

2018-2019 Annual Report



THE THINKER
BY AUGUSTE RODIN
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Shari Kretzschmer, Vice President
Patient Care Service
University of Louisville Hospital

Tom Walton, Systems Director
Healthy Communities
KentuckyOne



Monical Wendel, Associate Dean
School of Public Health and Information
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OUR VISION

Our vision is to serve as a leader
in advancing equity through
high quality, inclusive research,
in support of social action.

OUR MISSION

CIK's mission is to inform policy
and practice that will improve
the health of populations
in Kentucky and beyond by
facilitating and supporting
transdisciplinary collaborations
for research and data analytics.

Thank you, Dean Blakely for your dedication and tenacity on our Executive Committee. You have been integral to the establishment and advancement of the Commonwealth Institute of Kentucky!

LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

Human progress is neither automatic nor inevitable. Every step toward the goal requires sacrifice, suffering, and struggle; the tireless exertions and passionate concern of dedicated individuals.

— Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Greetings!

It is hard to believe that another year has passed, but when I look at the work of my colleagues and my own research team, we crammed quite a bit into last year! And when I think about the progress achieved through the work, I have to agree with Dr. King that progress is not automatic but relies on the work of dedicated individuals. CIK is incredibly fortunate to have a host of dedicated individuals at all levels, from students to Commonwealth Scholars to administration—dedicated to advancing health equity across the population.



The past year has been a year of growth and transition for CIK. We have continued to support researchers doing a diverse array of important, policy-relevant work, as you will see in the pages that follow. We were finally able to get our State-University Partnership projects off the ground, working with the Kentucky Department for Medicaid.

As the initial KentuckyOne Health investment has ended, CIK has developed sustainability strategies, and with that has also contributed substantially to the research infrastructure of the School of Public Health and Information Sciences. As the next year begins, we are excited about some new partnerships in the works as the Institute restructures its Executive Committee, pursues additional research funding, engages in collaboration with community and scholars from multiple disciplines, and joins the ranks of several prestigious schools in a health policy network.

We hope you enjoy our year-in-review and look forward to working with you in the coming year to continue marching toward the goal of health equity.

Highlights from 2018-2019

- ▶ Secured 12 new research grants and contracts
- ▶ Published 6 new articles and reports
- ▶ Supported 10 graduate assistants

Monica L. Wendel, DrPH, MPH

Director, Commonwealth Institute of Kentucky
Associate Dean for Public Health Practice
Associate Professor & Chair, Health Promotion and Behavioral Sciences

CIK PROJECTS FY2019

Projects FY19	Amounts	Leads
KYOne ADP Funder: KY One Startup Funds	\$115,585	Williams
KYOne - Training and Development Jackson Funder: Pivot to Peace Residuals	\$24,000	Jackson
KYOne Literacy Project Funder: KY One Startup Funds	\$116,255	Combs
KYOne MHA Funder: KY One Startup Funds	\$234,118	Johnson
KYOne Workforce Funder: KY One Startup Funds	\$269,686	Wendel
KYOne Infrsatructure Funder: KY One Startup Funds	\$330,586	Wendel
Behavioral Parent Training for Families with Deaf and Hard of Hearing Preschoolers Funder: UK / NIH National Institute on Deafness & Other Communication Disorders	\$31,695	Creel
Bridge Kids Evaluation Funder: Bridge Kids International	\$10,000	Brown
Communities Helping the Hearing of Infants Funder: National Institutes of Health	\$7,725	Creel
Exploring the Path to Homelessness Funder: UofL Office of Community Engagement	\$4,000	Buchino
Increasing Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis among High-risk African Americans in Louisville, KY Funder: Jewish Heritage Fund for Excellence	\$109,518	Kerr
Kentucky Medicaid Monitoring Funder: Kentucky Voices for Health	\$50,416	Buchino
KY EHDl Family and Community Engagement (FACE) Project Evaluation Funder: Kentucky Cabinet for Health & Family Services / Maternal Child Health Bureau Human Resources Services	\$31,500	Creel / Buchino
KY EHDl Information Systems Maintenance and Enhancement Funder: CDC National Center for Injury Prevention & Control	\$47,302	Creel
LGBTQ Adolescent Health in Louisville: An Approach to Identify and Assess Local priorities Funder: UofL Cooperative Consortium for Transdisciplinary Social Justice Research	\$7,500	Combs
Louisville Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD) Pilot Evaluation Funder: Louisville Metro Government / Bureau of Justice Assistance	\$25,994	Creel / Buchino
MSGRN Evaluation Funder: Mountain States Genetics Regional Network / HRSA	\$50,000	Creel
Nourishing Food Literacy Funder: The Food Literacy Project / USDA	\$1,777	Brown
Preparing for Value-based Purchasing Quality Funder: KY Cabinet for Health and Family Services / Department of Health and Human Serv.	\$151,186	Jennings
Project HEAL Evaluation Funder: the Humana Foundation	\$20,000	Buchino
Project Uncaged: Youth Detention Services Programming Funder: UofL Cooperative Consortium for Transdisciplinary Social Justice Research	\$11,000	Buchino/Brown
Study on Facility Construction Funder: Coalition for the Homeless	\$50,000	Buchino
University Partnership—Study on Type 2 Diabetes Funder: KyYCabinet for Health and Family Services / Department of Health and Human Serv.	\$244,275	Little
Youth Violence Prevention Research Center Funder: CDD National Center for Injury Prevention & Control	\$1,238,382	Wendel / Ingram
Total Funding	\$3,182,500	

HIGHLIGHTS | Projects Completed in FY 2019**Pivot to Peace**

CIK researchers Trinidad Jackson and Gabe Jones, Jr. served as the evaluation partner for Pivot to Peace, a hospital-based violence intervention program that serves young adults who were treated for gunshot or stab wounds at University of Louisville Hospital.

