

2017-2018 Annual Report



THE THINKER
BY AUGUSTE RODIN
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LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

Change will not come if we wait for some other person, or if we wait for some other time. We are the ones we've been waiting for. We are the change that we seek.

— Barack Obama



Fellow Changemakers,

The past three years have marked a great deal of change for the University of Louisville, the School of Public Health & Information Sciences, and the Commonwealth Institute of Kentucky (CIK). We are excited about the path we are on and where we are headed!

Since its inception in 2015, CIK continues to grow in many ways. Yes, we established our infrastructure, hired faculty, staff, and students, and conducted a variety of research. But we have also grown in our understanding of our role in shaping equitable policy and practice and in our vision for what we can contribute.

We have grown, too, in the ways we approach complex issues such as health equity, access to care, quality improvement, homelessness, mental health, substance use and addiction, and youth violence. The importance of interdisciplinary perspectives cannot be overstated, and CIK strives to cultivate partnerships with faculty from across disciplines, organizations, and community sectors. This report highlights many of these collaborations and provides insight to what opportunities lay ahead.

As the next year begins, we will continue to pursue partnerships with changemakers who are striving towards health equity and conduct relevant research to strengthen policy and practice at multiple levels.

Highlights from 2015-2018

- ▶ Secured 27 research grants and contracts for a total of \$12,290,244
- ▶ Published 9 articles
- ▶ Issued policy briefs on Medicaid expansion in Kentucky; ACA implementation in Metro Louisville; and the evaluation of the Texas Healthcare Transformation Quality Improvement Program.

Monica L. Wendel, DrPH, MPH

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

ABOUT US

The Commonwealth Institute of Kentucky (CIK) was established in 2015 with a generous investment from KentuckyOne Health, and obtained recognition from the Board of Trustees in January 2016. The institute began to build its infrastructure almost immediately and initiated several projects. Through the work of the CIK executive committee, CIK established guiding principles, goals, and an organizational structure that is strongly aligned with **CIK's mission of informing 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. Our vision is to serve as a leader in advancing equity through high quality, inclusive research, in support of social action.**

CIK SNAPSHOT 2015—2018

Since its inception, CIK has secured over \$12 million for infrastructure, data warehousing, and research activities, and CIK researchers have engaged in 27 projects. Nine of these projects have been completed, 16 are currently ongoing, and two projects will start in Fall 2018. Through infrastructure and project funds, CIK has partially supported 24 UofL faculty members, and fully funded nine staff members, 19 graduate assistants, and three postdoctoral fellows.

PROJECTS	2015—2018	Number	Total Funding
	Total Projects	27	\$12,290,244
	Completed Projects	9	\$589,997
	Ongoing Projects	16	\$10,757,176
	Upcoming Projects	2	\$943,071

PEOPLE	Since 2015, we've supported:	# with Upcoming Contracts
	▶ 18 faculty members	▶ 24 faculty members
	▶ 8 staff members	▶ 9 staff members
	▶ 17 graduate assistants	▶ 19 graduate assistants
	▶ 3 postdoctoral fellows	▶ 3 postdoctoral fellows

COMPLETED PROJECTS

Project & Funder	Amount	Lead
Workforce Capacity and Data Standardization Funder: Kentucky One Health / State University Partnership	\$249,159	Wendel / Buchino
Texas 1115(a) Medicaid Waiver Evaluation Funder: Texas Health and Human Services Commission	\$171,521	Wendel / Creel
State Innovation Model (SIM) Consumer Engagement Funder: Kentucky Voices for Health	\$39,567	Wendel / Buchino
LGBTQ Health Equity and Access Funder: Kentucky Voices for Health	\$25,000	Combs / Jones
Arise to Safety Evaluation Funder: Jewish Heritage Fund for Excellence	\$12,000	Wendel / Ingram
ACA Implementation in Louisville: Outreach and Enrollment Funder: Family Health Centers / Robert Wood Johnson Foundation	\$17,500	Creel / Buchino
Francis Center Planning Funder: KentuckyOne Health / Catholic Health Initiatives	\$15,000	Buchino
Bootcamp Translation Health Literacy Project Funder: Jewish Heritage Fund for Excellence	\$300,000	Combs
Mountain States Genetics Regional Collaborative Evaluation Funder: Mountain States Genetics Regional Collaborative	\$45,000	Creel

IMPLICATIONS | Recommendations for public health policy and practice

- ▶ Ongoing health care reform efforts should continue the momentum toward increased health coverage, which has been shown to improve access to care (Buchino, Creel, & Wendel, 2015). New policies around health reform should consider the effects of outreach and enrollment activities as well as community collaboration around such efforts, on implementation efforts and policy outcomes (Creel & Buchino, 2016).
- ▶ Policymakers should consider options for improving affordability of coverage for individuals who are neither eligible for Medicaid nor able to purchase private insurance as well as the affordability of premiums and co-pays for individuals with private plans (Creel & Buchino, 2016). Furthermore, the removal of transgender exclusions from insurance policies would expand access for that population (Jones, Combs, & Buchino, 2016).
- ▶ Broad efforts should be made to improve consumers' health literacy: the ability to understand insurance and navigate the insurance/health care system (Buchino, Creel, & Wendel, 2015; Jones, Combs, & Buchino, 2016; Creel & Buchino, 2016). Specifically, care navigation services can improve health care quality, health, cost-related outcomes, and can potentially affect service use patterns (Wendel, Creel, & Ali, 2016).

