West Louisville Youth Working to Change the Downward Spiral of Violence in the City

by Julie Heflin
Health Communications Coordinator

Beecher Terrace, the Algonquin neighborhood and the Shawnee neighborhood are areas of Louisville where stories of violence and hopelessness show up on the nightly news, but these West Louisville communities also are home to youth working to make a change for the better.

These pioneers are called the Louisville Youth Voices against Violence (LYVV) Fellows, and they work part-time for the University of Louisville’s Office of Public Health Practice (OPHP), an entity of the UofL School of Public Health and Information Sciences. The eight people, ages 16-24 are residents of West Louisville, and were hired this year through a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention grant, which established UofL’s National Center of Excellence in Youth Violence Prevention (YVPRC). During their two-year fellowship, they are helping design and implement a campaign to change perceptions about violence, and ultimately destructive behaviors.

“It is a challenge to survive, at any moment I could get shot and killed,” said Jessica Murrah, a LYVV Fellow and Jefferson Community and Technical College student. “When I leave home and walk to the bus stop, I call my parents so they know that I made it, and then I call them when I board the bus, and again, when I arrive at work. I appreciate that they care about me.”

Murrah says the work she’s doing with UofL is important “because not only are we trying to make a change in our community, we also are making a change within ourselves - I want to learn to be a strong force that people can look up to,” she said.

The Campaign Work

Each of the youth fellows works 20 hours a week on various aspects of the violence prevention campaign that, when implemented in Spring 2017, will utilize social media and other forms of media to connect cultural history and racial/ethnic identity.

“Science tells us that social norms affect individual behavior. If we think people who are like us act a certain way or expect us to act a certain way in a specific situation,
we’re more likely to act that way - whether we agree with it or not. But sometimes, our perceptions of those norms are inaccurate,” said Monica Wendel, Dr.P.H., M.A., associate dean for public health practice, and principal investigator of the CDC grant. “Media often make things worse by only portraying negative images and narratives of minority populations, while the positive majority of those populations remains unseen.”

The youth fellows are working with the OPHP and its partners to oppose the perception that violence is normal, accepted and expected, particularly among African American youth.

An Opportunity of a Lifetime

“Some of our fellows had never left Louisville, and our goal is to expose them to opportunities for growth and development, help them network, take them to other universities, and build critical consciousness necessary to be positive social agents of change within their communities,” said Monique Ingram, M.P.H., director of the Office of Public Health Practice. “We want to set them up for success, and our recent trip to Washington, D.C., was an experience of a lifetime for these young people.”

The trip was planned so the fellows could take part in the dedication ceremony of the Smithsonian National Museum for African American History and Culture, and be among the first to encounter hands-on exhibits related to their history.

“Going to the new museum was phenomenal; looking around seeing thousands of African Americans and others gathering to celebrate the great things that we as a race have accomplished was extraordinary - it will live in me forever,” said youth fellow Jailen Leavell.

The experience fit perfectly with the focus of the campaign, according to Ingram. “Cultural history and its effect in cultivating positive racial identity as a mechanism for youth violence prevention will be a key component of our public communication efforts,” she said.

The increased understanding of African American history, and exposure to new ways of communicating about this heritage will help inform the campaign development. Photos of the youth in historic places throughout Washington, D.C., as well as video of them reflecting on their history and its relationship to racial identity, will be used in the campaign.

During the five-day trip, the youth also had the opportunity to meet lawmakers, visit several monuments and historical sites such as the African American Civil War Memorial & Museum, and tour Howard University and Georgetown University.

The efforts of the fellows are broken down into several categories:

**History and Social Action**
Fellows research African American history, participate in learning sessions related to elements of African American history, and take part in discussions related to history and social action.

**Campaign Work**
The youth serve on the Campaign Design Committee, along with YVPRC community partners to develop the campaign message, identify relevant historical components, decide on media outlets for dissemination, and recruit youth to help test the message.

