

Alison Updyke Neff, MSW, DSW, LSW

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Education

- DSW** August 2017, University of Pennsylvania
Philadelphia, PA
School of Social Policy & Practice
Dissertation Title: *Reconstructing The Center: The institutional logics of a structural intervention for a post-incarceration community*
- MSW** May 2007, Temple University
Philadelphia, PA
School of Social Administration
Concentration: Clinical
- BA** December 2000, Indiana University
Bloomington, IN
College of Arts & Sciences
Major: Political Science, Minor: Religious Studies

Teaching Experience

West Chester University, Graduate Social Work Department, *Assistant Professor* (2018-present)

- (Fall 2021) SWG561: Specialized Practice I – **Lead Instructor** (PASSHE campus)
SWG598: Specialized Field I – (two sections, PASSHE)
SWG554: Human Development Across the Life Span (PASSHE campus)
- (Spring 2021) SWG563: Specialized SW Practice II – **Lead Instructor** (PASSHE campus)
SWG599: Specialized Field II (two sections, PASSHE & main campuses)
SWG576: Child Welfare (PASSHE campus)
- (Winter 2020-21) SWG590: Radical Social Justice (PASSHE campus)
- (Fall 2020) SWG561: Specialized Practice I – **Lead Instructor** (PASSHE campus)
SWG598: Specialized Field I – (two sections, PASSHE & main campuses)
SWG562: Specialized SW Practice with Families (main campus)
- (Spring 2020) SWG563: Specialized SW Practice II – **Lead Instructor** (PASSHE campus)
SWG599: Specialized Field II (PASSHE campus)
SWG533: Methods of Social Work Research (PASSHE campus)
- (Fall 2019) SWG561: Specialized SW Practice I – **Lead Instructor** (PASSHE campus)
SWG598: Specialized Field I – (PASSHE campus)
SWG554: Human Development Across the Life Span (PASSHE campus)

(Spring 2019) SWG563: Specialized SW Practice II (PASSHE campus)
SWG599: Specialized Field II (PASSHE campus)
SWG555: HBSE: Groups, Organizations, Communities (PASSHE campus)

(Winter 2019) SWG590: Radical Social Justice (PASSHE campus)

(Fall 2018) SWG561: Specialized SW Practice I (PASSHE campus)
SWG598: Specialized Field I (PASSHE campus)
SWG554: Human Development Across the Life Span (main campus)

New Course Development

SWG590: Radical Social Justice (introduced Winter 2019)

Publications

Bohrman, C., Updyke, A., Radis, B., Mohr, J., Ocean, M., Lopes, Y., & Brailly-Mompoint, A. (In submission). Criminal Records as Predictors of Harm: Questioning Social Work's Reliance on Records for Gatekeeping. *Advances in Social Work*.

Ghose, T., Shubert, V., Chowdhuri, S., Poitevien, V., & Updyke, A. (In Press). The ethics of providing financial incentives to increase medication adherence among socially vulnerable people living with HIV. *AMA Journal of Ethics*.

Reports

National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine 2019. The Effects of Incarceration and Reentry on Community Health and Well-Being: Proceedings of a Workshop. Washington, DC: The National Academies Press. <https://doi.org/10.17226/25471>. (Publication based on presentation: Applying the Anticarceral Movement to Philadelphia. Presentation at the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, & Medicine conference at the University of Pennsylvania: The Impact of Incarceration and Reentry on Community Health and Well-Being.)

Presentations

Metz, S, Sankaran, G., Tennille, J., & Updyke Neff, A. (2022, February). Community-Based Interprofessional Education Pilot Evaluation. Society for Public Health Education (SOPHE) Annual Conference, St. Louis, MO.

Updyke Neff, A., Ghose, T., Akbar, G., & Keim, N. (2022, January). Resisting Isomorphism in the Reentry Service Field: Organizational Hybridity, Identity, and Innovation. Society for Social Work Research (SSWR) Annual Conference, Washington, DC.

Updyke Neff, A., Metz, S, Sankaran, G., Tennille, J. (In submission). Applying an Ecological, Systems Lens to the Opioid Epidemic: A Virtual Team-Based IPE Event. Emswiler Interprofessional Symposium, Richmond, VA.