The program links victims of violence with case workers and other community resources to identify and address the factors in their lives that have put them at risk of violence, while offering an opportunity to develop skills that might prevent further injury or harm. In its pilot phase, the program engaged participants who resided in one of nine high violence and high crime West Louisville neighborhoods, in alignment with Louisville Metro's Office for Safe and Healthy Neighborhoods Violence Prevention Blueprint. Beginning in April 2016, an emergency room community health worker introduced the program to eligible patients, and thereafter, the Peace Education Program facilitated connections to social service needs and conflict resolution training.

Themes that arose during participant interviews at six and twelve months after their enrollment revealed post-traumatic stress and a loss of peace following the incident. Participants reported that they struggled with insufficient support for effective pain management, and ongoing housing and employment instability. Participants also described positive relationships with Pivot to Peace staff that ultimately assisted them to move forward. CIK evaluated preliminary outcomes after the initial two years of the program, finding that the eight participants who completed conflict resolution classes were not reinjured during this timeframe. Additionally, Pivot to Peace participants gained employment, attended college and parenting courses, and made advances in their capacity for sustaining a healthy lifestyle.

Green Dots

CIK partnered with the Center for Women and Families (CWF) to evaluate local implementation of Green Dot, a program that engages community members to serve as ambassadors and change agents in order to cultivate an environment that is intolerant of violent behaviors. CWF collaborated with Jefferson County Public Schools (JCPS) to pilot Green Dot in one high school, and CIK researchers Trinidad Jackson, Monica Wendel, and Karrie Quenichet were tasked with understanding the impact of the training on students who participated. While Green Dot is associated with decreased violence in some school settings, an emphasis is placed on ensuring that the program planning, implementation, and evaluation are culturally responsive to the specific site. In this case, CWF's process aimed to ensure student insight and critique were prioritized during all phases of the project. The CIK research team provided consultation during program planning stages while documenting the process and initial responses to training. During that time, the research team observed tension between maintaining program fidelity and altering program content and language to be relevant and effective in the specific site. Although CWF and JCPS ultimately determined they did not have the capacity to move forward with the program long-term, CIK's research team recommended the formation of a collective that includes youth to address cultural responsiveness and training/program modifications with funders and other key stakeholders.

**Project HEAL Evaluation**

Commonwealth Scholars Drs. Susan Buchino and Monica Wendel, along with graduate research assistant Tasha Golden, spent a year of process mapping and model validation for IDEAS xLab's signature project, the HEAL Model. After examining implementation of the HEAL Model in three cities, the CIK team denoted the specific values that the HEAL Model adds to a community, supported IDEAS xLab to reflect on roles within the implementation process, and provided recommendations on how to refine the model and their approach. This process evaluation also gave insights into how to evaluate outcomes as the HEAL Model is adopted by a community. This work was funded by a grant to IDEAS xLab from the Humana Foundation.

HIGHLIGHTS | Projects Completed in FY 2019

Solving Street Homelessness in Louisville, KY: Improving the Climate of Care for Individuals Experiencing Homelessness

Under a \$50,000 contract through the Coalition of the Homeless, funded by Louisville Metro, a UofL research team was commissioned to inform the work of the Louisville's Homeless Encampment Task Force by determining national best practices, providing an assessment of the existing continuum of care for individuals experiencing homelessness in Louisville, and completing a gap analysis between Louisville's existing services and best practices. The specific task was to better understand unsheltered homelessness: the growing number of encampments has been increasingly visible, and other residents are sleeping in their cars or in vacant and abandoned properties.

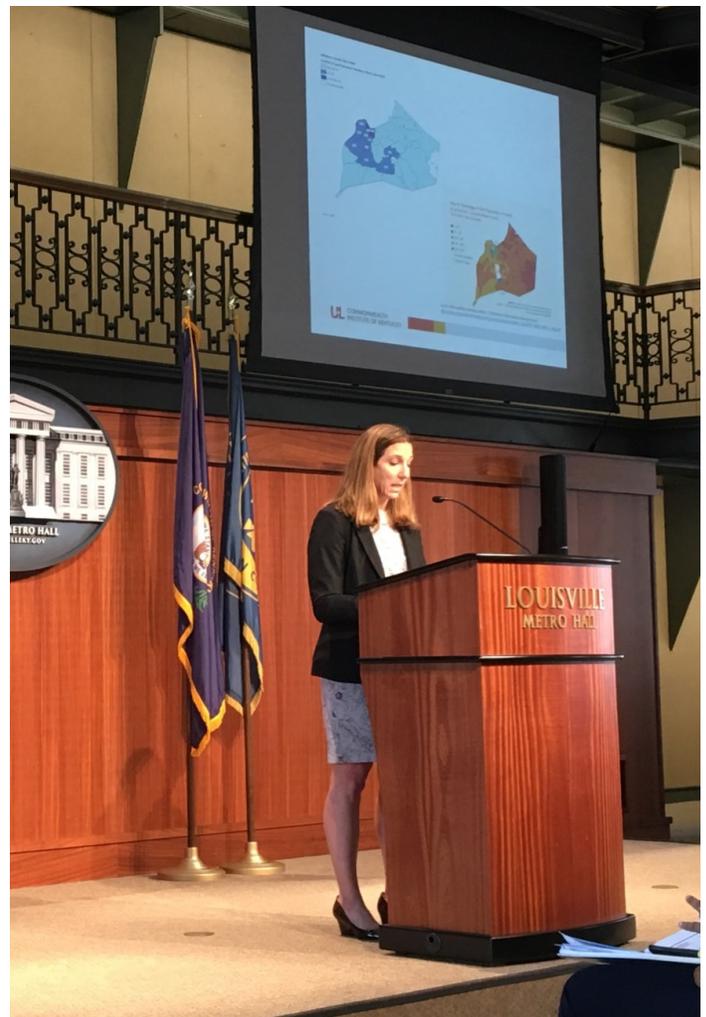
However, because unsheltered homelessness does not occur outside the context of the homeless continuum of care, the city's affordable housing availability, and the myriad root causes of homelessness, the study was a deep dive into the larger systemic issues of housing instability and homelessness. The project concluded in June 2019 with a [comprehensive report](#) and [press event](#) in the Mayor's gallery, that provided recommendations on policies, practices, and funding, to aid Louisville in progressing toward reducing the number of individuals who remain unsheltered.