**Creative/Personal Development Opportunities**
Fellows engage with YVPRC partners to creatively express ideas and perceptions about various aspects of the work, and engage in opportunities for personal development in several areas including activism, advocacy and leadership.
Access to Oral Health Care in Kentucky Has Increased, Yet Children Face Pressing Oral Health Needs

by Emily Coomes, Boxcar PR and Andrea Bennett, Kentucky Youth Advocate

Access to oral health care has increased since 2001, yet more children face urgent dental needs, according to a new study co-released today by Delta Dental of Kentucky and Kentucky Youth Advocates. The report, Making Smiles Happen: 2016 Oral Health Study of Kentucky’s Youth, presents findings of the first oral health surveillance study of Kentucky children in 15 years. The report was released today at the Interim Joint Committee on Health and Welfare in Frankfort, Kentucky.

“We are proud to support this initiative because we firmly believe that the well-being of our children is the key to the future health and success of our families, communities, and businesses,” said Dr. Clifford Maesaka, president and CEO of Delta Dental of Kentucky.

“We know that what gets measured gets changed. This study provides an overdue picture of children’s oral health in Kentucky that can be used by leaders in our state to create positive oral health change,” said Dr. Terry Brooks, executive director of Kentucky Youth Advocates.

To carry out the study, a dentist from the University of Louisville visited 60 schools across five regions of the state to observe the mouths of 3rd and 6th graders. The study also asked parents about family oral health history, resulting in the collection of data for over
2,000 students.

“It was a privilege for the University of Louisville School of Dentistry to serve as a partner on this project,” said Dr. Theresa Mayfield, associate dean for clinical affairs, U of L School of Dentistry. “We understand how new data can shape our evidence-based practice as we seek to meet the oral health needs of Kentuckians, and educate the next generation of dental professionals.”

The report highlights the following findings from the oral health study:

- More 3rd and 6th graders are in need of early or urgent dental care since 2001, though more parents report their children having dental insurance and access to a dentist.
- Two out of five 3rd and 6th graders have untreated cavities.
- Despite a 14 percent increase in the number of 3rd and 6th graders with a dental sealant on a permanent molar between 2001 and 2016, more than half of 3rd and 6th graders did not have at least one dental sealant on a permanent molar during the 2015–16 school year.
- The 3rd and 6th graders eligible for free or reduced lunch (more than half of students in the study) were more likely to have recently experienced a toothache, have visited a dentist more than a year ago, have untreated decay, or to be in need of urgent dental care.

The report notes differences in the findings by region, race, and socioeconomic status. Where comparable, the report also mentions differences in the findings from the 2001 oral health study conducted by the Kentucky Department for Public Health and the University of Kentucky.

Other partners who collaborated and provided input on the study and present at today’s release include the Kentucky Association of School Superintendents, Kentucky Oral Health Coalition, and the Kentucky Department for Public Health.

“When kids have toothaches, it is harder for them to concentrate and learn in school. This study provides important information to educators about what might be getting in the way of a student’s success,” said Dr. Tom Shelton, president of the Kentucky Association of Superintendents.

“As oral health advocates from across the state, the findings will guide our work to address the pressing oral health needs facing Kentucky. The recommendations will help bring more stakeholders together to improve the oral health outcomes of all Kentuckians, especially the youngest,” said Dr. Laura Hancock Jones, chair of the Kentucky Oral Health Coalition.

Delta Dental of Kentucky’s next step is to work collaboratively to address the report findings. “We are turning data into information and that information into action. It is going to take all of us to create the kind of change we at Delta Dental of Kentucky are committed to – moving the oral health needle forward. In the coming months, we will be working with local leaders to begin a movement on oral health across the state by partnering and investing locally. Today’s report is an important first step, so stay tuned,” added Dr. Maesaka.

The complete report, including information about how you can be involved, can be found at KentuckyOralHealth.com.
UofL Researcher to Guide the World’s Largest Organizations Dedicated to Advancing Excellence in the Psychosocial Care of People with Cancer, Their Families and Caregivers

A University of Louisville faculty member has been tapped for leadership roles with the world's largest organization of professionals who provide psychosocial services to people with cancer and their families and caregivers.