HIGHLIGHTS | Projects Completed in FY 2018

Arise to Safety Evaluation

An investigative report from WDRB in December of 2014 found that domestic-violence related murders in Louisville tripled in number from 2013 to 2014. Research demonstrates that many victims seek medical care for conditions both directly and indirectly resulting from domestic violence. But without a standardized method to proactively screen for it, many instances of abuse go undetected. In response to this, KentuckyOne Health, the Center for Women and Families, and the Mary Byron Project engaged in strategic planning toward a violence prevention initiative that addresses this issue.

Arise to Safety tested a standardized screening protocol and intervention to identify those at risk of experiencing domestic violence, as well as connecting them with services from the Center for Women and Families. Utilizing the Bridge Program model, domestic violence training was provided to emergency department (ED) medical staff at both the University of Louisville and Jewish Hospitals.

The CIK research team (Dr. Monica Wendel, Monique Ingram, MPH, and student Amelia Oglesby) designed an evaluation to help KentuckyOne Health examine the effects of implementing the program and measure success. Through surveys and semi-structured interviews, researchers analyzed the utility and applicability of the screenings used at the two hospitals. Evaluation results show that the emergency department staff at both hospitals have similar experiences when it comes to patients of domestic violence and the screening process in general.



Monique Ingram, MPH

The research team made the following recommendations: 1) Continue the administration of the Arise to Safety screening protocol with every patient who enters the ED. 2) Make sure that the screening protocol is being conducted in a private space. They also recommended the provision of follow-up trainings with ED nursing staff, especially those who did not participate in the original training; and continuous evaluation of the ED nursing staff's self-efficacy toward facilitating the protocol and using the screening tool. The recommendations provided are intended to ensure the screening protocol is utilized to the full potential of the program and that the ED staff identify and refer victims of domestic violence to appropriate services.

IMPLICATIONS CONTINUED

- ▶ In practice, clinical providers have the ability to influence health for specific populations with the implementation of staff training programs or universal screening programs. For example, providers of all disciplines should work toward the improvement of cultural competency and inclusivity of health services for LGBTQ populations (Jones, Combs, & Buchino, 2016). Additionally, hospital emergency department staff might apply a standardized screening protocol to identify those at risk of experiencing domestic violence in order to connect them with proper services (Ingram & Wendel, 2017).
- ▶ Kentucky would benefit from a comprehensive plan to address provider shortages throughout the state. CIK recommends that to make that happen, leaders of the Commonwealth, through collaboration across Cabinets, adopt a standardized method for collecting workforce data across disciplines to understand how providers are currently dispersed (CIK, 2016).

Boot Camp Translation Health Literacy Projects

With funding from the Jewish Heritage Fund for Excellence, Dr. Ryan Combs and his team have been developing culturally-tailored and context-specific health literacy materials for the management of chronic diseases in West Louisville populations. The overall goals of the Boot Camp Translation Health Literacy project are: to improve health literacy among West Louisville residents, specifically with regards to depression, asthma, and HIV; to improve health outcomes for residents living with these targeted health issues; and to disseminate the development process and the resulting health literacy materials to similar settings and populations. The three-year project included mixed-methods (i.e., quantitative and qualitative) evaluation of both the process of developing health literacy materials and of the outcomes of the materials as an intervention to improve health literacy. The depression campaign was completed in 2017. Ongoing funds supported the roll-out of the HIV and asthma campaigns in fiscal year 2018.



Ryan Combs, PhD

Asthma Boot Camp Translation

The asthma boot camp translation aimed to move the needle on childhood asthma among residents of West Louisville. Dr. Combs and his research team assembled a group of community members, health and public health professionals, and academics to create a campaign to promote the use of evidence-based asthma action plans (AAPs). The group produced four distinct poster designs featuring campaign messages, stock photographs, and general information on asthma. The key message, which also reflects the campaign's goal, is: "Every child with asthma needs an Asthma Action Plan." The call to action encourages the target audience—parents and guardians of asthmatic children—to ask their healthcare provider to create a personalized AAP. Posters were disseminated at publicly accessible locations in West Louisville and on social media outlets. Additionally, the group reached out to local healthcare providers serving West Louisville residents to incorporate AAPs into their routine clinical practice.

