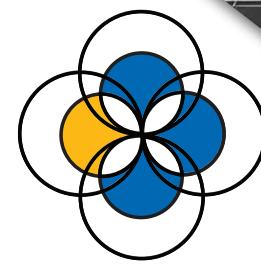




CENTER FOR  
**Health &  
Human Services**  
R E S E A R C H



## FY 2017 ANNUAL REPORT

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# LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

Researchers and practitioners alike continue to note an ongoing gap between research and practice. One barrier to effective implementation has been that health and criminal justice practitioners are expected to implement evidence-based interventions without meaningful participation in defining and prioritizing what is studied and in what contexts interventions are applied. Meaningful participation in defining and prioritizing implementation research is one way to bridge this gap between scientific findings and practice. Consequently, Talbert House launched the Center for Health and Human Services Research (CHHSR) to further strengthen the practitioner voice in research. Together, researchers and practitioners work to bridge research and practice to maximize access to high quality services with proven outcomes for clients, their families, and their communities.



Talbert House views the operation of a research center within a practitioner agency as an innovative method for elevating the role of practitioners in defining pertinent research issues and designing research projects most likely to yield actionable results. Partnerships between researchers and practitioners allow the agency to foster interdisciplinary science-based practice and practice-based science. Findings from CHHSR studies highlighted in this report are evidence of such partnerships and have implications for adoption/refinement of evidence-based services, evidence-based implementation strategies, client advocacy, and policymaking. These highlighted projects focus on strategies to impact the opioid epidemic, improve engagement in and outcomes of fatherhood and co-parenting services, and integrate trauma-informed care into existing treatment and milieu management practices.

At CHHSR, we are fortunate to have committed, talented, and energized staff to meet the demands of conducting applied research in real world settings. We are also fortunate to have the support of equally committed and caring staff working in Talbert House programs, assisting with and helping to coordinate our many projects at the service sites. Finally, we benefit from many other partnerships, including our student interns, our Advisory Council, external funders, and local universities.

To all we extend our gratitude for helping CHHSR and Talbert House achieve its mission of improving social behavior and enhancing personal recovery and growth. Together, we are building a stronger community... one life at a time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kimberly Sperber".

Kimberly Sperber, Ph.D.  
Director

# MAJOR PROJECTS

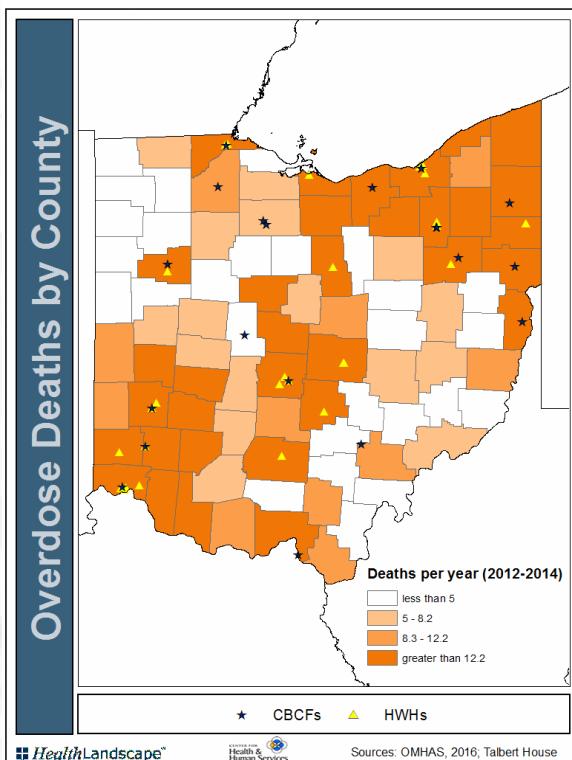
## Factors Influencing Medication Assisted Treatment in Ohio Halfway Houses and Community Based Correctional Facilities

This study investigated prevalence of medication-assisted treatment (MAT) programs for opioid addiction in Ohio halfway houses and Community-Based Correctional Facilities. Methods included in-person key informant interviews and staff surveys at 49 facilities. Results indicated 22 (76%) halfway houses and 10 (50%) Community-Based Correctional Facilities offered some type of MAT program for clients. Only 26% of facilities prescribed addiction medications to clients, while 39% allowed regimen maintenance only if addiction medication was prescribed before admission. The remainder of facilities (35%) allowed no form of MAT.

Results from this study indicated great interest among community corrections practitioners about how best to treat opioid dependent clients in ways that meet the needs of the clients and also are appropriate to the settings for adult offenders. Findings highlighted opportunities to improve full-scale implementation of MAT in these environments. One of these opportunities was increased staff and stakeholder education through production of a MAT Toolkit. CHHSR staff conducted a comprehensive search of existing, no-cost educational, training, and advocacy resources available to practitioners. These resources were compiled into a practitioner toolkit and published via the website.