Updyke Neff, A., Ghose, T., Akbar, G., & Keim, N. (2021, January). Zoom-Based Group Therapy

- with Inmates Released En-Masse Because of the COVID-19 Pandemic. Society for Social Work Research (SSWR) Annual Conference, virtual.
- Ghose, T., Updyke Neff, A., Akbar, G., & Keim, N. (2021, January). Institutional Logics during the COVID-19 Pandemic: A Multisystemic Engagement with Inmates Released En-Masse. Society for Social Work Research (SSWR) Annual Conference, virtual.
- Akbar, G., Chiarelli-Helminiak, C., Cicerelle, P., Johnson, K., Updyke Neff, A. (2020, November). When the Community Teaches. Critical Theories in the 21st Century (CT21) Conference, virtual.
- Akbar, G., Updyke Neff, A., & Cicerelle, P. (2020, November). Decolonizing The Social Work Curriculum. Council on Social Work Education's (CSWE) Annual Program Meeting (APM), virtual.
- Bohrman, C. & Updyke Neff, A. (2020, October). Criminal Backgrounds and Gatekeeping for Social Work: Ethical Considerations and Just Alternatives. National Association of Social Workers, Pennsylvania Chapter (NASW-PA) Annual Conference, virtual.
- Updyke Neff, A. (2020, March, invited and accepted, but canceled due to Covid). Invited Panelist – Gun Violence: Moving Beyond the Trauma. Alvernia University 7th Annual Social Work Community Conference, Elkins Park, PA.
- Ghose, T., Neff, A. & Akbar, G. (2020, January). Factors Associated with Housing for People Living with AIDS: An evaluation of the Federal HOPWA program. Society for Social Work Research (SSWR) Annual Conference, Washington, DC.
- Akbar, G., Cicerelle, P., & Neff, A. (2019, February). Radical Social Justice: Bridging Theory & Practice in Social Work Education. Presented at National Association of African American Studies National Conference, Dallas, TX.
- Akbar, G., Cicerelle, P., & Neff, A. (2019, accepted but did not attend). Radical Social Justice: Bridging Theory & Practice in Social Work Education. PA National Association for Multicultural Education (NAME).
- Neff, A. (2018, June). Applying the Anticarceral Movement to Philadelphia. Presentation at the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, & Medicine conference at the University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA.

Current Research Projects

- 2020-pres Smartphone intervention with those at high risk of overdose and recently released from incarceration.
Co-Investigator –Bloomberg Foundation’s Vital Strategies Fund
 Research Partners: University of Pennsylvania / The Center for Carceral Communities / Project Safe
- Provide prepaid smartphones through Project Safe and SCI Phoenix (state prison system) to substance users recently released from incarceration.
 - Participate in management of budget – study is funded by Bloomberg Foundation’s Vital Strategies Fund with a total funding of \$96,000.

- 2020-pres Smartphone intervention with released prisoners at high risk of Covid-9 infection.
Co-Investigator – Ford Foundation and Chan Zuckerberg Institute
Research Partners: University of Pennsylvania / The Center for Carceral Communities
- Provide prepaid smartphones through the Philadelphia Department of Prisons to those who are being released to ensure they are able to connect with reentry services, healthcare, and other critical supports.
 - Participate in management of budget – study is funded by Ford Foundation with a total funding of \$85,000.
- 2019-pres Alternative felony disposition: Intervening with people charged with a gun violation.
Co-Investigator – Vital Projects Fund
Research Partners: University of Pennsylvania / Philadelphia District Attorney’s Office / The Center for Carceral Communities
- Collaborate with the District Attorney’s Office, which is facilitating our recruitment of subjects who have been charged with gun violations.
 - Participate in management of budget – study is funded by Vital Projects Fund with a total funding of \$120,000.
- 2019-pres Diverting those at high risk of incarceration: Intervening with people charged with PWID (Possession With Intent to Distribute).
Co-Investigator – Calvin Bland Foundation
Research Partners: University of Pennsylvania / Philadelphia District Attorney’s Office / The Center for Carceral Communities
- Secured IRB approval on a 3-year longitudinal matched controlled study on the effects of GAINS (the Center’s intervention) on outcomes for people engaged in the carceral system.
 - Participate in management of budget - study is funded for 3 years by Calvin Bland Foundation, with a total funding of \$500,000.
- 2015-2020 Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA) Project
Research Assistant
Research Partners: University of Pennsylvania / City of Philadelphia
- Coordinated the completion of 60 qualitative interviews with HOPWA-funded HIV service providing agencies and HIV-positive community members in the Philadelphia metropolitan area.
 - Assisted in the completion of results reports describing the housing needs of PLWHA in Philadelphia in order to inform the securing of HOPWA funds.
- 2017-2019 Examining Guild: An Art Intervention for People with Histories of Incarceration
Co-Investigator – Ford Foundation Grant: Art for Social Justice
Research Partners: Mural Arts / The Center for Carceral Communities
- Collaborated with the Mural Arts Program’s Guild Program, an apprenticeship program that provides opportunities to young adults who are formerly incarcerated to develop job skills and reconnect with their community, to secure Ford Foundation funding for study.
 - Coordinate mixed methods study to examine the impact of Mural Arts projects on neighborhood perceptions of people in reentry and to evaluate the effectiveness of the Guild Program in reducing recidivism.
 - Conduct community-based participatory research (CBPR) initiative by training formerly incarcerated community members at The Center in qualitative methods and evaluation.

