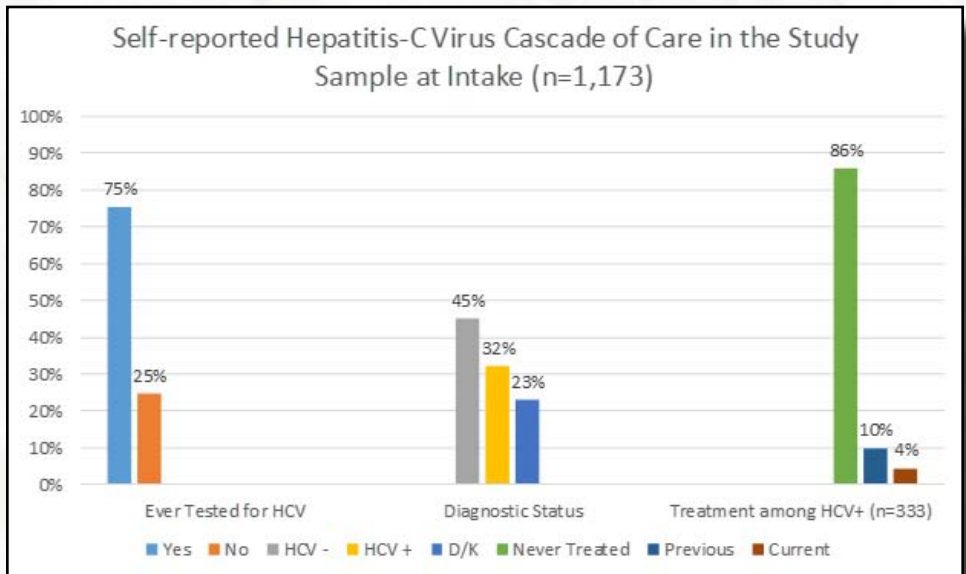
From May to December 2017 more than 360 women and 812 men were recruited from participating facilities and consented to participate in longitudinal research. Participants completed the *Texas Christian University Drug Screen 5* and allowed researchers to abstract health, demographic, and other measures collected as part of facilities' standard intake and discharge processes. Participants also gave contact information that could be used for a brief telephone interview, conducted 30-90 days after discharge.

To date CHHSR staff have abstracted health records for all study participants, and have completed follow-up phone interviews with more than 100 participants. Longitudinal analyses of participants' opioid overdose knowledge, attitudes, and behavior are currently underway. Preliminary cross-sectional research on client intake data have focused on distribution of known risk/protective factors for opioid overdose mortality in the study sample.

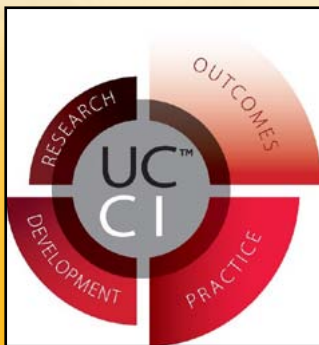
# MAJOR PROJECTS (CONTINUED)

At intake assessment, 608 participants (57%) had reportedly witnessed an opioid overdose event in their lifetime, 394 (37%) had experience calling an ambulance, 155 (15%) had administered naloxone, and 876 (82%) were willing to administer naloxone in an emergency. A third of participants had personally overdosed on opioids, 384 (37%) had knowingly used fentanyl, 161 knowingly used carfentanil (15%), and 335 (37%) injected drugs on a daily basis in the last 12 months.

Hepatitis C virus (HCV) screening was the first virological risk factor selected for analyses. Preliminary findings indicate a quarter of participating clients (n=262) had never been tested for HCV, 334 tested HCV positive (32%), of which 86% (n=286) received no HCV treatment.



These preliminary findings are the first to evaluate the HCV “cascade of care” among a cross-section of clients entering southern Ohio community correctional facilities. The risk and protective factors evaluated at client intake assessment are being included in our longitudinal analyses of the PEER-OPPs intervention outcomes.