The CHHSR Correctional Practitioner MAT Toolkit materials can be accessed at [www.talberthouse.org/social-enterprises/center-for-health-%2B-human-services-research-3/toolkits-%2B-training-6](http://www.talberthouse.org/social-enterprises/center-for-health-%2B-human-services-research-3/toolkits-%2B-training-6)

## Factors Influencing Opioid Overdose Prevention Practices in Ohio Substance Abuse and Community Corrections Programs



This study investigated prevalence of overdose prevention services and naloxone distribution programs in Ohio counties with high age-adjusted drug overdose death rates (displayed in the map). Data were collected through structured telephone interviews with the Director of each program and a mailed survey of staff randomly selected from each facility. Participants included halfway houses (n=27), Community-Based Correctional Facilities (n=20), and other residential and outpatient substance use treatment programs (n=123).

Initial results demonstrate overdose prevention services were significantly more common in halfway houses (82%) compared to Community-Based Correctional Facilities (50%). Overdose education and naloxone distribution (OEND) programs were uncommon across halfway houses (30%) and Community-Based Correctional Facilities (10%). Results characterized barriers to naloxone distribution and evaluated staff attitudes toward OEND and willingness to carry naloxone kits.

Next steps include comparison of OEND across correctional and non-correctional facilities and multivariable regression to explain OEND adoption and willingness to carry naloxone among groups of staff. Overall the studies listed above provide a foundation for evaluating and predicting long term multi-level effects of MAT and OEND programs in community corrections and substance abuse settings.

# MAJOR PROJECTS (CONTINUED)

## Examining the Intersection of Health and Justice and Its Impact on Trauma Informed Care: A Quality Improvement Initiative

Justice involved individuals experience interpersonal trauma at significantly higher rates than the general population. Prior trauma can impact the successful outcomes of the clients served in correctional treatment programs in varied and complex ways. Because of the agency's commitment to improve its ability to deliver trauma informed care, the agency designed a quality improvement project to both assess the degree to which clients perceive their treatment environment to be trauma-informed and to assess key client characteristics that might elucidate relationships among these characteristics that can help the agency to improve client outcomes across a variety of correctional treatment settings in the domains of recidivism, substance use, mental health, and physical health.

The project collected data from 418 clients across 11 programs. Findings will be used during FY18 to inform quality improvement initiatives at the sites.



**Calvin Williams**

President of Lucian Families

Calvin has more than 20 years of experience in developing, directing, and executing fatherhood and co-parenting services and currently serves on the board of Ohio Practitioner's Network for Fathers and Families. He also co-authored with PREP, Inc. *On My Shoulders*, a curriculum for low-income fathers. Calvin is responsible for the delivery of co-parenting interventions employed during the co-parenting study and serves as a liaison between research staff and program staff.

## A Randomized Clinical Trial of Enhanced Co-parenting Services in a Fatherhood Program

During FY17, 65 fathers were enrolled (average age 35 years old  $\pm$  7 years) into a longitudinal study of parenting relationships, service engagement, and associated outcomes (e.g., relationship quality and child academic performance). Across standard and enhanced treatment arms of the study, fathers have reported similar age of the "focal" child who motivated the father to seek services (8 years old  $\pm$  5 years). Across treatment conditions fathers also reported similar scores on scales related to co-parenting outcomes. These scales include Co-parenting Quality, Destructive Conflict, Father-Child Contact, Father-Child Discipline, and Father-Child Engagement.

FY18 activities include follow-up assessments with fathers, and in-depth qualitative interviews with both mothers and fathers to better understand effects of interventions and barriers that may prevent mothers and fathers from engaging in co-parenting services.



# CRIMINAL JUSTICE & PUBLIC HEALTH INTERNSHIPS

Since Fall 2016 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.



**Helena Hall**  
*Undergraduate Intern (UC)*

Helena's scientific contributions were presented at a refereed scientific conference hosted annually for University of Cincinnati undergraduates. Her talk was titled, "Trauma informed care in residential treatment facilities: identifying disparities in treatment for survivors of trauma." Helena graduated from the University of Cincinnati and is now a second year graduate student in Forensic Psychology at George Washington University.



**Timothy "TJ" Sweet**  
*Undergraduate Intern (UC)*

TJ's scientific contributions were presented at a refereed scientific conference hosted annually for University of Cincinnati undergraduates. His talk was titled, "Examining the impact of past traumatic experiences on present health and wellness." TJ presented updated findings at the American Society of Criminology annual conference in Philadelphia in November 2017. Currently TJ is continuing his undergraduate tenure and will be applying for criminal justice graduate programs.