Service

West Chester University:

- Reviewer of HRSA BHWET stipend applications from MSW, MEd School Counseling, and PsyD (Summer 2021)
- Designed and facilitated virtual, community-based interprofessional education (IPE) simulation event for MSW and MPH students (Spring 2021)
- Interprofessional Education / Integrated Care Regional Advisory Board (Spring 2019-present)
- Interprofessional Education (IPE) Task Force Subcommittee (Fall 2019-present)
- Alternate APSCUF Representative (Fall 2019-present)

Graduate Social Work Department:

- Chair of Field Committee (Fall 2020-present)
- Chair of Search Committee for MSW Field Director (October 2020-April 2021)
- Co-Chair OSCE Committee (Fall 2020-present)
- Admissions Committee (Fall 2020-present)
- Curriculum Committee (Fall 2020-present)
- Lead Instructor for Specialized Practice sequence (Fall 2019-present)
- Faculty Advisor, Phi Alpha Honor Society for Graduate Social Work (Fall 2018-present)
- Search Committee for Tenure Track Faculty (August 2019-November 2019)
- SWG563 Revisions Committee (Fall 2019)
- Field Committee (Fall 2018-2020)
- Panelist, Campaign School, “Lessons Learned from the Campaign (April 2019)

Community:

- *Clinical Director*, The Center for Carceral Communities, Philadelphia, PA (2015-present)
 - Provide free services and support to Philadelphia’s post-incarcerated and parole/probation-involved communities.
 - Facilitate weekly evidence-based CBT-based therapeutic groups addressing mental health, substance use, social issues, and structural barriers to support community engagement and reduce recidivism.
 - Supervise the training and certification in CBT group co-facilitation to qualify participants for employment as behavioral health para-professionals.
 - Link clients to community resources for employment, housing, health, etc.
 - Engage with clients in advocacy around the rights of community members with a history of incarceration.
 - Provide clinical and task supervision of MSW interns and social workers.
- *Expert Witness*, Philadelphia City Council, Philadelphia, PA (February 2019)
 - Presented expert testimony to Philadelphia City Council regarding the importance of ending drug testing for marijuana by the department of Adult Probation and Parole
- *Clinical Trainer*, Housing Works / Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, New York, NY (2014-2019)

- Assisted in the adaptation of a CBT-based, solution-focused intervention model for use with a diverse group of homeless, LGBTQ, HIV-positive clients to improve adherence with antiretroviral medication regimens as part of New York state's goal to end the AIDS epidemic by 2020.
- Conduct multiple on-site "Motivational Interviewing for Adherence" training sessions for case managers and group leaders across various HIV agencies in New York to facilitate their competence in implementing the model with high-risk clients in both individual and group settings.

Recent Professional Experience

- 2012-19 Hahnemann University Hospital Philadelphia, PA
Emergency Room Social Worker (part-time) / Trauma, Maternal-Infant, ICU (per-diem)
- Collaborate with patients, family members, and interdisciplinary medical teams to develop and facilitate safe, medically/psychosocially appropriate discharge plans patients, including many patients with complex medical, mental health, and social needs.
 - Provide assessment and brief intervention for patients' psychosocial needs, including basic physical needs (shelter, access to medication), as well as referrals for community resources (mental health services, substance use treatment, support related to specific communities and/or diagnoses).
 - Provide crisis intervention for patients and/or family members in the context of trauma response, medical crises, death, etc.
 - Coordinate hospital's participation in TeleTriage Pilot Program in partnership with Philadelphia Health Management Corporation (PHMC) to increase healthcare access and reduce health disparities for patients who are high utilizers of the ER and experience barriers to primary care.
 - Complete comprehensive and timely documentation of social work assessment and intervention, details related to discharge planning, and recommendations.
 - Supervise MSW Interns.
 - Assist patients in navigating complex medical care systems within the Affordable Care Act healthcare environment.