Tara Schapmire, Ph.D., has been elected president-elect of the Association of Oncology Social Work. Her three-year term begins in January 2017 with one year as president-elect, followed by one year as president and the final year as past president.

Schapmire is an assistant professor at the University of Louisville School of Medicine in the Division of General Internal Medicine, Palliative Care and Medical Education of the Department of Medicine. She also is on the faculty of the Kent School of Social Work.

As a long-time oncology and palliative care social worker, Schapmire's research interests include psychosocial care of cancer survivors and their families, gerontology, health disparities, communication and cancer, caregiver issues, palliative care, survivorship, end of life care and interprofessional education.

She is co-investigator on a Health Resources and Services Administration grant aimed at development of an interdisciplinary gerontology curriculum for learners in medicine, nursing, social work, dentistry and pharmacy.

As a co-investigator on the $7.5 million Kentucky LEADS Collaborative, she and her team are dedicated to reducing the burden of lung cancer in Kentucky and beyond through development, evaluation, and dissemination of novel, community-based interventions to promote provider education, survivorship care prevention and early detection regarding lung cancer.

Her past research includes a National Institutes of Health grant focused on development of an interdisciplinary oncology palliative care curriculum for schools of medicine, social work and nursing and chaplaincy residency programs and an American Cancer Society-funded study of emotional distress in older adults with cancer.

Schapmire has been involved in the interprofessional education, research and service efforts of the School of Medicine. She also has taught classes in the Kent School since 2008, most notably in the master's degree program and the psychosocial oncology specialization, in addition to other master's level practice and research classes.

She is also a past national board member of the Association of Oncology Social Work and vice president of the American Clinical Social Work Association.

In addition, Schapmire is a Distinguished Scholar and Fellow in the Social Work Academy of the National Academies of Practice and has received the AOSW/American Cancer Society Leadership in Oncology Social Work Award.

She also is a past recipient of the American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine’s Research Scholar Award and the American Cancer Society's C.A.R.E. Award for service to people with cancer and their families.
Alumni Fellow Transitioned from Bedside Nurse to Leadership Role at FDA

Donna Engleman’s quest to serve patients took her from the bedside to overseeing allegations of regulatory misconduct at the Food and Drug Administration.

Engleman, a 1988 B.S.N. graduate of the School of Nursing, has been named a 2016 University of Louisville Alumni Fellow, an honor bestowed to prominent graduates who have earned distinction in their careers and have been exemplary ambassadors for the university.

Engleman began her career as a nurse in the intensive care unit at University of Louisville Hospital and is now Chief of the Allegations of Regulatory Misconduct Branch, Office of Compliance, Center for Devices and Radiological Health at the FDA. She oversees the intake, pre-investigational review, triage, and risk prioritization of regulatory misconduct complaints and has initiated numerous patient safety initiatives and designed and instituted risk prioritization criteria currently utilized at the FDA.

What does it mean to you to be recognized as an Alumni Fellow? Throughout my nursing career, I’ve tried to make choices that I felt best utilized my skills and abilities to promote patient health. Being selected for this honor recognizes that the decisions I have made have been the best use of my skillset to promote patient health.

Speak about your role with the FDA, what does your job entail? My role is serving as a subject matter expert for allegations of regulatory misconduct, which are correspondence or situations where any entity can be of the belief that a manufacturer is not complying with their regulatory obligations in terms of medical device marketing.

How does having a BSN prepare you for a job like that? Throughout my career, my critical thinking skills have continued to develop and that’s one of the key takeaways from my UofL nursing education; building the foundation for critical thinking and functioning professionally as a scientist. Those skills have best prepared me for the work that I do now.