In addition to extensive literature review, the research team interviewed over 30 service providers, developers, and downtown stakeholders, and two dozen individuals experiencing homelessness, most of whom do not stay in emergency shelters. Results included recommendations to expand and evolve homeless services, ensuring individuals experiencing a housing crisis have access the trauma-informed care needed to navigate a complex system, resolve barriers, and move into and maintain a home.

Additionally, because Louisville does not offer enough emergency shelter beds to meet the current need, the team also recommended the revision encampment policies to effectively support individuals who remain unsheltered. Furthermore, the research team emphasized the importance of prioritizing affordable housing in Louisville, addressing the root causes of homelessness beyond housing, and improving collaboration, both across sectors and within homeless services.

This interdisciplinary research team, lead by Susan

Buchino, PhD, OTR/L, capitalized on the expertise of Commonwealth Scholar Cate Fosl, MSW, PhD, founding director of the Anne Braden Institute for Social Justice Research in the College of Arts and Sciences and professor of Women's and Gender Studies; Lora Haynes, PhD, Associate Professor in the Department of Psychological and Brain Sciences; Kelly Kinahan, PhD, AICP, Assistant Professor in the Department of Urban and Public Affairs; Linda Omer, CIK's postdoctoral associate; and Diane Zero, MEd, graduate research assistant and doctoral student at the UofL School of Public Health and Information Sciences. The project was additionally supported by UofL's Cooperative Consortium for Transdisciplinary Social Justice Research (CCTSJR).



Dr. Susan Buchino, Press Conference, Mayor's Gallery, June 11, 2019

ONGOING PROJECTS



Susan Buchino, PhD, OTR/L

Health Care Access and Utilization: Kentucky Medicaid Monitoring

CIK Assistant Director Dr. Susan Buchino and Graduate Research Assistant Malea Hoepf Young partnered with Kentucky Voices for Health (KVH) to engage in multiple strategies in order to monitor ongoing Medicaid changes. Aims of this study included understanding the implications of ongoing Kentucky Medicaid reform on access to and utilization of care; understanding how enrollment assisters aid their clients to navigate changes in policies and coverage; assessing gaps in consumer and professional comprehension of the changes; and exploring the role of stakeholders in influencing Medicaid policy.

This qualitative study serves as a mechanism to provide feedback to stakeholders and policy makers regarding the implementation process, program successes, and barriers to accessing health coverage and health care in Kentucky during a period of extensive system alterations. Additionally, in anticipation of the implementation of Kentucky HEALTH, an 1115 Medicaid waiver to alter Medicaid expansion, CIK authored a [baseline report](#) outlining the impact of the Affordable Care Act in Kentucky and potential impacts of the waiver. External funding was provided to KVH by the Center on Budget and Policy.

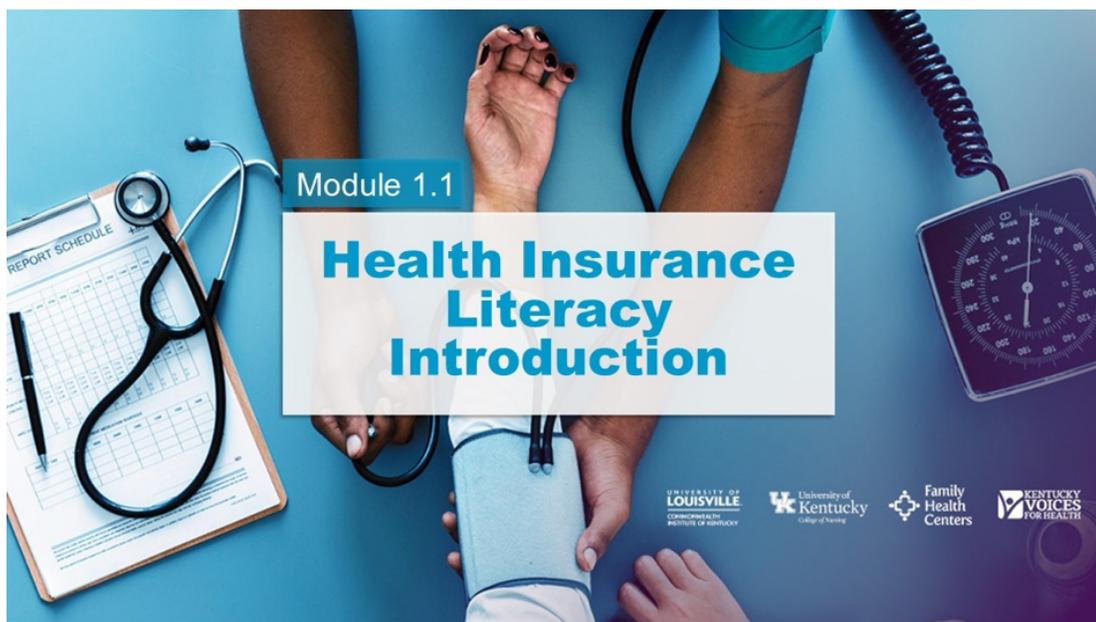
The Kentucky Health Insurance Literacy Training (K-HILT)

Navigating health insurance and the health care system in America is notoriously complicated. Research by Dr. Ryan Combs and his team, Dr. Nida Ali, Dr. Baraka Muvuka, and PhD Candidate Suur Ayangeakaa, identified the key role community health workers can play in increasing the public's health insurance literacy. This year, the team developed an online training series for community health workers designed to equip them to assist consumers with getting and using health insurance.

The three part series includes an introduction to health insurance literacy, building client health insurance literacy, and assisting clients with health insurance navigation. The course instructors are Dr. Jean Edward from the University of Kentucky, Dr. Ryan Combs and Malea Hoepf from the University of Louisville, Liz Edghill and Ashley Shoemaker from Family Health Centers, and Emily Beauregard from Kentucky Voices for Health.



Ryan Combs, PhD



The training series will be housed on TRAIN Kentucky (www.train.org/ky). It will be launched at the Kentucky Association of Community Health Workers annual meeting in Lexington on September 19. There will also be a Facebook Live Chat with the course instructors on October 22, hosted by Health Literacy Kentucky.