## University of Cincinnati Corrections Institute

The mission of the University of Cincinnati Corrections Institute

(UCCI) is to research, develop, disseminate and implement evidence-based practices in corrections. UCCI provides services for federal, state, local and international governments as well as both for-profit and non-profit professional organizations to promote effective interventions for adults and juveniles involved in the justice system. Services are informed by research in the field and focus on core practices that incorporate cognitive behavioral and social learning approaches to encourage long-term, prosocial behavior. UCCI has trained over 20,000 corrections professionals at more than 335 agencies worldwide.

## Developing Cognitive-Behavioral Interventions in Context of Youth Sports

Saturday Night Lights (SNL) is a positive youth development and violence prevention program in Manhattan that strives to prevent youth violence and victimization in high crime neighborhoods. The program is funded by the District Attorney of New York County (DANY) and serves more than 5,000 youth each year. As a positive youth development program, SNL integrates sports and fitness themes into their program through open gym time and other structured activities. To strengthen efforts to prevent and reduce delinquency, DANY sought to integrate additional evidence-based practices through the addition of cognitive-behavioral interventions. Consequently, CHHSR staff partnered with DANY and the University of Cincinnati Corrections Institute to create a cognitive-behavioral curriculum to meet the unique needs of the SNL program and the youth that they serve. Throughout the curriculum youth are taught self-regulation skills that can be applied both in sports and in life, with an emphasis on increasing social emotional competence, reducing risk for a number of adverse outcomes, and providing for healthy transitions from adolescence to adulthood.



# CRIMINAL JUSTICE & PUBLIC HEALTH INTERNSHIPS

From Fall 2017 to Summer 2018 the CHHSR has trained three cohorts of graduate students from Master of Public Health (MPH) programs and Criminal Justice Programs (BS, PhD). The MPH students were enrolled for practicum credit hours at the University of Cincinnati College of Medicine or the University of Kentucky College of Public Health. The Criminal Justice students were enrolled for credit hours at the University of Cincinnati School of Criminal Justice. Students gained 100 to 400 hours of experience per semester on core competencies for public health professionals or criminal justice professionals.



**Cady Cornell**  
*Graduate Intern (UK)*

Our Summer 2018 MPH cohort included a Health Behavior student, Cady Cornell. Cady assisted with organization and development of an Opioid Overdose Prevention Programs and Services Manual, including the PEER-OPPs intervention guide for community correctional facilities in Ohio. She also contributed to data collection and qualitative analyses important for the longitudinal PEER-OPPs intervention cohort study currently underway. Cady returned to a full-time academic course-load in Lexington, Kentucky, with a goal of 2019 graduation.

**Sarah Fitzgerald & Ha Khuong**  
*Undergraduate Interns (UC)*

Ha and Sarah's scientific contributions were presented at a refereed scientific conference hosted annually for University of Cincinnati undergraduates. Ha's presentation was titled, "Opioid epidemic: Correlation of risk factors with opioid overdose." Currently Ha is continuing her undergraduate tenure at UC and will be applying for graduate programs in the upcoming year. Sarah's presentation was titled, "Increasing responsivity by integrating client strengths into correctional treatment." Sarah recently finished an exchange program in Spain and hopes to apply to criminal justice graduate programs. After which she will pursue a career in federal law enforcement.