You started your nursing career as a bedside nurse at University of Louisville Hospital. How has your career transitioned? From nursing school through my nursing career at University of Louisville Hospital, I was looking for how I could best serve patients. Being a nurse at University Hospital, those bedside experiences were some of the best because it gave me real world experiences with patients, whether it was medical conditions, exposure to technology or complex protocol for patient care. It also left me wondering how do we know that’s the best way to serve our patients and I think that is how I developed the interest in research, to understand all that I could about the care that we were providing and whether it was the best care that could be given. During this time, I relocated to the D.C. area with my family. I thought about going back to the hospital setting, but I didn’t feel like that was how I could best serve patients, plus I wanted a new experience.

What messages do you hope to convey to nursing students? To remember that we’re all in this profession for the patients. It’s also important to know ourselves and how we can make the best contributions to patient health. Allow yourself to identify your strengths and weaknesses, pay attention to them and position and leverage yourself to where you can make the best contribution.
A photo of artwork on the side of a building in Louisville’s Parkland neighborhood depicts a phoenix rising from flames, with the words ‘we will rise together’ written above the art, a representation of hope and new birth.

This is one of more than 80 photographs taken by members of the West Louisville and St. Louis communities as part of a Photovoice project designed to provide an opportunity for expression and discussion about community concerns. The University of Louisville School of Public Health and Information Sciences’ (SPHIS) Office of Public Health Practice led the project, and about half the pictures are on display in a new exhibition, “Yet We Live, Strive and Succeed,” at the Kentucky Center for African-American Heritage, a collaborator on the project.

“Communities struggle to address issues because we collectively lack the patience and humility to listen and to acknowledge that people have lived experiences that are different than ours,” said Monica Wendel, Dr.P.H., M.A., SPHIS associate dean of public health practice. “This exhibit creates space for people who aren’t usually heard to tell their stories, talk about their experiences – and if we invest our time in listening, we can learn things that help us know how to create meaningful change in our community.”

The UofL SPHIS Office of Public Health Practice invited various community groups to take photographs representing aspects of justice, safety, hope, and racial equity. Office staff then asked the participants to discuss the meaning of the photos, and propose action associated with identified problems.

Trinidad Jackson, M.S., M.P.H., SPHIS senior researcher, wanted to launch the local Photovoice project after collecting images and stories from his hometown of St. Louis, MO, during the week of the Ferguson protests triggered by the grand jury decision to not indict police officer Darren Wilson for crimes in the killing of 18-year-old Michael Brown.

“The images in this exhibit characterize real life situations that impact all of us in some way, but some of us cannot easily escape the real consequences attached to certain social phenomena such as having dark skin or living in a certain zip code,” Jackson said. “Data generated from places like police departments and hospital emergency departments often project damaging narratives of populations that have, for centuries, been iniquitably impacted by Eurocentric systems that facilitate community destruction.”

Jackson says he hopes the exhibit will provide a means for the local community to create its own narrative about historical and con-
temporary positives and negatives to present “a more comprehensive context—one that includes the community’s truth and power.”

“Yet We Live, Strive, and Succeed’ is a brilliant exhibit of photography from community members sharing their lived experiences,” said Aukram Burton, executive director, Kentucky Center for African American Heritage. “It is my hope that this exhibition will facilitate productive conversations and dialogue that will lead to new ideas and partnerships in solving community issues like excessive force by police and the unacceptable level of gun violence.”

Originally developed by Caroline Wang, Dr.P.H., at the University of Michigan School of Public Health, the goal of Photovoice is to use photographs as a tool to reflect on community strengths and weaknesses, serve as a platform to discuss important community issues and act as a catalyst to reach policymakers.

UofL’s Office of Public Health Practice Photovoice project exemplifies one of multiple community-based participatory research efforts facilitated by the office. Their research team plans to analyze data from the Photovoice project and other community forums to provide actionable information to local leaders and mobilize local residents for community improvement. On Sept. 18, the office plans to invite the community to learn about their findings and engage participants in developing solutions to identified problems.