EVALUATIONS

Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) Projects

Dr. Liza Creel and Dr. Susan Buchino continue to serve as the program evaluators for the HRSA-funded Kentucky Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (KY EHDI) Family and Community Engagement (FACE) Project of the Kentucky Commission for Children with Special Health Care Needs (CCSHCN). For this project, CIK researchers administer annual stakeholder surveys and analyze EHDI program data, reporting results to the program's Advisory Committee. Additionally in the past year, CIK reported the results of this project's year-long learning community, which was conducted with health care providers and members of the community around developing an individualized care plan. Drs. Creel and Buchino also coauthored a poster with the KY EHDI team for the Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs Annual Conference.



Liza Creel, PhD, MPH



Aishia Brown, PhD

Food Literacy Project Evaluation

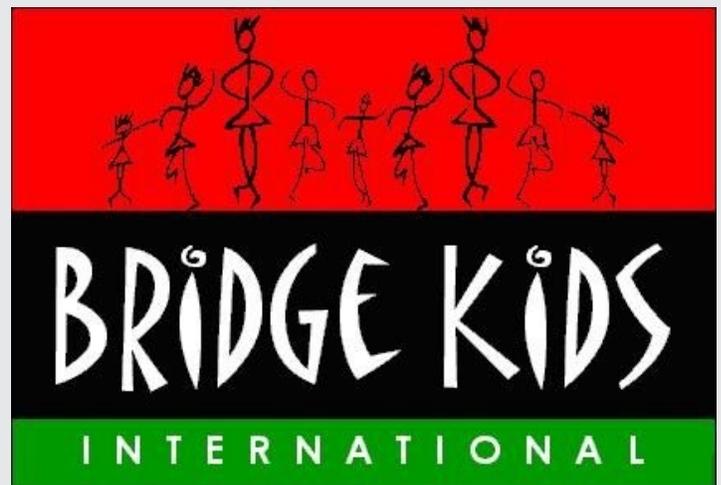
The Food Literacy Project provides farm-based experiential education and entrepreneurial youth development programs that bring the Field-to-Fork experience to life for local youth. Commonwealth scholars Drs. Aishia Brown and Kristi King are leading a program evaluation effort for the Food Literacy Project. The goal of the evaluation is to assess the impact Food Literacy Project activities and programs have on the community they serve. The evaluation will consist of conducting focus groups with members of the Food Literacy



Project community advisory council and conducting a photovoice project with youth participants of the Food Literacy Project's Youth Community Agriculture Program.

Bridge Kids International

Dr. Aishia Brown continues to serve as the lead program evaluator for Bridge Kids International, a global non-profit organization helping young people of Africa and the African Diaspora unleash their social entrepreneurial spirits to solve challenges in economic development, education, environment, girls' rights, and health to build sustainable communities. This three-year evaluation project is focused on assessing the outcomes of Bridge Kids' Seven Generations African Heritage Summer Camp, Young Adult Mothers of African Heritage Community Group, and the African Heritage Family Activity Book Series.



EVALUATIONS

Mountain States Regional Genetics Network (MSRGN)

Dr. Liza M. Creel and graduate research assistant Deborah K. Niyongabo continue to evaluate the Mountain States Regional Genetics Network (MSRGN) project. The MSRGN, which includes eight states, Arizona, Colorado, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Texas, Utah, and Wyoming, facilitates access to genetic services for the underserved populations. Many underserved populations reside in areas where ethnic, racial, and geographic disparities exist, and many individuals experience financial obstacles in getting needed care. MSRGN partners with various stakeholders including state health department leaders, medical and public health professionals, community-based organizations, and consumers of genetic services.

In the program year of 2018-2019, MSRGN implemented new quality improvement activities, including monitoring data on Facebook Live events and genetics pop-ups across the region focused on expanding knowledge of genetic services and issues. The MSRGN continued their work around telehealth/telemedicine activities to reach out to rural and medically underserved populations and families with genetic conditions. Dr. Creel and Ms. Niyongabo continued to engage stakeholders in evaluating activities, especially around national performance measures, to determine the degree to which the MSRGN serves consumers and providers within the region through education, training, and facilitated connections to genetic services. The MSRGN is in their last year of the three year Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) grant cycle.



Deborah Niyongabo, Graduate Assistant



OTHER ONGOING RESEARCH

The Louisville Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD) Pilot Evaluation is ongoing. Drs. Liza Creel and Susan Buchino continue to serve on the LEAD Advisory Council. Dr. Creel also serves as co-Investigator on the Behavioral Parent Training for Families with Deaf and Hard of Hearing Preschoolers Study (<https://ukhealthcare.uky.edu/wellness-community/blog/34-million-grant-support-deaf-hard-hearing-children-kentucky>) and the Communities Helping the Hearing of Infants by Reaching

Parent: The CHIRP Navigator Trial (<https://www.ccts.uky.edu/news/32-million-grant-helps-families-access-diagnostic-hearing-tests-infants>).

STATE UNIVERSITY PARTNERSHIPS

Evaluation of the Performance Measures Alignment Committee (PMAC)



J'Aime Jennings, PhD



Christopher Johnson, PhD

In 2018, faculty affiliated with CIK and the Center for Health Organization Transformation (Dr. J'Aime Jennings, Principal Investigator, and Dr. Chris Johnson) contracted with the Kentucky Department of Medicaid Services on a State- University Partnership project. This two-year study is focused on evaluating the readiness of health systems in Kentucky and DMS to implement core quality measures as outlined by the Performance Measures Alignment Committee (PMAC). The study will also analyze any changes to provider readiness and quality reporting after the initial implementation of value-based purchasing incentives within

Medicaid Managed Care Organization (MCO) contracts.