The following partners came onboard: UofL Pediatrics Downtown, UofL Pediatrics Eastern Parkway, Family Health Centers Portland, Family Health Centers East Broadway, Shawnee Christian Healthcare Center, Park DuValle Community Health Center, Norton Children's Medical Associates Broadway, and Norton Children's Medical Associates Dixie Highway. Practices earned children's books in exchange for taking part in the program and completing the AAPs. One thousand culturally-affirming books were distributed to West Louisville children through this initiative.

1 IN 6 BLACK CHILDREN HAVE ASTHMA

Every child with asthma needs an *Asthma Action Plan*

Ask the doctor for your child's plan today

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELLNESS
UNIVERSITY OF LOUISVILLE
COMMONWEALTH INSTITUTE OF KENTUCKY

ASTHMA ACTION PLAN



**Every
child with
asthma
needs an
Asthma
Action Plan**

Ask the doctor for your
child's plan today

 DEPARTMENT OF
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HIV Boot Camp Translation

In addition, in 2017-18, Dr. Ryan Combs and his team convened a community advisory council (CAC) to address HIV disparities in West Louisville. Following a series of expert presentations, activities, facilitated discussions, and voting exercises, the CAC developed an anti-stigma campaign to promote HIV testing among residents. Distinct poster designs and radio ads were created, each targeting different segments of the population. The campaign's key message was "We're in Control Now!" Sub-messages extolled the benefits of getting an HIV test such as, "Knowing your HIV status can give you peace of mind and help you protect yourself and others;" "Knowing your HIV status can give you peace of mind so you can enjoy the things you love;" and "Knowing your HIV status can improve your chances of living a long, healthy life." The posters featured local landmarks; photos of community members, public health students, and professionals; general information about HIV; and a call to action. The campaign materials were disseminated inside of TARC buses, on bus shelters, in community centers, libraries and health clinics, on social media, and on the radio. The campaign culminated on National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day on February 7, 2018. The CAC marked the day by showcasing their posters, handing out t-shirts, and encouraging people to get tested at a local event. Partners in this initiative were Louisville Metro Public Health and Wellness and Volunteers of America.



We're in
CONTROL NOW

Knowing your HIV status can give you peace of mind and help you protect yourself and others.

Get a free and confidential HIV test by calling Volunteers of America (502) 635-4505 or Louisville Metro Public Health & Wellness (502) 574-5600

#CTRLNOW

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  Volunteers of America
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PUBLIC HEALTH
AND WELLNESS

ONGOING PROJECTS

Project	Amounts	Leads
Louisville Youth Voices Against Violence Funder: KentuckyOne Health	\$450,000	Wendel / Ingram
Health Care Access and Utilization Funder: KentuckyOne Health	\$1,015,000	Wendel / Buchino
West Louisville Health Literacy Project Funder: KentuckyOne Health	\$300,000	Wendel / Combs
Master of Science in Health Administration Funder: KentuckyOne Health	\$300,000	Johnson
CIK Infrastructure Funder: KentuckyOne Health	\$1,882,075	Wendel
Youth Violence Prevention Research Center Funder: CDC National Center for Injury Prevention & Control	\$5,702,370	Wendel / Ingram
Pivot to Peace Evaluation Funder: Jewish Heritage Fund for Excellence	\$120,620	Jackson
Mountain States Genetics Regional Network Evaluation Funder: Mountain States Genetics Regional Network / HRSA	\$150,000	Creel
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
Exploring the Path to Homelessness Funder: UofL Office of Community Engagement	\$4,000	Buchino
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
Green Dot Evaluation Funder: Center for Women and Families	\$2,500	Jackson
Examining Stigma, Stress and HIV Care Utilization among African American Elders Funder: UofL Cooperative Consortium for Transdisciplinary Social Justice Research	\$7,440	Kerr
Bridge Kids Evaluation Funder: Bridge Kids International	\$30,000	Brown
Project Heal Evaluation Funder: IDEAS xLab / Humana Foundation	\$60,000	Buchino / Wendel
Louisville Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD) Pilot Evaluation Funder: Louisville Metro Government / Bureau of Justice Assistance	\$64,984	Creel / Buchino
Increasing Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis among High-risk African Americans in Louisville, KY Funder: Jewish Heritage Fund for Excellence	\$219,036	Kerr
Behavioral Parent Training for Families with Deaf and Hard of Hearing Preschoolers Funder: UK / NIH National Institute on Deafness & Other Communication Disorders	\$100,389	Creel
Project Uncaged: Youth Detention Services Programming Funder: UofL Cooperative Consortium for Transdisciplinary Social Justice Research	\$11,000	Buchino
Total Funding	\$10,505,716	

