

10th Annual Conference




ATTITUDE CONFERENCE



Family Studies

Community

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Open to all conference participants

1:00 PM **Strengthening Community-University Partnerships: HCADA and USF—Over 20 Years of Successful Partnership**

Cindy Grant, Director of the Hillsborough County Anti-Drug Alliance;
Ellen Snelling, Chair, Tampa Alcohol Coalition

This presentation will explore how to promote community change through community and university partnerships. HCADA has partnered with USF and with other community partners in an effort to prevent and reduce substance use disorder in our community for over 20 years. These collaborative efforts have increased our ability to raise awareness and better educate the community and have resulted in positive change.

1:45 PM **Strengthening Implementation Practice through Community Partnerships**

Charles Mendez III, Managing Director, Mendez Foundation & ITRE National Advisory Board member

This presentation will examine the relationship between schools and other community partners in the implementation of evidence-based programs. It will highlight the Mendez Foundation's efforts in its work with community partners to establish the implementation of EBPs and address barriers to implementation including the need to adapt the EBP to local needs while maintaining fidelity to the program model and maximizing student outcomes.

2:30 PM **Networking Break**

2:45 PM **The Role of School Based Mental Health Professionals in Providing Supports and Services Using a Multi-Tiered System of Supports Framework**

Myrna Hoge, EdD, LCSW, Supervisor, School Social Work Services, Division of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, School District of Hillsborough County; Maggie Dean, EdS, NCSP, Manager, Quality Assurance and MRT

This presentation will outline how School-based problem-solving teams identify and respond to mental health concerns by utilizing a Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS) framework to identify and connect students and families to appropriate mental health services. The importance of mental health awareness, promotion of mental wellness, and a focus on combatting the stigma of mental health will be outlined. Current data and trends will be presented as well as legislation that guides procedures.

3:30 PM **Stepping up to Aging Out: A Standardized Model for Measuring Independent Living Skill Success in Transition Age Foster Care Youth**

Kelsie King, MA; Michelle Bollom, OTS; Taylor Goodman, OTS; Amy Armstrong-Heimsoth, OTD, OTR/L, BCp, Northern Arizona University; Kim Verducci, CEO, Foster Arizona

This pilot study aids in the validation of a performance-based life skills assessment, the Kohlman Evaluation of Living Skills for Youth/Young Adults (KELS-Y). This assessment aims to identify areas of strength and growth for youth transitioning out of foster care (YTC). The KELS-Y, along with subjective measures and

4:00 PM Lessons Learned in Conducting Community-Engaged Mental Health Research within Traditionally Underserved Communities

- 10:45 AM** **Moving Science to Practice: Practical Implications of Program Implementation in Community Behavioral Health Settings**
 Enya Vroom, PhD, ITRE Scholar Alumni and NIH/NIDA Postdoctoral Fellow, University of Florida
 This presentation will provide a background on the disconnect between implementation science and practice. It will also discuss findings from a research study about what community-based behavioral health organizations think is important for adopting, implementing, and sustaining evidence-based practices within their service settings and where the field of implementation practice is heading.
- 11:30 AM** **USF CPH Activist Lab: Finding our Voices for Change**
 Karen Liller, PhD, CPH, FAAAS, Distinguished USF Health Professor, College of Public Health
 The purpose of this presentation is to provide participants information on the USF CPH Activist Lab in terms of our advocacy and education, research, service, and leadership in working with communities for change. Also discussed will be evaluation of our activities and leadership lessons learned.
- 12:15 PM** **Lunch** (Provided for ITRE Scholars & affiliates in room MHS 1636)
- 1:15 PM** **Applying Implementation Science to School Mental Health and Violence Prevention Programs**
 Anna Davidson Abella, PhD, Research Assistant Professor; Areana Cruz, MSED, University of South Florida
 This presentation will focus on implementation science and its use in educational settings. Specifically, we will focus on describing the implementation and evaluation of school-based mental health and violence prevention programs. The prevention programs and evaluation were funded by the National Institute of Justice's Student, Teachers, and Officers Preventing School Violence (STOP) Grants. The presentation will provide an overview of implementation science and current implementation science frameworks, the current mental health and violence prevention programs, and findings from an evaluation on the implementation of the programs.
- 2:00 PM** **Closing Remarks to the General Public**
- 2:10 PM** **Service-Learning Teams Meeting**—for Cohort-10 Scholars, ITRE Faculty, and Community Partners
- 3:10 PM** **Passing the Torch: Advice and Lessons Learned for Future Scholars**—for Scholars in Cohorts 9 & 10
 Alexandra Albizu-Jacob, MPH; Kim Menendez, MS, University of South Florida
- 4:30 PM** **Scholar's Reception**—USF College of Behavioral & Community Sciences, Atrium Lobby
- 6:00 PM** **Conference Ends – See You Next Year!**