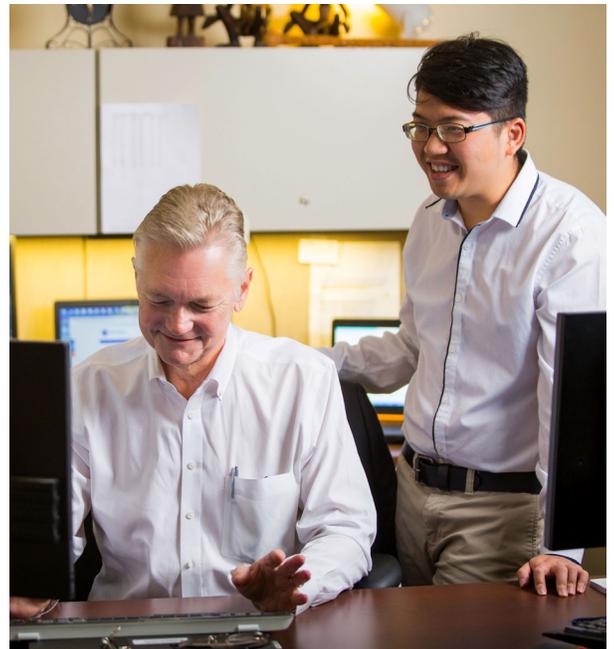
In Year 1, we reviewed a survey of health providers across Kentucky that was previously administered by Medicaid. We offered suggested amendments to the survey to further gauge providers' uptake of value-based purchasing. Over the next year, working alongside faculty at the University of Kentucky, we will interview Medicaid MCO Medical Directors and DMS officials to assist in the development of a quality improvement plan. This strategic plan will be based on stakeholders' identified barriers and required resources to accomplish viable steps towards quality measure implementation across Kentucky.

Type 2 Diabetes among Medicaid Beneficiaries in Kentucky

In Kentucky and other states, type 2 diabetes is associated with an average cost that is \$10-12,000 higher than the baseline cost for other Medicaid patients. The objectives of this project are to follow type 2 diabetes patients over time, and to develop a predictive model that identifies patients who are most likely to experience serious complications (e.g., blindness, kidney failure, lower extremity amputation, heart disease, and peripheral vascular disease, among others).

Led by Dr. Bert Little, this project entails examining historic records of Kentucky Medicaid claims among beneficiaries with type 2 diabetes to identify factors that predict expensive and life threatening complications. Once these factors are identified, a scoring algorithm will be developed that will enable the state to score current Medicaid beneficiaries, then focus efforts that close gaps in preventive care that can slow or prevent the development of complications. The net result will be reduced long-term costs of providing care for beneficiaries with diabetes type 2 while helping to maintain their quality of life.

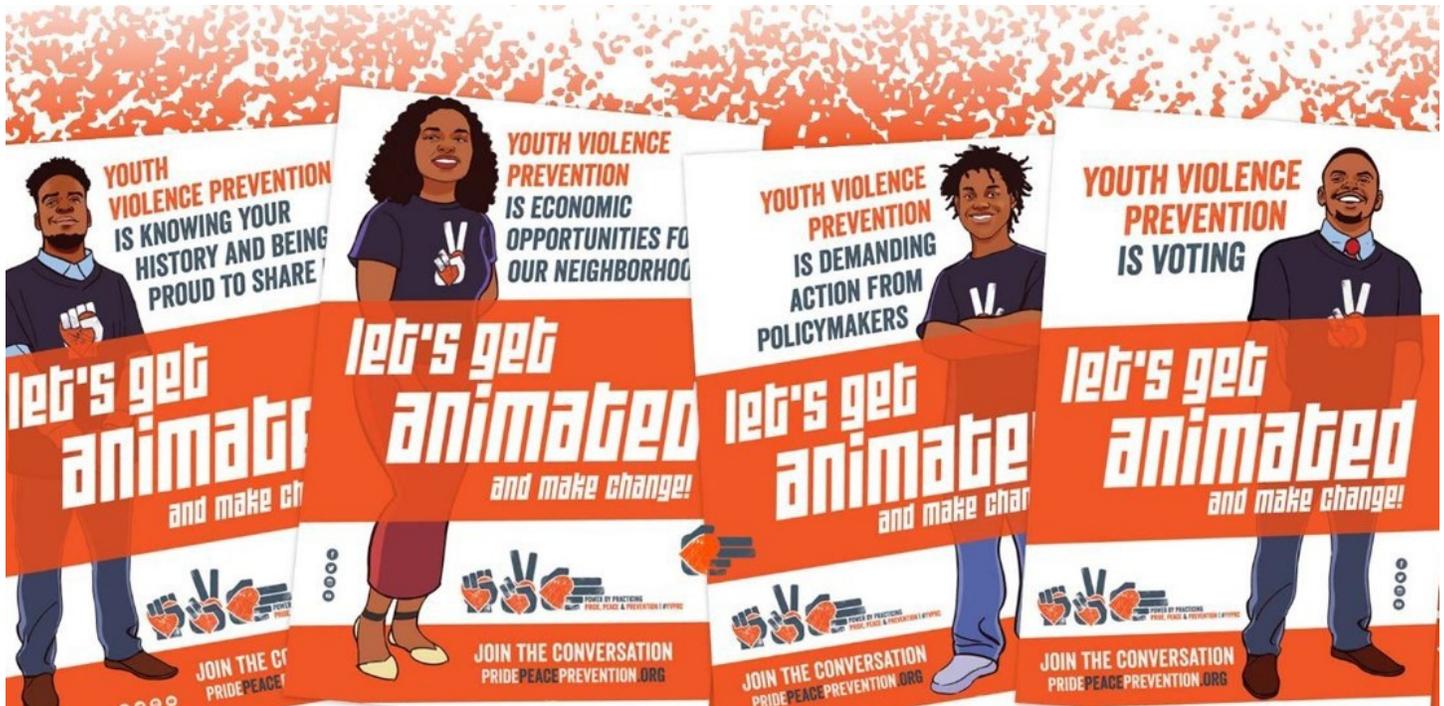
In year one, the project team created a longitudinal data warehouse of Medicaid claims for type 2 diabetes, and built predictive models for end stage renal disease (renal failure) and peripheral artery disease (amputation). These models can be used to identify beneficiaries who are at the highest risk of serious end stage disease complications.