EVALUATIONS

Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDl) 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 EHDl) Family and Community Engagement (FACE) Project of the Kentucky Commission for Children with Special Health Care Needs (CCSHCN). In the past year, Drs. Creel and Buchino led development and implementation of annual stakeholder surveys, and quantitative and qualitative data analysis to measure progress in achieving project goals. In addition, Dr. Creel was funded as a key partner in the new CDC-funded grant to enhance and maintain Kentucky's EHDl Information System. That work includes efforts to conduct data analysis, report to stakeholders, and to participate in a small group of states selected to collaborate with CDC to create and validate uniform and limited datasets with state EHDl data. During the 2018 EHDl Annual Conference in Denver, CO, Dr. Creel, Cathy Lester (Kentucky EHDl Coordinator), and Julie Jacobs (Project Director at University of Kentucky College of Public Health) presented EHDl and University Collaborations - Leveraging the Partnership to Enhance Program Implementation and Outcomes. Based on participant feedback, they have been invited to present again in 2018 during a webinar series coordinated by the National Center for Hearing Assessment and Management.

Louisville Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD) Pilot

Drs. Liza Creel, Department of Health Management and System Sciences, and Susan Buchino, Department of Health Promotion and Behavioral Sciences, received a contract to serve as the research partner for the newly funded Louisville Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD) Pilot Program, operated by Louisville Metro Criminal Justice Commission. The LEAD Pilot offers a new local approach in which the Louisville Metro Police Department will exercise discretionary authority at the point of contact to divert individuals from designated police beats in the Russell and Portland neighborhoods, into a community-based, harm-reduction intervention for offenses driven by opioid addiction. By providing intensive case management and social services, it is anticipated that LEAD will reduce recidivism and improve public safety, as well as generate criminal justice system-related cost savings. The study will engage multiple stakeholders

in quantitative data collection and analysis as well as dissemination of findings.



Dr. Liza Creel, LEAD program launch press conference

EVALUATIONS

Mountain States Regional Genetics Network (MSRGN)



Deborah Niyongabo,
Graduate Assistant

Dr. Liza M. Creel and graduate research assistant Deborah K. Niyongabo continue to serve as evaluators for The Mountain States Regional Genetics Network (MSRGN). The MSRGN facilitates access to genetic services for underserved populations, including those in rural communities, racial or ethnic populations where disparities are observed, or populations that face financial barriers to getting needed care. The MSRGN comprises a network of partnerships and connections that link state health department leaders, providers (genetics or primary care pediatrics), community organizations, and consumers. In the past year, Dr. Creel and Ms. Niyongabo have engaged each of these

partners in the evaluation, especially around metrics to determine the extent to which the MSRGN serves individuals, families, and providers within the region through education, training, and facilitation of connections to genetic services.

Bridge Kids International

Bridge Kids International (BKI) is a global non-profit organization helping young people of Africa and the African Diaspora, aged 13-30, unleash their social entrepreneurial spirits to solve challenges in economic development, education, environment, girls' rights, and health, and to build sustainable communities. CLK Commonwealth Scholar and Assistant Professor, Dr. Aishia Brown, leads process and outcomes evaluation for BKI



program efforts in Louisville. In this three-year contract, Dr. Brown will establish a program evaluation strategy aligned with the mission and vision of the organization, playing a critical role in the growth of BKI. Specifically, this contract focuses on assessing BKI's Mending the Bridge African Heritage Summer Camp program, the African Heritage Family Activity Book Series, and the Young Adult Mothers of African Heritage Support Group.

EVALUATIONS

Green Dot: Collaborative Evaluation Planning with the Center for Women and Families



SPHIS senior researcher Trinidad Jackson is collaboratively designing an evaluation plan with the Center for Women and Families for Green Dot, a bystander violence intervention program. The program has been linked to decreased violence in other secondary and post-secondary school environments, and the Center wants to explore the impact of the program on high school students who participate in the training component of the program. The program is currently implemented in four high schools and one neighborhood. The

Center for Women and Families has also partnered with a Jefferson County public school to train staff and students as ambassadors and change agents in order to cultivate an environment that is intolerant of violent behaviors. While Green Dot is associated with decreased violence in some school settings, the group's emphasis is on ensuring that Green Dot facilitates training and program components in ways that are culturally responsive to the specific implementation site, which includes ensuring youth insight and critique are prioritized during phases of planning, implementation, and evaluation.



Trinidad Jackson, MPH



Project HEAL

CIK has partnered with IDEAS xLab through the Center for Art + Health Innovation to evaluate its signature project, Project HEAL, as it is implemented in four cities nationally. The process evaluation for Project HEAL's application of cultural strategies to community health development is designed to help

understand, standardize, and refine the implementation model to facilitate replication.