Dr. Oliver Tom Massey is Co-PI of ITRE and Associate Professor and Director of the Division of Child & Family Behavioral Health in the Department of Child & Family Studies (CFS), USF College of Behavioral and Community

Sciences (CBCS). He specializes in the organization, implementation, and evaluation of mental health services for adolescents in schools and in the community. He has expertise in quantitative and qualitative methodology and has conducted research and evaluation projects on the delivery of mental and substance use services in K-12, the sustainability of mental health services, and adolescent engagement in effective services. He is the author of numerous publications and book chapters devoted to evaluation in the applied sector.

Dr. Bruce Lubotsky Levin is CO-PI of ITRE and Associate Professor in both USF CFS and Associate Professor and Faculty Lead of the Behavioral Health Concentration, USF College of Public Health (COPH). Dr. Levin currently serves as Editor-in-Chief of the Journal

of Behavioral Health Services & Research. He has teaching and research interests in mental health and substance use services delivery, behavioral health policy, mental health informatics, managed behavioral health care, and implementation science. He is senior editor of 10 textbooks, including Foundations of Behavioral Health (Springer Nature, 2020) and Introduction to Public Health in Pharmacy Second Edition (Oxford University Press, 2018).

Dr. Donna Burton is Co-PI of ITRE and a Research Assistant Professor in USF CFS. She earned her PhD from the Department of Community & Family Health at USF COPH. She has served in a range of positions from practitioner to clinical director and executive director for both private non-profit and public sector organizations. She has provided specialized curricula to drug abuse and mental health practitioners and administrators at four state-level schools of addiction studies. Dr. Burton has participated in the implementation of evidence-based practices for adolescents through federal and grant-funded mechanisms.

Ercilia Calcano brings 25 years of public health experience in program planning and development, community engagement, budgeting, program management and evaluation, research administration, and teaching. Her previous leadership roles contributed toward policy and system changes. She has worked with local coalitions to implement teen substance use prevention best practices in communities and schools and has served in state, national, and international workgroups to tackle public health priorities. She has provided students with service-learning opportunities focused on the needs of underserved populations and root causes of health disparities.

serious mental illness and positive parenting interventions. After completing her master's at NAU, Kelsie plans to pursue a Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology and hopes to work directly with children and adolescents. Her goal is to promote early recognition of trauma and mental illness to provide younger generations with a strong emotional foundation for healthy development.

Taylor E. Stringer is a graduate student at NAU pursuing her doctoral degree in Occupational therapy at the Phoenix Biomedical Campus. Taylor earned her Bachelor's Degree in Nutrition and Food, with a double minor in Psychology and Biology

from NAU. She has a long history of working with youth of varying ages and continues that passion for focusing on youth in the pursuit of her doctoral degree. Taylor aspires to work in pediatrics and help bring healing through trauma-informed care. She aspires to play a part in helping to bridge the gap between foster care and occupational therapy as well as bring awareness to this emerging practice setting. Taylor hopes to gain the experience and knowledge to further this dream and continue to develop her research skills through this incredible opportunity to learn from her teammates and faculty at USF ITRE.

10 (2023-2024)

Miracle Macias Burgos is currently in her first year for a Psychological Sciences Masters at Northern Arizona University. She is a first generation college student from Ecuadorian immigrants which has influenced



Tajjah Kittling earned a Master's Degree in Child and Adolescent Behavioral Health from USF and has over 10 years of experience with community-based initiatives. Most of her educational and employment history focuses on behavioral health

within a community. Direct engagement with children, adolescents, young adults, and adult families spurred interest in improvement science, blending dissemination with implementation and sustainability. Her current practices actively implement evidence-based treatments on a local level with community professionals, where the focus is on providing direct services and cultivating program intrapreneurship. She aims to structure her practices and leadership around neuro-inclusion, trauma-informed management, system of care, values, principles, and equity. Her goal is to focus on the integration of new culturally responsive policies while developing employee personal and professional skills through a supervision/coaching model.