Bert Little, PhD with Graduate Assistant Giang Vu

COMMUNITY ENGAGED SCHOLARSHIP

The Youth Violence Prevention Research Center



The Youth Violence Prevention Research Center (YVPRC), now in its 4th year, launched its last wave of the social norming campaign for violence prevention this spring. The first wave of the campaign focused on pride (spring of 2017), which emphasized important elements of Black history, while the second wave promoted the advancement of justice as a means to achieve peace (spring of 2018). This year's campaign has focused on preventing youth violence from the perspective of structural risk and protective factors, where youth are explicitly addressing the structural violence that happens against them and how it facilitates the interpersonal violence that we see. The center currently employs ten youth from the community who assist with campaign development, implementation, and message dissemination. To learn more about the campaign, please visit pridepeaceprevention.org.

YVPRC continues to be highlighted among the larger network of centers, with continued asks to facilitate trainings and consultations to other centers, universities, and governmental agencies. This year, during National Youth Violence Prevention Week (NYVPW), YVPRC hosted a Youth Violence Prevention Summit in which officials from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), as well as other national leaders in youth violence prevention work, were in attendance. This event happened April 11th, and provided a forum for YVPRC and key partners to highlight innovative strategies for violence prevention, present findings from the research thus far, and discuss implications for action in Louisville and beyond. The event was a success, with over 300 community stakeholders in attendance.

COMMUNITY-ENGAGED SCHOLARSHIP

Increasing Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis among High-risk African Americans in Louisville, KY



Jelani Kerr, PhD

Since 2017, the Jewish Heritage Fund for Excellence has supported a CIK project focusing on increasing access, awareness, and uptake of a pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) medication regimen to reduce HIV infection among priority populations in Louisville.

Promotion of this prevention approach may help impact racial/ethnic HIV disparities. Specifically, this project focuses on African American young adults, a group disproportionately affected by HIV. In addition to promotion activities, the project team provides medical education regarding PrEP to medical service providers.

In fiscal year 2019, besides completing baseline surveys of 204 people, team members conducted eleven focus groups with African Americans age 18-29. The analysis of focus groups and baseline survey findings culminated in a report detailing recommendations for engaging African American young people. This report was presented to local AIDS service organizations and community-based organizations.

Findings were also used to launch a targeted multimedia campaign (online, social media, billboards, Tarc ads) to raise awareness and uptake of Pre-exposure prophylaxis among the target population.

Based on findings from baseline surveys of 80 medical providers, the project team also engaged in a series of medical education events to raise awareness about PrEP, and provide prescribing information to medical providers.

**SMASH. SCORE. HOOK UP.
GET FREAKY. MAKE LOVE.**

Whatever you call it, **PrEP** for it.

PrEP

Ask your doctor about the everyday **HIV protection pill.**

PrEPHIVProtection.com

**SCORE. GET BUSY.
KNOCKING BOOTS.**

Whatever you call it,

PrEP

for it.

LEARN MORE

The safe, everyday
HIV protection pill.

COOPERATIVE CONSORTIUM FOR TRANSDISCIPLINARY SOCIAL JUSTICE RESEARCH

In fiscal year 2019 the UofL Cooperative Consortium for Transdisciplinary Social Justice Research supported the work of three CIK researchers: Dr. Ryan Combs, Dr. Susan Buchino, and Dr. Aishia Brown.

LGBTQ Adolescent Health Study

This study was conducted to determine the health priorities for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ) adolescents in Louisville from the perspectives of youth and adult stakeholders. After analyzing data from interviews, focus groups, and surveys, mental health was determined to be the key issue facing LGBTQ youth in the city. Depression, anxiety, and suicidality were of particular concern. The study highlighted a lack of support and resources in schools and in the community and emphasized the role that parents and other adults can play in improving youth mental health. In May, Dr. Ryan Combs presented the study's results at the National LGBTQ Health Conference at Emory University in Atlanta.

With the results in hand, Dr. Combs convened a group of youth, health professionals, and other stakeholders with the goal of developing an intervention to improve LGBTQ youth mental health. Dr. Lori Caloia, Medical Director for Louisville Metro Public Health & Wellness, provided medical expertise to the group. Using the Boot Camp Translation method, the group designed a comprehensive multimedia campaign called "Embrace the Journey" to raise awareness and educate parents about how they can support their LGBTQ children. The campaign will launch at Louisville Pride this September and will be displayed on digital kiosks and social media in Louisville and surrounding counties. The campaign website will feature the winning submissions of an LGBTQ youth writing contest and images from a summerart workshop.