The evaluation team has assisted IDEAS xLab with not only process mapping and documenting their innovative work, but also with critically reflecting on their approach in order to enhance their ability to achieve desired outcomes. Led by Drs. Susan Buchino and Monica Wendel, with graduate research assistant Tasha Golden, this work is funded by a grant to IDEAS xLab from the Humana Foundation.

COMMUNITY-ENGAGED SCHOLARSHIP

The Youth Violence Prevention Research Center

The Youth Violence Prevention Research Center (YVPRC), now in its third year, launched its community social norming campaign, Pride, Peace, Prevention, in 2017. The YVPRC team includes faculty, staff, students, and youth from West Louisville, who together with community partners and Renaissance Creative Group, designed the campaign. The first wave of the campaign focused on pride, which emphasized important elements of history. The second wave, launched in May 2018, promotes advancing justice to achieve peace. The final wave will run in 2019 and center on prevention. Through visibility from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Louisville's YVPRC is recognized as a resource for other communities and is leveraging opportunities to provide training and consultation to help others prevent violence.



Trinidad Jackson (right) with St. Kitts Prime Minister, the Hon. Dr. Timothy Harris

Youth Violence Prevention: Teaching and Learning Internationally

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) invited Louisville's Youth Violence Prevention Research Center (YVPRC) to participate in the 8th Caribbean Basin Security Initiative Technical Working Group. In May 2018, Trinidad Jackson traveled to St. Kitts to present on YVPRC's approach to violence prevention among Caribbean nations interested in preventing crime. Louisville's YVPRC leads with the notion that society must intentionally address systemic racism and the structural violence that fosters and sustains it in order to secure safe and healthy communities. Moreover, the team is iteratively building its violence prevention brand in partnership with youth, community, and traditional and social media in order to foster positive racial and ethnic identity development, critical consciousness, action, and healing—all of which are important components of social justice youth development and protective factors against violence norms. During his presentation, Mr. Jackson highlighted the fact that traditional youth violence prevention initiatives problematize youth and emphasize skill acquisition in order for them to cope with toxic environments, while negating the significance

of historical systemic factors catalyzed by white supremacy—central elements that have created toxic and violent environments globally. He often emphasizes the need for society to be intentional with its language: funders, technical working groups, and academics should be prioritizing and emphasizing structural violence prevention efforts instead of placing the onus of the problem and remedy entirely onto youth populations.



**SERVICE TO
OTHERS IS THE
RENT YOU PAY
FOR YOUR ROOM
HERE ON EARTH.**

- MUHAMMAD ALI



**JUSTICE WILL
NOT BE SERVED
UNTIL THOSE WHO ARE UNAFFECTED
ARE AS OUTRAGED AS THOSE
WHO ARE.**

- BENJAMIN FRANKLIN



National Youth Violence Prevention Centers Link to Learn

Louisville's Youth Violence Prevention Research Center (YVPRC) was established in 2015, joining other National Centers of Excellence in Youth Violence Prevention (YVPCs) funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Along with the establishment came opportunities to teach, network, and learn with other universities and communities across the country. In February 2018, Louisville YVPRC team members Jayme Campbell and Trinidad Jackson traveled to Denver to engage with YVPC-Denver and its community partners. There, Ms. Campbell and Mr. Jackson learned how YVPC-Denver has used the Science of the Positive and Social Development Strategies to ground its violence prevention work.

In March, Mr. Jackson returned to Denver, along with Dr. Monica Wendel, to facilitate a media and communications development training. The goals of

the training were for members of the YVPC-Denver team to:

- ▶ Understand the science behind media and communications campaigns and how they have been used in youth violence prevention work;
- ▶ Learn concrete strategies and tools for developing a norming campaign; and
- ▶ Develop concrete products for Steps to Success and Park Hill Strong to use in their campaigns.

Both trips were opportunities to gain deeper insight regarding both YVPCs' philosophical and practical groundings. Critical examination of both how and why the YVPCs engage in violence prevention work facilitated the exploration of systemic root causes of violence and ways that community and the academy can develop strategies to effectively address these root causes.

COMMUNITY ENGAGED SCHOLARSHIP

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

As HIV in Louisville disproportionately affects African Americans, implementation of effective and innovative strategies is needed to reduce HIV disparities. Greater uptake of biomedical-based approaches, particularly pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP, a medication regimen that reduces HIV infection risk among HIV negative individuals), demonstrates promise in reducing HIV rates among African American communities.

Funded by Jewish Heritage Fund for Excellence, Dr. Kerr's study aims to increase PrEP availability and access in the three different ways. First, the project team is developing and will be implementing educational programming to increase PrEP screening and PrEP prescription among medical personnel. Second, they are working with AIDS service organizations' (ASOs) on increasing PrEP outreach efforts through educational programming and improving outreach capacity. Finally, the team will implement a PrEP-focused media campaign to increase PrEP awareness among West Louisville residents.

