

The TCU IBR Spotlight

INSTITUTE OF BEHAVIORAL RESEARCH



What's New

Q&A WITH RACHEL CRAWLEY

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NEW IBR MEMBER

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FAMLI PROJECT

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BRAVO

Q&A with Rachel Crawley

Dr. Crawley is a graduate of the IBR and rejoined the IBR in March 2020. She is an Associate Research Scientist on several research projects funded by the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA). Her specific areas of interest include substance use and mental health treatment and prevention, organizational functioning and general implementation issues, technology-facilitated intervention and data collection, and trauma-informed intervention effectiveness and implementation. .

We sat down with her to discuss her background in research.

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Q&A with Rachel Crawley

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Currently, Dr. Crawley serves as Project Director on the NIDA funded project -- Substance Use and Health Risk Intervention (SUHRI). She also serves as Co-Project Director for the Addressing Risk Through Community Treatment for Infectious Disease and Opioid Use Disorder Now Among Justice-Involved Populations (ACTION) project.

Tell me about your experience prior to coming to the IBR.

I had many different jobs growing up and throughout school, like working at a peach farm one summer, gas stations, a professional library, a mortgage company; but my career started in 2006 as a substance abuse counselor. I was an LCDC-intern and worked with justice involved adults in outpatient substance use treatment. I transitioned to a clinical supervisor position after becoming fully licensed, and eventually became an LPC serving as a mental health and substance abuse counselor and trainer -- a role I continued to play until my graduation from TCU with my Ph.D. in 2015. After graduation, I accepted a position as a behavioral health data analyst with Headquarters Marine Corps in Quantico, Virginia where I focused on the USMC suicide data. I came back to TCU and worked with the KPICD as an associate research scientist in 2016. My focus there was trauma-informed care effectiveness and implementation. Specifically, I focused on TBRI evaluation and developing a program of research around that. I returned to my roots at the IBR in 2020 in substance use treatment and health services research.

Did these experiences influence your decision to seek a career in research?

My counseling experience and love of science helped guide me in this direction. As an undergraduate at Sam Houston State University in Huntsville, I was around prisons and inmates and was saddened by the lack of services available to them for things like substance use. This was, of course, quite a long time ago, now. Initially, that's what interested me in substance use counseling. After I graduated, I went to Chicago and studied at the Adler School of Professional Psychology (now Adler University, I think) focusing on substance use counseling under Dr. Joseph Troiani. After coming back to Texas, I obtained my LCDC internship and worked with individuals impacted by substance use. I really enjoyed working with my clients, developing curriculum materials, and training, but I missed the science side of the field. After becoming frustrated with the barriers in the system encountered when getting care for my clients, I learned about the work the IBR was doing (CJ-DATS, specifically). I decided that's where I wanted to go and they were gracious enough to let me!

In what areas of research are you most interested in? Why?

Because of my professional background, I'm interested in improving substance use and mental health services for youth and adults in the criminal justice system. I have an interest in cognitive interventions and processes, developing interventions, and finding out which interventions are impactful for those individuals who may not respond to the more traditional approaches.

As someone who grew up in rural Texas, I'm also interested in improving the accessibility and reach of substance use and mental health services for those who may have no access. I'm a bit of a data nerd, so I will also happily run analyses or handle data issues for just about anyone.

What is a favorite project you are currently working on? Why?

That's hard to say. I am very partial to SUHRI because I think that technology is key to improving access to interventions. I have to say that I am so excited about ACTION because of the direct impact I expect it will have on the local community. Bringing services to those who have barriers to accessing them is a huge deal, and linkage is a big issue that we still struggle with in the field.

What do you enjoy most about working at the IBR?

I love the work, of course, but what I enjoy most about it is who I work with. The IBR has an amazing, supportive, caring, brilliant team that is a unique thing to find. I learned so much as a student and have continued to learn so much as an associate research scientist. I love that we can work across groups within and outside of TCU, that we are motivated by a desire to help the field. The fact that we listen to our partners doing the hard work to help us determine where to prioritize our work is something I'm very proud of.

What pastime activities do you enjoy outside of the IBR?

I spend my time away from work teaching statistics and research principles, volunteering on the board for a local rescue (Merlin's Hope Ragdoll Rescue), and being outside with a

camera as much as humanly possible. I'm a sucker for animals in need, so volunteering with the rescue allows me to feel like I'm helping. My photography hobby takes me to interesting places and helps me shut off my work brain and engage in something that's both creative and technical, and being a part of local exhibits has helped me to connect more with my home community.



Dr. Rachel D. Crawley

For more information about the SUHRI project please contact Dr. Crawley at ibr@tcu.edu

New IBR Staff Member

The IBR family has gained a new member. This month we welcome, Jacquelyn (Jacqui) Sanchez.

Jacqui is a Public Health Research Associate at the IBR with experience as a Public Health Detailer and Population Science Data Analyst on a CDC-funded demonstration project. She is currently working on the JCOIN project.

In her spare time, Jacqui enjoys traveling, photography, and attending concerts. Her research interests include minority health and health disparities, infectious diseases, and public health policy.