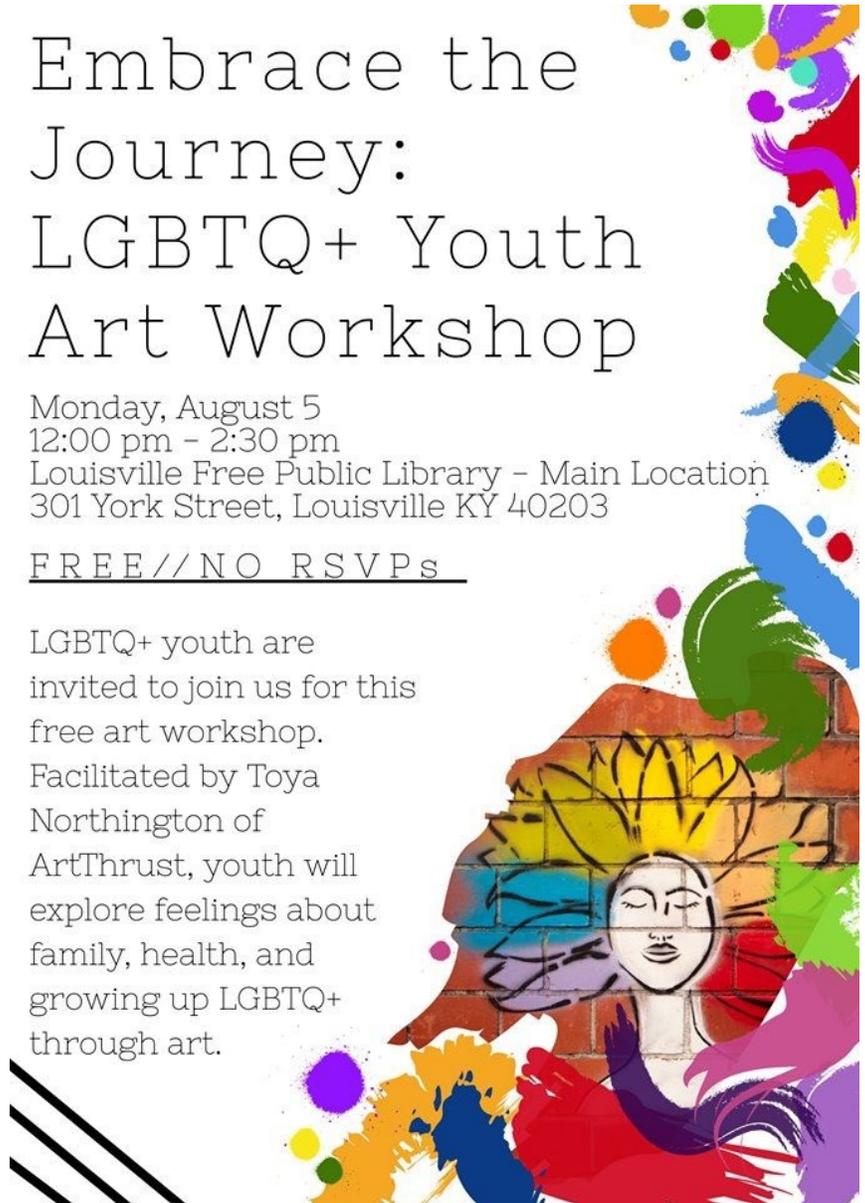
The study was led by Dr. Combs and conducted in partnership with Dr. Maurice Gattis from the Kent School of Social Work, Drs. Amber Pendleton and Kendall Purcell from UofL Pediatrics, and research assistants Hallie Decker, TiQi Brown, Taylor Young, and Tristan Riley.

Embrace the Journey: LGBTQ+ Youth Art Workshop

Monday, August 5
12:00 pm - 2:30 pm
Louisville Free Public Library - Main Location
301 York Street, Louisville KY 40203

FREE//NO RSVPs

LGBTQ+ youth are invited to join us for this free art workshop. Facilitated by Toya Northington of ArtThrust, youth will explore feelings about family, health, and growing up LGBTQ+ through art.



COOPERATIVE CONSORTIUM FOR TRANSDISCIPLINARY SOCIAL JUSTICE RESEARCH

Youth Detention Services Programming

As part of our ongoing research to advance well-being, safety, and health equity in Louisville, faculty and students from UofL have collaborated with Project Uncaged, Sarabande Books, UofL's Cardinal Success Program, and and Louisville's Youth Detention Services to provide programming for justice-involved girls while advocating for policies that enhance resources for this population. This multi-faceted project has received funds from the Collaborative Consortium for Transdisciplinary Social Justice Research in both 2018 and 2019.

Founded by CIK's own Dr. Tasha Golden, Project Uncaged offers a trauma-informed creative writing workshop designed specifically for girls in youth detention. The workshop schedule includes special events inside YDS to which facility staff and select community leaders are invited to celebrate girls' creativity and effort. Poems written throughout 2018 were published in an anthology, *One Day I'll Rise*, available for purchase from Sarabande Books, and were read aloud and set to music by local artists in an event open to the public in order to amplify girls' voices in local discourses. As an HSC Health and Social Justice Scholar and with the support of CIK faculty, Dr. Golden measured outcomes of the program by examining links between creative expression and trauma symptoms. She also offered the course to UofL students, Art for Health and Social Justice, in the 2018 fall semester.

1200 · DANIEL MARTIN MOORE
HANNAH DRAKE · BEN SOLLEE

ONE DAY I'LL *Rise*

Performing poems by girls in
Louisville's Youth Detention Services from the new
Sarabande Anthology, *One Day I'll Rise*

Oct 21 ODEON
7PM · 6PM DOORS

1335 Story Ave, Louisville KY • All Ages
\$10 Suggested Donation

PROJECT UNCAGED SARABANDE BOOKS



In 2019, Dr. Aishia Brown has worked to expand the program by designing parallel programming outside the walls of YDS for girls who have experienced detention in the past. Hosted at the Cardinal Success Program at the Nia Center, the weekly workshop includes a variety of art forms, opportunities for yoga and mindfulness, and guest speakers who present community resources and offer discussions on topics the girls have said were important to them. Additionally, *One Day I'll Rise* will be sent to policy makers, as the authors' words should inform future decisions—helping all of us reach our goals of healthier city and state.

CIK GRADUATE ASSISTANTS

Name	Degree Program / School	Department	Work advisor
Tasha Golden*	PhD / SPHIS	Health Promotion & Behavioral Sciences	Dr. Monica Wendel / Dr. Susan Buchino
Malea Hoepf-Young	PhD / SPHIS	Health Promotion & Behavioral Sciences	Dr. Susan Buchino / Dr. Ryan Combs
Tanisha Howard	MPH / SPHIS	Health Promotion & Behavioral Sciences	Monique Ingram
Gabe Jones	PhD / SPHIS	Health Promotion & Behavioral Sciences	Monique Ingram
Nefertia Mason	MEd / CEHD	Counseling & Human Development	Monique Ingram
Baraka Muvuka	PhD / SPHIS	Health Promotion & Behavioral Sciences	Dr. Ryan Combs
Deborah Niyongabo	PhD / SPHIS	Health Management & Systems Sciences	Dr. Liza Creel
Karrie Quenichet	PhD / CEHD	Educational Leadership, Evaluation & Organizational Development	Monique Ingram
Madeline Tomlinson	MPH / SPHIS	Health Promotion & Behavioral Sciences	Dr. Monica Wendel
Giang Vu	PhD	Health Management & Systems Sciences	Dr. Bert Little
Diane Zero*	PhD/Public Health	Health Promotion & Behavioral Sciences	Dr. Susan Buchino

* Ms. Tasha Golden and Ms. Diane Zero were Health and Social Justice Scholars in a Health Sciences Campus program managed by the Office of Diversity and Inclusion and designed to provide training using an interprofessional model to perform community-based participatory research addressing disparities in health risk and health outcomes among minority and disadvantaged populations.