To assist with intervention development, Dr. Kerr and his team of researchers are conducting focus groups with priority populations. Findings from these focus groups will guide ASO outreach efforts and media campaign development. Baseline and post-test survey data from high risk, African American community members and medical personnel will also be used to evaluate the effectiveness of this multifaceted intervention.



Jelani Kerr, PhD

JOIN US

How can we make health insurance easier for you? Do you live in South Louisville?

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Join us for a conversation about health insurance and how people in South Louisville can get better information about how health insurance works.

We will provide free food at the meeting. You will also get a \$20 prepaid card as a thank you for your time.

To Participate, you must:

- Live in South Louisville.
- Be 18+ years of age. We encourage adults of all ages to take part.
- Be able to communicate in English.
- Attend a meeting at your neighborhood that will last for approximately 90 minutes
- Complete a short survey at the meeting (with help if needed)

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SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH & REHABILITATION SCIENCES

To learn more or sign up, contact:
Ryan Combs at 502-852-1119, Email: ryan.combs@uofl.edu
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University of Louisville School of Public Health & Information Sciences
403 E. Gray St., Louisville, KY 40202

Health Literacy in South Louisville

The Health Literacy in South Louisville study, funded by KentuckyOne Health, has been examining the development, use, applicability, and design of health insurance, health systems, and health behavior literacy materials to South Louisville residents. Health literacy refers to the extent to which a person can find and understand health information and use this information to make good decisions about their health. Health literacy needs are evolving because of the shifting health policy landscape. As such, the discipline of public health needs to understand what information should be provided to the public and to determine the most appropriate mechanisms to deliver targeted information to communities.

In 2017/18, Dr. Ryan Combs and his team conducted focus groups to understand the health literacy needs of South Louisville residents. Combined with their previous research in West Louisville, the team concluded that health insurance materials in their current form have limited value in translating health insurance and health systems information to the public. The results of the study are being used to create a comprehensive training for community health workers and a series of short

instructional videos for consumers. Partners in this project include Health Literacy Kentucky, Kentucky Voices for Health, and Dr. Jean Edward from the University of Kentucky, a CIK Commonwealth Scholar.

COOPERATIVE CONSORTIUM FOR TRANSDISCIPLINARY SOCIAL JUSTICE RESEARCH

In fiscal year 2018, the UofL Cooperative Consortium for Transdisciplinary Social Justice Research supported the work of three CIK researchers: Dr. Ryan Combs, Dr. Susan Buchino, and Dr. Jelani Kerr.



LGBTQ ADOLESCENT HEALTH RESEARCH STUDY
We want to hear from you!

Join us
- Join us in a group to help us learn about the health needs and priorities of LGBTQ youth

Process
- Take a survey about you and your experiences
- Share your thoughts in a focus group discussion
- Free food and drinks will be provided at the meeting
- You will get a \$20 prepaid card as a thank you for your time

To Participate You Must
- Live in Louisville
- Be 13-18 years of age
- Identify as LGBTQ
- Attend a meeting that will last about 2 hours.
- Be able to communicate in English

To learn more or sign up, contact TQi Brown at 502-952-5240 or kamau.brown@louisville.edu

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LGBTQ Adolescent Health

The goals of the LGBTQ adolescent health study, led by Dr. Ryan Combs, are to understand the health issues that affect LGBTQ young people in Louisville; to determine the barriers to and facilitators of good health; to improve health policies and practices; and to enhance the health experiences and outcomes for this population. In 2017/18, Dr. Combs and his team conducted three focus groups with LGBTQ youth and interviewed 20 adult stakeholders such as parents, teachers, doctors, school counselors, and social workers. The results of their qualitative study will be used to guide a community-based participatory research process in the fall of 2018. Through this process, researchers will develop and launch a health communication campaign in collaboration with local LGBTQ young people and supportive adults. Their partners in this effort are Louisville Youth Group, the Jefferson County Public School LGBTQ Student Supports Subcommittee, and pediatricians from UofL Pediatrics.

Project Uncaged: Youth Detention Services Programming

In collaboration with UofL's departments of English and Counseling Psychology, Dr. Susan Buchino and graduate research assistant Tasha Golden have partnered with Metro Louisville Youth Detention Services (YDS) and Sarabande Writing Labs (SWL) to improve the health, safety, and influence of incarcerated girls by offering the facility's first program designed specifically for girls: Project Uncaged, a trauma-informed creative writing workshop.

With the support of this grant, girls in YDS will participate in twice weekly sessions designed to reduce trauma symptoms, improve resilience, and teach new coping skills. In addition, girls' values and concerns will be communicated—via books of their poems, public events, and qualitative analysis—to Louisville's Youth Violence Prevention Research Center, the Center for Health Equity, and the Metro Louisville Office of Safe and Healthy Neighborhoods.