Jacqui Sanchez

FAMLI Project

The Family Assessment Motivation and Linkage Intervention (FAMLI) is a 3-year project funded by the National Institutes of Health. As part of this initiative, TCU is developing a caregiver-youth intervention targetings motivation for change (e.g., how to recognize and overcome a problem) and logistical challenges (e.g., how to find help when you need it). Because families may experience one or both of these barriers when initiating substance use (SU) treatment, developing a customizable, adaptive approach designed to assess and address them is important.

The study focuses on improving communication between youth, their caregivers, and service provider agencies. The goals are to improve the way youth and families prepare for change and assist them in overcoming challenges that sometimes make participating in services outside the juvenile justice system difficult. Participants are asked to attend at least two virtual sessions (maximum of four) and are compensated for their time. Mapping Enhanced Counseling and Active Linkage strategies, two established intervention approaches, will be used to promote youth self-recognition of problems associated with personal drug use, need for treatment, decision making around risky health behaviors, and identifying barriers that may prevent a youth and their caregiver from starting treatment. In response to COVID-19, the intervention has been fully adapted from the originally intended in-person intervention to a virtually-based curriculum. Among other innovative features, the virtually-based FAMLI intervention includes a family version of the Downward Spiral Game and a

Jeopardy-style game for talking through family-specific barriers to starting treatment.

The team is actively recruiting youth on community supervision with a juvenile justice department and their families to participate in the study (80 youth-caregiver pairs). All participation is voluntary and participants may choose to no longer participate at any time in the study. The hope is that this intervention can help improve the referral process to outside treatment providers and help families follow through on needed substance use services.

In 2020, the FAMLI team expanded to include a Project Coordinator, Data Manager, and 2 staff to deliver the virtually-based curriculum. The team continues to work diligently with finalizing intervention and assessment protocols, and recently expanded recruitment efforts to include Probation Officers - who participated in focus groups.

Below are the roles for this project:

Principal Investigator: Danica Knight

Project Director/Investigator: Jennifer Becan

Project Coordinator: Shatoya Young

Data Manager: Rachel Crawley

Curriculum Interventionist: Roxanne Muiruri

Graduate Research Assistant: Elizabeth Joseph

For more information about the FAMLI project please contact Dr. Knight or Dr. Becan at ibr@tcu.edu

Bravo

Publications

Adams, Z. W. Taylor, B. G., Flanagan, E., Kwon, E., Johnson-Kwochka, A. V., Elkington, K. S., **Becan, J. E.**, & Aalsma, M. C. (2021). Opioid Use Disorder stigma, discrimination, and policy attitudes in a national sample of U.S. young adults. *Journal of Adolescent Health*, 1-8. doi: 10.1016/j.jadohealth.2020.12.142.

Elkington, K. S., Spaulding, A., Gardner, S., **Knight, D.**, Belenko, S., **Becan, J. E.**, Robertson, A. A., Oser, C., & DiClemente, R. (2020). A system-level intervention to encourage collaboration between juvenile justice and public health agencies to promote HIV/STI testing. *AIDS Education Prevention*, 32(4), 337-355. doi:10.1521/aeap.2020.32.4.337

Knight, D., Becan, J., Olson, D., Davis, N. P., **Jones, J., Wiese, A.**, Carey, P., Howell, D., & **Knight, K.** (2021). Justice community opioid Innovation network (JCOIN): The TCU research hub. *Journal of Substance Abuse Treatment*, 1-5. doi: 10.1016/j.jsat.2021.108290

Yang, Y. (2020). Aggression and somatic symptoms: the role of emotion regulation and distress tolerance. *International Journal of Behavioral Medicine*. 27, 466-474. doi: 10.1007/s12529-020-09885-6

Yang, Y., & Perkins, D. R. (2020). Association between childhood adversity and criminal thinking: the role of attachment. *Psychology, Crime & Law*. doi: 10.1080/1068316X.2020.1850724

Yang, Y. (2020). Daily stressor, daily resilience, and daily somatization: The role of trait aggression. *Personality and Individual Differences*, 165, 1-6. doi:10.1016/j.paid.2020.110141

Welsh, W. N., Dembo, R., **Lehman, W. E. K.**, Bartkowski, J. P., Hamilton, L., Leukefeld, C. G., & Wiley, T. (2020) Critical factors influencing interorganizational relationships between juvenile probation and behavioral health agencies. *Administration and Policy in Mental Health and Mental Health Services Research*. Advance online publication. doi:10.1007/s10488-020-01066-7

Presentations

Becan, J., Wiese, A., Lehman, W., Sease, T., & Joseph, E. (December 2020). Mapping Approaches to Prepare for Implementation Transfer (MAP-IT): a randomized pilot study of an organizational intervention to promote successful implementation of best practices. Presentation at the 13th Annual Conference on the Science of Dissemination and Implementation in Health.

Achievements

We would like to celebrate our faculty and staff members' service at the IBR - **Yang Yang, Lainey Tinius & Shatoya Young** are celebrating 1 year at the IBR. Thank you for your hard work and dedication!