Greg Levitt is a first year Master of Social Work Student at USF. After earning a Bachelor of Science in Physics, Greg spent 6 years as a middle and high school STEM instructor. During his time as a teacher, he found greater meaning

in lending an ear to students experiencing emotional distress than teaching about math and science. Since that realization, he has worked in a domestic violence shelter and in a program for adolescents and young adults overcoming dual diagnoses. Presently, he is working as a research assistant in a lab examining complementary therapies for Veterans experiencing symptoms of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder and is completing his field placement with Lifepath Hospice in South Tampa. His primary research interest is to examine the training and support systems for direct service providers in the behavioral health field.

Manuel "Manny" Mayor graduated the USF COPH MPH degree program in public health administration. He has more than 12 years of public health experience, which includes research and prevention efforts in the fields of Human Immunodeficiency viruses,

colorectal cancer, Alzheimer's Disease, and tobacco cessation. He is currently working at Premier Community HealthCare to create connections with community members, collaborate with community organizations, and coordinate events aiming to improve community access and health. As the Community Engagement Manager, he manages a team that helps the community in gaining health care access, health education, and social resources. A focus of his efforts is underserved communities such as migrant seasonal agricultural workers, people experiencing homelessness, and public housing residents among others. He is also currently working to complete his doctoral degree in public health at USF COPH.

Joshua Mincey is a first-year graduate student in the Social Marketing Concentration pursuing a Master's Degree in Public Health at USF. He earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Public Health from Florida State University. Throughout his life,

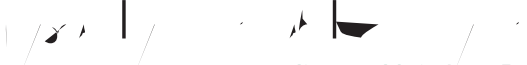
Joshua has frequently volunteered with community events, community organizations, and non-profit organizations. Joshua hopes to understand the roles of different psychological and neurological factors that spur decision making. Currently, Joshua is involved with several local and statewide organizations focusing on substance abuse. He hopes to graduate from the ITRE program with the tools to successfully and effectively champion behavioral health interventions and promoting preventative health within communities.

Arielis Perez is a first-year student in the Master of Science in Child and Adolescent Behavioral Health Degree program at USF. She earned her Bachelor's Degree in Psychology from Albizu University, where she received the Outstanding Student Medal for

graduating with the highest GPA (4.0) in her class. In 2019, she began her Undergraduate Post-Baccalaureate in Science at Florida International University. Arielis has received training on child exposure to substances and trauma from the National Child Traumatic Stress Network and a certification in the Challenges of Global Health from Duke University. Before starting graduate school, she was a lab research assistant where she worked on projects focused on innovative ways to teach procedural knowledge to undergraduate students through primary scientific literature. Arielis is interested in child cognitive

development, including both the biological and social bases. She joined the ITRE to learn more about community-level projects to improve the well-being of multicultural children and adolescents.

Ginger Ross, Hampton, NH, is the founder of Choices Peer Recovery Coach Training. Ginger has worked in the peer recovery field since 2015 and is a grassroots pioneer in developing the movement in NH. Choices Recovery



Dr. Julie A. Baldwin is a Regent's Professor at NAU's College of Health and Human Services. Her research has focused on alcohol and drug abuse prevention in youth and young adults, utilizing community-based participatory

research approaches, working with underserved and/or marginalized populations (particularly Native Americans), and addressing health disparities by developing and implementing culturally competent public health interventions. As an enrolled member of the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma, she has made a life-long commitment to serving diverse communities and to advocating for health promotion programs for children, adolescents, and families.

Dr. Richard Dembo is a Professor of Criminology at USF. Dr. Dembo has directed a number of NIDA-funded projects addressing drug abuse, mental health, and related needs among youths having contact with the justice system. He has conducted

Dr. Kenneth J. Martinez is a retired child psychologist and Adjunct Faculty in the Department of Psychiatry at the Health Sciences Center, University of New Mexico where he has been on the faculty in various capacities for over 40 years. Dr. Martinez previously served as a Principal

Research Analyst at the American Institute for Research in Washington DC, where he provided technical assistance to over 70 federally funded children's mental health grantee sites. He has extensive clinical, policy, administrative, and academic expertise. In addition, Dr. Martinez previously served as the children's behavioral health director for the State of New Mexico and past national chair of the Children, Youth, and Families Division of the National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors. He earned his Bachelor's Degree in Psychology at Stanford University and his Doctoral Degree in Child Clinical Psychology at the University of Denver where he was a Ford Foundation Fellow.