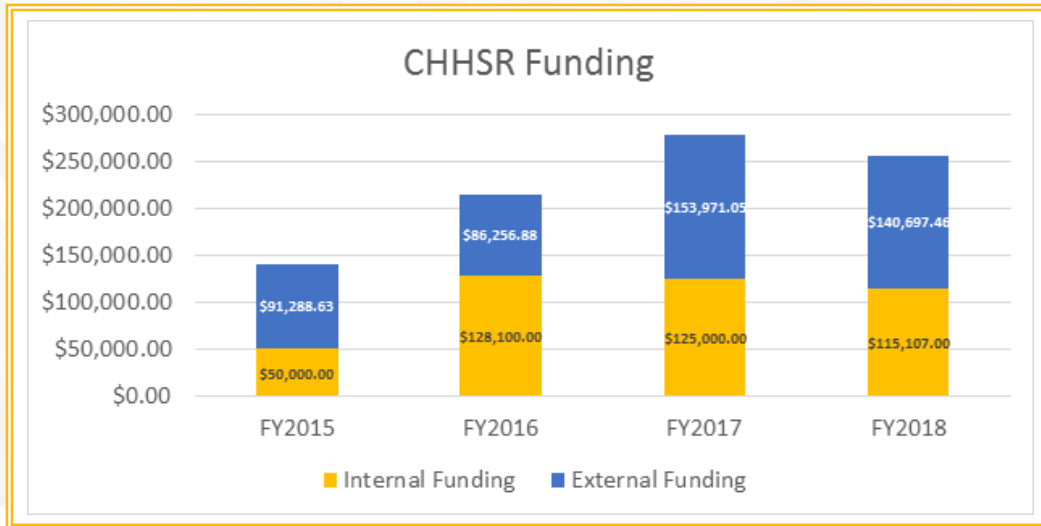


**Colton Jonson & Sara Cannon**  
*Graduate Interns (UC)*

Our Fall 2017 and Spring 2018 MPH *Prevention and Policy* cohort included Colton Johnson and Sara Cannon. Colton extended Summer 2017 practicum hours to continue analyzing qualitative data and prepared a manuscript titled, "Overdose education and naloxone distribution programs in Ohio halfway houses: Exploring directors' beliefs about implementation." Colton graduated from the University of Cincinnati in December 2017 with an MPH concentration in Health Services Management. He now works as a medical scribe in Washington State and is preparing to begin medical school. Sara Cannon worked with the CHHSR on her master's thesis project titled: "Correlates of Hepatitis-C virus among clients in criminal rehabilitation facilities." Sara presented her thesis findings publicly at the University of Cincinnati Kettering Lab (4/20/2018) and graduated in May 2018 with an MPH concentration in Epidemiology. She recently began work as a Clinical Research Coordinator at Cincinnati Children's Hospital and has been invited to present her research findings this fall at the annual 2018 American Public Health Association conference.

# FUNDING

The graph below shows new funding awarded during FY2018. Funding amounts do not reflect continuation of FY2017 funds from previous awards.



## FY 2018 Funders:

- District Attorney's Office of New York County
- Ohio Office of Criminal Justice Services (OCJS), Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program
- Foundation for Talbert House

# PUBLICATIONS

**Sperber KG**, & Loweenkamp CT. (2017), Dosage is more than just counting program hours: The importance of role-playing in treatment outcomes. *Journal of Offender Rehabilitation*. 56(7):433-451. DOI: 10.1080/10509674.2017.1359222

**Sperber KG**, Makarios MD, & Latessa EJ. (2017). Exploring the risk-dosage relationship in offenders classified as neurotic. *Journal of Community Corrections*. Winter: 9-25.

Topmiller MT, Mallow PJ, **Vissman AT**, Grandmont J. (2018). Identifying Priority Areas for Increasing the Supply of Medication-Assisted Treatments for Opioid Use Disorder: A Geospatial Approach. *Journal of Health Economics and Outcomes Research*. 6(1):75-83.

Rhodes SD, Tanner AE, Mann-Jackson L, Alonzo J, Horridge DN, Van Dam CN, Trent A, Bell J, Simán FM, **Vissman AT**, Nall J, Andrade M. (2018) Community-Engaged Research as an Approach to Expedite Advances in HIV Prevention, Care, and Treatment: A Call to Action. *AIDS Education and Prevention*. 30(3):243-253. DOI: 10.1521/aeap.2018.30.3.243

# PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS

**Vissman AT**, **Sperber KG**, Gerken K, and **Manzo AN**. Opioid overdose prevention programs in Ohio correctional facilities: Developing the PEER-OOPP intervention. Abstract # 389316: American Public Health Association Annual Meeting. November 4 - 8, 2017, Atlanta, GA.

Topmiller, MA, Grandmont J, **Vissman AT**, Carrozza M, Grolling D, and Arnone M. Determining medication assisted treatment (MAT) capacity in high-need areas. Poster, North American Primary Care Research Group Annual Meeting. November 17-21, 2017, Montreal, Quebec.



**Sperber, KG, Manzo, AN, Winstanley, E, and Buckmeier, B.** Developing and testing an opioid overdose prevention program for criminal justice clients. Annual Meeting of the American Society of Criminology. November 15-18, 2017, Philadelphia, PA.