The Kentucky Center for African American Heritage is providing the space, and IDEAS xLab is curating the exhibit. “Yet We Live, Strive and Succeed,” is open Monday - Friday from 10a.m. - 4p.m. and runs through Dec. 31. Admission is free. View additional photos and learn more at: http://livestrivesucceed.com/
HSC Diversity and Inclusion

Health Disparities in Focus at 2016 Research!Louisville
by Jon Aaron Moody
Administrative Associate

Research!Louisville 2016 kicked off a new adventure for the Health Sciences Center Office of Diversity and Inclusion with the first ever Excellence in Health Disparities Research poster competition.

A total of 50 entries were judged on specific criteria related to health disparities and first, second and third place winners were selected. Prizes were awarded to the winners in the amounts of $500, $300, and $200.

In addition to the poster competition, the Office of Diversity and Inclusion also hosted guest speaker Dr. Glen Flores who spoke on “Racial/Ethnic Disparities in Children’s Health and Healthcare and Their Successful Elimination.”

Dr. Flores is the Distinguished Chair of Health Policy Research at the Medica Research Institute, a Research Affiliate in the Department of Health Sciences Research at the Mayo Clinic, and Affiliate Professor of Public Health in the Division of Health Policy and Management at the University of Minnesota. He graduated magna cum laude from Harvard College, and attended medical school at the University of California, San Francisco, School of Medicine.

He received the 2006 AAP Outstanding Achievement Award in the Application of Epidemiologic Information to Child Health Advocacy, the 2006 NHMA Health Leadership Award, the 2008 Millie and Richard Brock Award for Distinguished Contributions to Pediatrics, the 2010 Helen Rodríguez-Trías Social Justice Award from the APHA, and the 2012 Research Award from the Academic Pediatric Association (first underrepresented minority recipient).

2016 Research!Louisville Excellence in Health Disparities Research Poster Competition Winners

1st Place Winner: Colette Davis
“Evaluating Quality of Life, Health and Body Mass Index in Cervical Cancer Survivors: New Mexico’s Community Health Survey”

2nd Place Winner: Suur Ayangekaa
“Health Literacy in West Louisville: Examining the Development, Use, Applicability, and Design of Health Insurance, Health Systems, and Health Behavior Literacy Materials to West Louisville Residents”

3rd Place Winner: Nida Ali
“Promoting Health Through the Utilization of Novel Community-Based Participatory Research Methods: Using Boot Camp Translation to Improve Depression Literacy in West Louisville”

Glenn Flores, MD, FAAP
Events and Announcements

2016 Louisville PrEP Summit
FREE CME CREDITS OFFERED!
PrEP stands for Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis to HIV. We now have a way to reduce the risk of people getting HIV.
Who are the people at risk for getting HIV?
ONE PILL. ONCE A DAY.
Reduce Your Risk for HIV.
REGISTER HERE

November 12, 2016
9:00 am—2:00 pm
Louisville Metro Public Health Dept.
400 E. Gray Street
Louisville, KY 40202

2016 Wyatt Lecture
The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks by Rebecca Skloot

Wednesday, November 16, 2016
7:00 p.m. in Frazier Hall
Free and open to the public
“Her name was Henrietta Lacks, but scientists know her as HeLa. She was a poor black tobacco farmer whose cells – taken without her knowledge in 1951 – became one of the most important tools in medicine, vital for developing the polio vaccine, cloning, gene mapping, in vitro fertilization, and more. Henrietta’s cells have been bought and sold by the billions, yet she remains virtually unknown, and her family can’t afford health insurance” (Skloot, 2011). The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks tells a fascinating story about the complex intersections between scientific achievement, the law, and social justice, and compels us to confront a number of difficult yet urgent ethical questions.

Two members of the Lacks family will be in attendance and will take part with Ms. Skloot in the Q & A session moderated by Dr. Jon Blandford, Director of Bellarmine’s Honors program.

A Conversation with Members of the Lacks Family
Thursday, November 17, 2016
7:00 p.m. in Frazier Hall
Free and open to the public
The Wyatt Lecture will be followed the next evening with the two members of Henrietta Lacks’ family giving a short presentation followed by an audience question and answer session moderated by Dr. Lee Williams of Bellarmine’s Political Science program. The focus of this conversation will be on healthcare and medical research but other topics will also be covered.