This project also supports the offering of a new UofL course, Art for Health and Social Justice, taught by Ms. Golden in Fall 2018. Ultimately, the project contributes to the health of incarcerated girls; expands YDS programming; increases girls' direct influence on both local policy and institutional and educational practice; and establishes robust interdisciplinary partnerships uniquely suited to support and sustain this and similar work in the Louisville community.



COOPERATIVE CONSORTIUM FOR TRANSDISCIPLINARY SOCIAL JUSTICE RESEARCH

Examining Stigma, Stress and HIV Care Utilization among African American Elders



HIV Monologues, Heart of the Matter event, Hotel Louisville (February 2018)

Given the paucity of research that focuses on developing and evaluating effective interventions directed at remediating HIV vulnerability in older African Americans, Dr. Jelani Kerr and his research team have been working on an intervention targeted at addressing HIV-related stigma, stress, and HIV care engagement factors for HIV positive African American elders (age 50 and older).

Collaborating with researchers from UofL's Kent School of Social Work and the UofL School of Nursing, Dr. Kerr's team conducted a pilot survey aimed at identifying the interdependencies between stress, stigma, and care-engagement among older HIV positive African Americans, and exploring how these relationships operate.

In the second phase of the project, Dr. Kerr and his project team worked with the House of Ruth (an AIDS service organization focused on housing and support for people living with HIV), in developing monologues that explore the experiences of the HIV positive. By re-storying the content of qualitative interviews into five-minute monologues focusing on various aspects of stigma, stress, and resilience among participants, these communications are designed to help service providers, students, health care providers, and the general public better understand the experiences of people living with HIV. The project team is currently evaluating this intervention in terms of acceptability and social media penetration.

CIK TRAINEES ON THE MOVE



Dr. Aishia Brown joined CIK in 2016 as a postdoctoral research associate, bringing her expertise in youth development. Over the last two years, Dr. Brown has worked closely with Louisville Metro Public Health and Wellness Center for Health Equity (CHE), where she led the efforts to establish the Racial Equity Youth Council, a council dedicated to addressing the racial inequities that exist for youth living in Louisville. In addition, Dr. Brown assisted in the development of the 2018 Health Equity Report, highlighting the critical role that health equity plays in well-being of all residents.

Dr. Brown also worked with the Youth Violence Prevention Research Center (YVPRC), where she has led trainings for center staff and students on applying the Social Justice Youth Development framework into youth violence prevention strategies. Dr. Brown assisted center staff and students with developing a curriculum and activities for the Louisville Youth Voices against Violence (LYVV) Fellowship program, a program that hires youth from the center's target neighborhoods to work in YVPRC. Dr. Brown recently presented her work with YVPRC at the 2017 American Public Health Association Conference in Atlanta, GA.

In her role, Dr. Brown has made efforts to recruit more underrepresented students into the School of Public Health and Information Sciences (SPHIS) and introduce them to health equity and policy through the Summer Health Professions Education Program (SHPEP), a program hosted by the UofL Health Science Center Office for Diversity and Inclusion. Dr. Brown recently published a chapter on the role of culture in out-of-school time programs in the second edition of Youth Development Principles and Practices textbook and an article in the Journal of Leisure Sciences on Black Lives, Leisure, and Politics. Within the last year, Dr. Brown received a three-year contract to conduct evaluation for Bridge Kids International.

At the conclusion of her two year fellowship, Dr. Brown will remain in Louisville, joining the faculty of the Department of Health Promotion and Behavioral Sciences at SPHIS as an assistant professor in the 2018-19 academic year. She is looking forward to doing more community-engaged research focused on underrepresented youth populations.

After receiving her Doctorate of Philosophy Public Health Sciences from the UofL's Department of Health Promotion and Behavioral Sciences in 2017, Dr. Nida Ali was hired as a postdoctoral research associate at CIK. Here, she has had unique opportunities to perform innovative research and strengthen various research skills. Working with Dr. Ryan Comb's team on health literacy projects, Dr. Monica Wendel's federally funded Youth Violence Prevention grant, and an evaluation of the Texas 1115 Medicaid Transformation Waiver, Dr. Ali received mentored training to develop research and evaluation skills and collaborate with a dynamic multi-disciplinary team of investigators.

Being involved these projects, Dr. Ali has gained expertise in the competencies required to conduct participatory research. At the same time, she developed valuable skills in applying the principles of community-based participatory research (CBPR), including the theoretical frameworks and models and methods of planning, implementing, and evaluating CBPR. Her work at CIK has helped her gain experience in applying mixed-methods approaches to research and evaluation, and in working effectively in and with diverse communities. Dr. Ali has also had the opportunity to supervise and train other team members on various research skills and processes.