**Manzo, AN, Sperber, KG, and Vissman AT.** Examining the intersection of risk, trauma, health, and perceptions of trauma— informed care in community corrections. Annual Meeting of the American Society of Criminology. November 15-18, 2017, Philadelphia, PA.

**Sperber, K. G.** At the crossroads of public health and public safety: Addressing the opioid epidemic in corrections. Annual meeting of the Ohio Community Corrections Association in Columbus, Ohio. May 3-4, 2018.

## SCHEDULE FOR FALL 2018

Members of the CHHSR accepted an invitation to present this fall at the annual American Public Health Association annual conference in San Diego. The presentation, titled “Correlates of Untreated Hepatitis-C Virus Among Clients in Southern Ohio Criminal Rehabilitation Facilities” was scheduled for Session 3203.0 Topics in Infectious Disease Epidemiology, Poster Session, Monday, November 12, 2018: 1:00 p.m.-2:00 p.m. Dr. Vissman also presented these findings at the annual Harm Reduction Conference in New Orleans, as part of a Hepatitis-C Mixed Panel scheduled for Friday, October 19, 2018: 11a.m.-12:30p.m.

CHHSR staff also accepted an invitation to present at the annual American Society of Criminology conference in Atlanta. The presentations, titled “A Quasi-Experimental Comparison of Opioid Overdose Prevention Programs Delivered in Southern Ohio Correctional Facilities: Pre/Post Test and Focus Groups” and “A Quasi-Experimental Comparison of Opioid Overdose Prevention Programs Delivered in Southern Ohio Correctional Facilities: 30 Day Qualitative Interviews” were scheduled for the session Expanding Effective Interventions and Approaches for Substance Abuse Prevention, Panel Presentation, Friday, November 16, 2018: 2:00-3:20 p.m.

## SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR ADVISORY COUNCIL

### **Faye Taxman, Ph.D.**

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### **Jaimee Heffner, Ph.D.**

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Fred Hutchinson Cancer  
Research Center  
1100 Fairview Ave. N.  
Seattle, WA 98109



# MEET OUR STAFF



**Aaron T. Vissman, Ph.D., MPH** *Associate Director*

Dr. Vissman joined the agency in February 2016 after completing his Ph.D. at Emory University. He has diverse research experience investigating public health disparities and multi-level intervention outcomes. He supervises quality and outcomes for internally and externally funded research, directs the Public Health 'Prevention and Policy' Internship Program, and serves as grant writer and co-investigator for interdisciplinary and community-based research projects and health equity initiatives addressing HIV, HCV, and mortality in justice involved populations. For recorded academic lectures, see:

<https://med.uc.edu/eh/academics/graduate-office/seminars/spring2017>

**Amber N. Manzo, M.S.,** *Senior Research Associate*

Amber is a Ph.D. candidate in the School of Criminal Justice at the University of Cincinnati. Currently she is managing several projects including a trauma informed care initiative and two grant funded projects on naloxone distribution in Ohio substance use programs and the effectiveness of opioid overdose prevention interventions in correctional facilities in southwest Ohio.



**Karen M. Ludwig, Ph.D.,** *Research Associate*

Dr. Ludwig received her degree in Political Science from the University of Cincinnati in 2005, specializing in Public Opinion and Research Methods. She has over 15 years of experience in research and evaluation projects involving education, community groups, adults with disabilities, and STEM education. Prior to joining Talbert House in August 2015, Dr. Ludwig served as a research associate at the University of Cincinnati Evaluation Services Center. She has also worked at UC's Institute for Policy Research. Currently she is managing research databases and developing measures.



**Bradley M. Buckmeier, M.S.,** *Research Assistant*

Bradley assists with data collection, data analysis, and data entry for several projects at the CHHSR. He routinely conducts literature reviews which establish the theoretical framework for research conducted at the CHHSR. His most recent contributions involve aiding in the development and optimization of logistic models for the distribution of media resources throughout Talbert House. He is a Ph.D. candidate at the University of Cincinnati and recently scheduled his dissertation defense.