Charles Mendez III is the managing director of the C.E. Mendez Foundation, a not-for-profit organization dedicated since 1975 to preventing substance use, bullying, and violence in children and adolescents to promote health and wellbeing. He has expertise in the

development, training, implementation, and dissemination of the Foundation's evidence-based Too Good for Drugs and Too Good for Violence prevention programs which develop social-emotional skills to build protection in children grades K-12 to mitigate the risk factors associated with substance use and aggressive behavior. He continues working with his colleagues to enhance the quality, effectiveness, and reach of prevention education and social skills development through innovation and partnerships translating research into age-

Dr. Brooke De Heer is an Assistant Professor of Criminology and Criminal Justice at NAU. She earned her M.A. (2009) and Ph.D. (2011) in Psychology, with an emphasis in quantitative legal psychology at the University of Texas, El Paso. She's

a lecturer in the field of criminology and victimology and previously worked as an Intelligence Analyst for the FBI. Her research to date has primarily focused on issues of gender and power in sexual violence, and inequitable

Tracy Bales is a doctoral student in the CBCS PhD Degree program at USF. She earned a Bachelor of Arts in Design and a Bachelor of Psychology with Honors from USF. In addition, Tracy earned a Master of Public

2022-2024

Farmworkers Self-Help, Inc. (FSH)

Dade City, FL

<https://floridaimmigrant.org/placemarks/farmworkers-self-help-inc-fsh/>

Contact: Margarita Romo, Executive Director, romo1936@gmail.com



FSH was organized as a grassroots effort by immigrant Mexican and Mexican-American migrant farmworkers and former farmworkers to find solutions to the problems of the farmworker population. FSH facilitates self-development, self-help, grassroots organizing, participation and leadership development, and seeks to bridge the gap between isolation and societal mainstreams, while preserving cultural heritage. It is committed to farmworkers and other poor taking charge of their own lives and destinies.

Foster Arizona

Phoenix, AZ

<https://fosterarizona.org/>

Contact: Kimberly Vehon, Founder & CEO, kim@fosteraz.org

Foster Arizona is a non-profit public charity focused on educating, encouraging, and empowering Arizonans to positively impact the lives of kids in foster care. Their vision is that every child in Arizona's foster care system will be empowered, supported, and have the opportunity to enrich their lives through intentional community connections.

Hillsborough County Anti-Drug Alliance, Inc. (HCADA)

Tampa, FL

<http://hcada.com>

Contact: Cindy Grant, Director, togetheragain@earthlink.net



HCADA promotes healthy communities in Hillsborough County free of substance abuse and addiction through education, collaboration and advocacy. HCADA's vision is a community where youth and families are safe, healthy and free of substance abuse and addiction.

Hillsborough County Public Schools, School Social Work Services

<http://www.sdhc.k12.fl.us/departments/63/social-work-services/about/>

Contact: Myrna Hogue, Supervisor of Social Work Services, myrna.hogue@sdhc.k12.fl.us (813) 273-7090

As part of the Division of Student Services, School social workers, through their unique training and practice, provide a variety of professional services which foster students' physical, social, emotional, and academic growth. They promote and support the educational process by meeting the individual needs of students and families within the community.

Mendez Foundation, Too Good Programs

Tampa, FL

<http://www.toogoodprograms.org/>

Contact: Charles E Mendez, III, Managing Director, cmendez3@mendezfoundation.org

For more than forty years, the Mendez Foundation has been developing and implementing unparalleled K-12 prevention education through its Too Good programs preparing children and adolescents to make healthy choices and resist substance use and other risky behavior. Their evidence-based, skill-building programs make a positive impact on the lives of students, teachers, parents, and community leaders nationwide.

Native Americans for Community Action, Inc.

Flagstaff, AZ

<http://www.nacainc.org/>

Contact: Dr. Curtis Randolph, Clinical Director of Behavioral Health, crandolph@nacainc.org, or Kateri Williams, Pathways Program Coordinator, kwilliams@nacainc.org

Native Americans for Community Action provides preventative wellness strategies, empower, and advocate for Native peoples and others in need to create a healthy community based on Harmony, Respect, and Indigenous Values.

Tampa Bay Area

USF Tampa Campus

CBCS
Conference
Location

★
Embassy
Suites

Tampa
International
Airport
★

Embassy
Suites

Embassy Suites
3705 Spectrum Boulevard
Tampa, FL 33612
Phone Number: (813)-977-7066

University of South Florida
MHC Building (Atrium Lobby)
13301 Bruce B Downs Blvd
Tampa, FL 33612

From TPA airport to the Embassy Suites is \$50

Date	Hotel J USF CBCS	Conference Start	USF CBCS J Hotel
Sunday, April 16	8:00 AM	8:30 AM	5:00 PM
Monday, April 17	9:00 AM	9:30 AM	5:00 PM
Tuesday, April 18	8:00 AM	8:30 AM	6:00 PM