Besides practical research experience, Dr. Ali has received support for several professional development activities, such as conference travel and other training experiences. She also actively participated in drafting of a number of manuscripts, technical reports, and policy briefs. She is certain that these activities have helped her strengthen her research portfolio, refine methodological skills, and build various connections.

With respect to upcoming plans, Dr. Ali will be starting an evaluation fellowship at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) where she will be working with the Opioid Overdose State Support Team under the Division of Unintentional Injury Prevention in the National Center for Injury Prevention and Control.



Dr. Billie Castle transitioned into a postdoctoral research associate position during Fall 2017, after completing her Doctorate of Philosophy in Public Health Sciences with a concentration in Health Promotion and Behavioral Sciences at the School of Public Health and Information Sciences.

During her tenure, Dr. Castle has primarily worked with the Youth Violence Prevention Research Center (YVPRC), contributing to various aspects of the center and research. Dr. Castle has worked with center staff to create the Louisville Youth Voices against Violence (LYVV) Fellowship program infrastructure, including program goals, guiding tenets, curriculum, and activities. She now serves as Principal Investigator of the evaluation of the LYVV Fellowship program. As YVPRC staff, Dr. Castle has completed quantitative and qualitative data collection, analysis, and reporting; contributed to the development and creation of the award-winning campaign content; and sustained many community partnerships. Through these partnerships, she is currently working with the Louisville Metro government and local youth service organizations to create a Louisville Youth Policy Agenda so that local youth have an equitable voice in policy creation and implementation in their home city .

Additionally, Dr. Castle contributed to the Louisville Metro Public Health and Wellness Center for Health Equity's (CHE) 2017 Health Equity Report. She has also worked with LMPHW and CHE on the Community Health Needs Assessment, participating in the Steering Committee and Data Analysis Subcommittee. Dr. Castle is currently exploring job opportunities that will help her continue her research and practice of reducing racial, social, and health disparities in Black and marginalized communities through the challenging and dismantling of unjust systems.

While pursuing his Master in Public Health (MPH) at the UofL School of Public Health and Information Sciences for the past two years, Kamau "TiQi" Brown served as a graduate research assistant for CIK. Over the course of these two years, TiQi was involved in various projects addressing health disparities plaguing underserved communities of color. Working on projects tackling youth violence prevention, health insurance literacy, HIV prevention, childhood asthma, depression, and access to healthcare, he gained valuable first-hand experience conducting research. He had the opportunity to assist in the completion of IRB applications, drafting grant applications and progress reports, helping with data collection and analysis, as well as presenting findings from research initiatives at academic research conferences.



TiQi thinks that his experience as a graduate research assistant has equipped him with valuable skills that will be useful in his future career in academia. Having successfully obtained his MPH degree, TiQi will start teaching this fall in a charter school in Huston, Texas, while working towards obtaining a teaching certificate.

“Having just finished my work as a graduate research assistant with CIK, I can now take the time to reflect on how beneficial this experience was for me. It has revealed what I am capable of, and at the same time, helped me discover what I want to spend my time and effort in within academia. I am very excited to launch my professional career in teaching, and am grateful for all that I have learned and experienced as a graduate research assistant with CIK.”

– TiQi Brown

CIK GRADUATE ASSISTANTS

Name	Degree Program / School	Department	Work advisor
TiQi Brown	MPH / SPHIS	Health Promotion & Behavioral Sciences	Dr. Ryan Combs
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
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Amelia Oglesby	MPH/SPHIS	Health Promotion & Behavioral Sciences	Monique Ingram
Karrie Quenichet	PhD / CEHD	Educational Leadership, Evaluation & Organizational Development	Monique Ingram
Madeline Tomlinson	MPH / SPHIS	Health Promotion & Behavioral Sciences	Dr. Monica Wendel
Diane Zero	PhD / Public Health	Health Promotion & Behavioral Sciences	Dr. Susan Buchino

HIGHLIGHT | GRADUATE ASSISTANT

A doctoral student in the School of Public Health and Information Sciences, Tasha Golden works with the Louisville Youth Violence Prevention Research Center and the Commonwealth Institute of Kentucky. Ms. Golden's community-oriented research at the intersection of art and public health is informed by her career history. As the front woman and songwriter for the band Ellery, her songs have been heard on the radio and in major motion pictures, TV dramas and Starbucks. Golden's prose and poetry have been published in "Ploughshares," "Pleides" and "Ethos Review," among others, and her debut book of poems, "Once You Had Hands" (Humanist Press), was a finalist for the 2016 Ohioana Book Award. Her critique of gender inequities in the juvenile justice system appears in the Spring 2017 issue of

peer-reviewed journal "Reflections." Ms. Golden's background as artist, entrepreneur, and researcher often leads to new and unique networks, and allows her to draw connections among disparate ideas and initiatives. She continues to write and record, and has led trauma-informed creative writing workshops for incarcerated teen women since 2012.

PUBLICATIONS

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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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