**Stephenson Nkinin & Colton Johnson**  
*Graduate Interns (UC)*

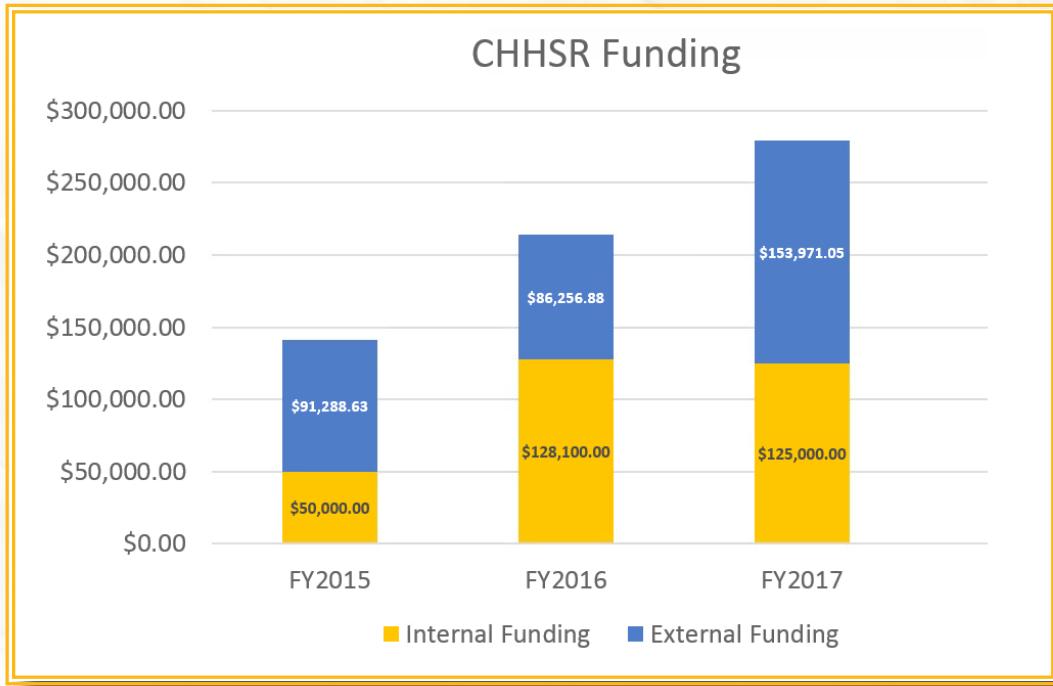
Our Summer 2017 MPH Prevention and Policy Cohort included Epidemiology and Health Policy students, Stephenson Nkinin and Colton Johnson. Their scientific contributions were presented internally at the Talbert House Executive Offices (7/28/2017) and publicly at the University of Cincinnati Kettering Lab (8/4/2017). Stephenson's talk was titled "Pattern and frequency of drug overdose events at Talbert House facilities." Colton's talk was titled "Overdose education and naloxone distribution programs in Ohio halfway houses: Exploring directors' beliefs about implementation." Colton has decided to extend his practicum and work on manuscript writing throughout the Fall 2017 Semester. Stephenson returned to a full-time academic course-load with a goal of 2018 graduation.

**Kaitlyn Gerken**  
*Graduate Intern (UC)*

Kaitlyn was a Fall 2016 MPH intern. She was listed as co-author for the American Public Health Association presentation in November 2017. She graduated with a Master of Public Health concentration in Epidemiology from the University of Cincinnati. She now works at a behavioral health agency in Cincinnati, Ohio.

# FUNDING

CHHSR staff continue to expand their grant writing and outreach to local, state, federal, and private donors to increase the center's external funding portfolio. Consequently, external funding increased by 78% in FY17 compared to FY16.



#### FY 2017 Funders:

- Ohio Office of Criminal Justice Services (OCJS), Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program
- U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the Fatherhood Research and Practice Network
- University of Cincinnati and the Patient Centered Outcomes Research Institute
- Foundation for Talbert House

# PUBLICATIONS

**Sperber, K. G., & Lowenkamp, C. T. (2017).** Dosage is more than just counting program hours: The importance of role-playing in treatment outcomes. *Journal of Offender Rehabilitation*, DOI: 10.1080/10509674.2017.1359222

Rhodes S.D., Mann L., Simán F., Alonso J., **Vissman A. T.**, Nall J., Tanner A.E. (2017). ENGAGED for CHANGE: An innovative community-based participatory research strategy to intervention development. In: Wallerstein N, Duran B, Oetzel J, and Minkler M. (Eds.) *Community-Based Participatory Research for Health: Advancing Social and Health Equity, 3rd Edition*. Hoboken, NJ: Wiley.

# PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS

**Sperber, K. G.** (2016, October). *Factors influencing medication assisted treatment in Ohio halfway houses and community based correctional facilities*. Presented at the annual meeting of the Ohio Justice Alliance for Community Corrections, Columbus, OH.

**Sperber, K. G., Manzo, A. N., & Winstanley, E.** (2016, November). *Knowledge diffusion: An examination of staff attitudes and beliefs about opioid overdose response and naloxone distribution*. Presented at the annual meeting of the American Society of Criminology, New Orleans, LA.

**Manzo, A. N., Vissman A. T., Sperber, K. G., & Winstanley, E.** (2016, November). *Exploring staff preparedness: Knowledge and attitudes about opioid overdose response and use of naloxone among treatment and corrections staff*. Presented at the annual meeting of the American Society of Criminology, New Orleans, LA.

Winstanley, E., **Vissman A. T., Sperber, K. G., & Manzo, A. N.** (2016, November). *Barriers to implementing naloxone education and distribution in substance abuse and community corrections programs*. Presented at the annual meeting of the American Society of Criminology, New Orleans, LA.

**Vissman A. T. & Manzo, A. N.** (2016, November). *Exploring directors' beliefs about implementing opioid overdose prevention programs in Ohio: Elicitation interview results*. Presented at the annual meeting of the American Society of Criminology, New Orleans, LA.

**Vissman A. T., Topmiller M., Manzo, A. N., Ludwig K. M., Courtney S., Winstanley E., & Sperber, K. G.** (November, 2016). *Substance abuse treatment facilities in high opioid death counties: Introducing a multi-level program of research*. Presented at the annual meeting of the Appalachian Translational Research Network, Annual Health Summit, Cincinnati, OH.

**Vissman A. T.** (2017, March). *Opioid overdose prevention programs in Ohio correctional facilities: Developing the PEER-OOP intervention*. Presented at the University of Cincinnati College of Medicine Wednesday Seminar Series, Cincinnati OH; March 22, 2017

\*\*\*This seminar was recorded with others in the [Spring 2017 Seminar Series](#).\*\*\*  
<https://med.uc.edu/eh/academics/graduate-office/seminars/spring2017>

**Sperber, K. G.,** (2017, May). *At the crossroads of public health and public safety: Addressing the opioid epidemic in corrections*. Presented at the annual meeting of the Ohio Community Corrections Association, Columbus, OH.

Vissman A. T., **Manzo, A.**, & Thomas T. (2017, June). *Studying overdose prevention programs in correctional facilities*. Presented at the Ohio Opiate Conference, Columbus OH.



## Tiffany Thomas

Associate Director of Talbert House's Community Correctional Center in Lebanon, Ohio

Along with CHHSR staff, Tiffany led a breakout session at the [Annual Ohio Opiate Conference](#) held in Columbus in June 2017. The one-hour session was designed to train practitioners on policy research and naloxone program implementation.

# SCHEDULE FOR FALL 2017

Members of the CHHSR accepted an invitation to present this fall at the American Public Health Association annual conference. The presentation, titled “Opioid overdose prevention programs in Ohio correctional facilities: Developing the PEER-OOPP intervention” was held for ATOD prevention policies across communities on Monday, November 6, 2017. For more information [view the session online](#).

CHHSR staff accepted an invitation to present at the annual American Society of Criminology conference in Philadelphia. Two presentations and one poster were accepted. They were titled: “Examining the intersection of risk, trauma, health and perceptions of trauma-informed care in community corrections”; “Developing and testing an opioid overdose prevention program for criminal justice clients”; and “Examining relationships among past traumatic experiences, current opioid use, and criminogenic risk among a sample of community corrections clients.” All presentations were held Thursday, November 16, 2017. For more information [view the session online](#).

Dr. Vissman and colleagues with the American Academy of Family Physicians, HealthLandscape Division, were invited to present at the 2017 North American Primary Care Research Group Annual Meeting. Their presentation, titled “Determining medication assisted treatment capacity in high-need areas” were held November 18-20, 2017. For more information view [session details](#).

## SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR ADVISORY COUNCIL

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# 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.



## 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. She recently received recognition by Talbert House for her mentorship of the center's criminal justice research interns.



## 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 a project focusing on improving co-parenting relationships between nonresidential fathers and the custodial mothers of their children. She has also assisted CHHSR staff with projects involving naloxone distribution in Ohio substance use centers and gambling intervention.



## 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 successfully defended his dissertation proposal.