Tasha Golden, Ph.D., 2019

I'm glad to have worked with the Commonwealth Institute of Kentucky (CIK) as I was completing my PhD at the University of Louisville. In this role, I was supported in establishing "Project Uncaged" at Louisville Metro Youth Detention Services. This trauma-informed, arts-based program is designed for girls; it responds to gender disparities in detention programming while also creating platforms by which participants can influence decisions and policies affecting their lives. Formed in partnership with UofL's Cooperative Consortium for Transdisciplinary Social Justice Research (CCTSJR) and Sarabande Books—an international literary publisher based in Louisville, this effort involved creating full evaluation plans, gaining IRB approval, and collecting data from program participants. That data later informed my dissertation, and will continue to be used by CIK to inform ongoing resource and programming decisions for young justice-involved women in Louisville. In 2018, Sarabande published [One Day I'll Rise](#)—an anthology of poems written by girls in this program.



To promote the book and extend the reach of girls' voices, I worked with CIK, Sarabande, and CCTSJR to hold a book-launch event. In October, well-known regional artists (Ben Sollee, 1200, Hannah Drake, Daniel Martin Moore) and leaders (Rep. Attica Scott, Rashaad Abdul-Rahman, Dr. Ursula Mullins) gathered to perform or read poems from *One Day I'll Rise*. As a result, Courier Journal reporter Maggie Menderski began shadowing me during program sessions, and ultimately wrote [this Sunday Feature](#) story. Quickly picked up by the Associated Press, Menderski's story helped elevate young women's experiences and voices throughout the U.S. Apart from "Project Uncaged," my work with CIK included presentations at regional and national conferences, including PACE Center for Girls annual summit, the Association for Justice-Involved Females and Organizations (AJFO) Annual Conference, the National Crittenton Foundation's "In Solidarity We Rise" Summit, and convenings for the national University of Florida/ArtPlace America ["Creating Healthy Communities" initiative](#) which I'm now helping to lead. I continue to be grateful for both the research experience and the many forms of support I received during my PhD journey as part of the CIK team!

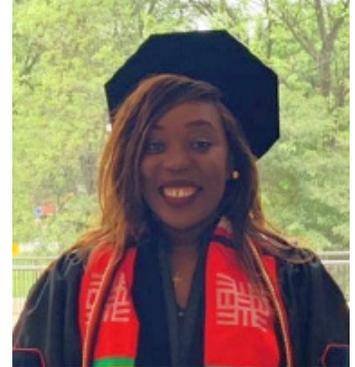
CIK GRADUATE ASSISTANTS

Baraka Muvuka, Ph.D., 2019

Throughout my PhD program in Health Promotion and Behavioral Sciences at UofL, I worked as a Graduate Research Assistant on several community-engaged research projects on the topics of health literacy, depression, childhood asthma, HIV, and youth violence prevention in underserved communities in Louisville. Led by Dr. Ryan Combs, our team adopted a novel Community-based Participatory Research approach to engage academics, community members, and health professionals in improving health literacy and health outcomes in West Louisville.

As a GRA, I provided research support (e.g. research protocol development, instrument development, participant recruitment, data collection, and data analysis), assumed administrative responsibilities related to project implementation, and produced scholarly materials such as manuscripts and conference presentations. Our projects yielded several tangible outcomes including culturally-informed health communication campaigns, training modules for the public health workforce, scholarly materials, and long-term partnerships with community stakeholders.

Overall, my involvement in these projects has enabled me to acquire valuable research (qualitative and quantitative), leadership, project management, and community engagement skills that have prepared me to become an independent scholar and researcher. I particularly value the experience I have gained in establishing and maintaining equitable partnerships with various community stakeholders and colleagues. I bring this valuable experience with me as I begin my career as a faculty member in the fall 2019, during which time I intend to engage in local and international research in addition to my teaching responsibilities.



Madeline Thomlinson, MPH, 2019

I worked as a Graduate Assistant to Dr. Wendel during my two years at University of Louisville School of Public Health. Throughout my MPH program, the work I did as a GA complemented my studies by reinforcing the need for public health students to build on their classwork through experiences outside the classroom. I primarily worked with Dr. Wendel in the Office of Public Health Practice, which involved rebooting the website page to contain more information regarding opportunities to volunteer, intern, or work in public health. We also added stories from past students that illustrated the lessons learned from applying their learned public health skills to the outside world.

In addition to the OPHP, I helped Dr. Wendel update the MPH and subsequently the PhD student and faculty handbooks in the department of health promotion. Through these experiences I gained a deeper insight into strategic planning, organization of public health programs, and more specific computer and communication skills. It was very valuable to have this experience alongside my studies and motivating to try to plan ahead for practice opportunities to become more available for future students.

This upcoming year, I will begin my PhD at the University of Louisville SPHIS in the department of Epidemiology. I hope to pursue a research project within the Global Maternal and Child Health field, with an aim to continue researching and teaching in this realm to push for health equality for mothers and children. I am excited to take my new insights from my CIK Graduate Assistantship into the PhD program and begin constructing strategic plans for success in my future research. Thank you to CIK for providing me with such valuable experiences!

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9. **Benitez, J. A., Creel, L., & Jennings, J.** (2017). [Who and where are Kentucky's remaining uninsured.](#) *Medical Care*. 55(3), 215- 219. doi: 10.1097/MLR.0000000000000646
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13. **Castle, B., Wendel, M., Kerr, J.,** Brooms, D. & Rollins, A. (2018). [Public health's approach to systematic racism: A systematic literature review.](#) *Journal of Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities*, 94, 1-10.
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Bringing together the expertise of researchers from multiple disciplines, CIK is broadening its capacity to address health disparities across the state and beyond.

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