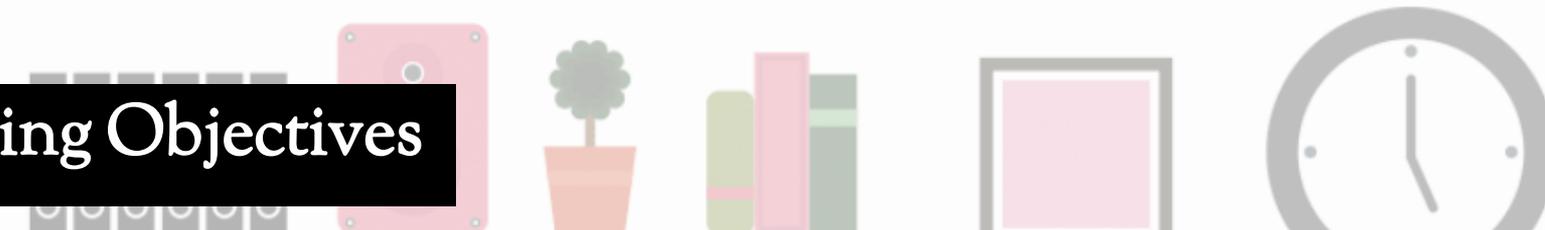

Demystifying the
Research Process:
Collaborating with
Universities



University of St. Francis
Stacy Dewald, Ph.D.
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Will County PSCs
Scott DuBois, Psy.D., CADC
Mitch Crandall, MPA
Jaclyn Hilderbrand Sopic, JD

Learning Objectives



1. Describe the research process including ethics and the Institutional Review Board (IRB) process.
 2. Identify possible research questions and methodologies for your PSC.
 3. Explain strategies for developing a relationship with a university and how this can benefit a PSC.
- 



The Research Process

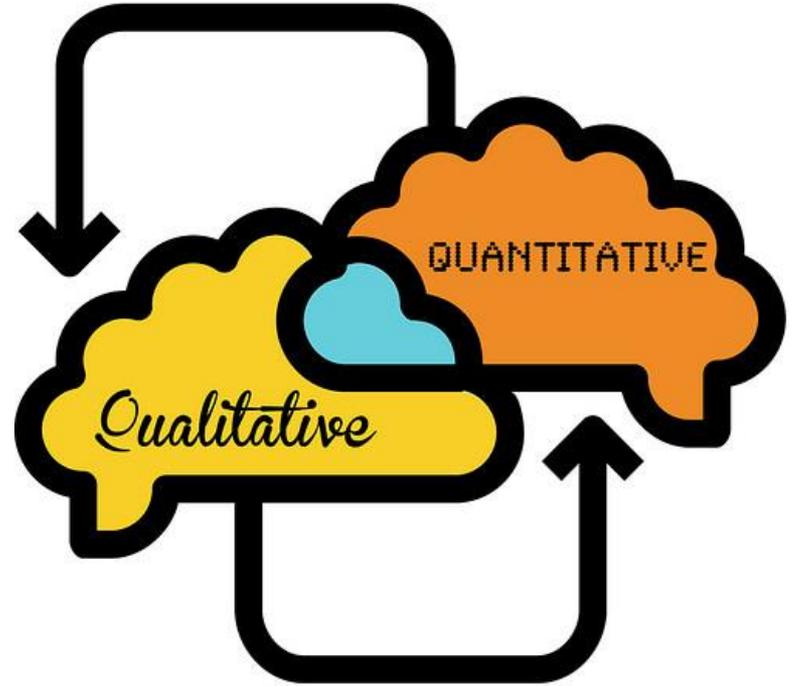
Purposes | Ethics | IRB

Purposes of Research

	Purpose	Example
Exploratory	Explore a topic when the subject of the study is new or understudied	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• How COVID affects court procedures.• How Virtual Justice affects success of PSCs.
Descriptive	Describe phenomena	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Number of times the judge verbally praises participants.
Explanatory	Explain phenomena	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Why</i> someone is unsuccessful in your PSC.
Evaluative	Evaluate social policies, programs and interventions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Conduct PSC participant and alumni surveys, along with participant chart/file review to evaluate program impact.

Qualitative vs. Quantitative Research

- **Quantitative research** focuses on producing precise and generalizable statistical findings.
- **Qualitative research** seeks to understand human experiences at a deeper level and generates observations not easily reduced to numbers.



Three Basic Ethical Principles of Human Subject Research

Respect for Persons

Don't use people as a means to an end

Allow people to choose to participate

Obtain informed consent

Beneficence

Minimize harm and maximize benefits

Use best possible research design

Justice

Design research so its burdens & benefits are shared equitably

Avoid exploiting vulnerable populations or those of convenience



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What is an Institutional Review Board (IRB)?

An administrative body established to **protect the rights and welfare of human research participants** recruited to participate in research activities conducted **under the auspices of the institution** with which it's affiliated.

(U.S. DHHS, 2021)



IRB Review Criteria

Risks to participants are minimized and reasonable in relation to anticipated benefits:

- Risks to participants and others (relatives, friends, etc.) are clearly and accurately identified and considered.
- Risks are minimized through sound research design.
- Research personnel are qualified.
- Anticipated benefits to participants and importance of knowledge to be gained are clearly and accurately identified.

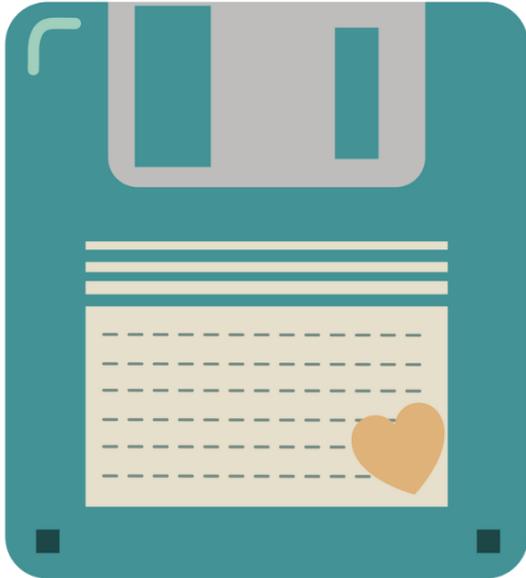


IRB Review Criteria

Selection of participants is equitable; justification for exclusion of any group from the study is provided.

- Minority/ethnic representation is appropriate.
- Gender representation is appropriate.
- Recruitment methods & advertising materials are non-coercive & appropriate.
- Additional protections vulnerable populations are in place for:
 - Children
 - Pregnant women, fetuses, neonates, & fetal material
 - Prisoners

IRB Review Criteria



Adequate provisions to protect the privacy of participants & to maintain the confidentiality of data.

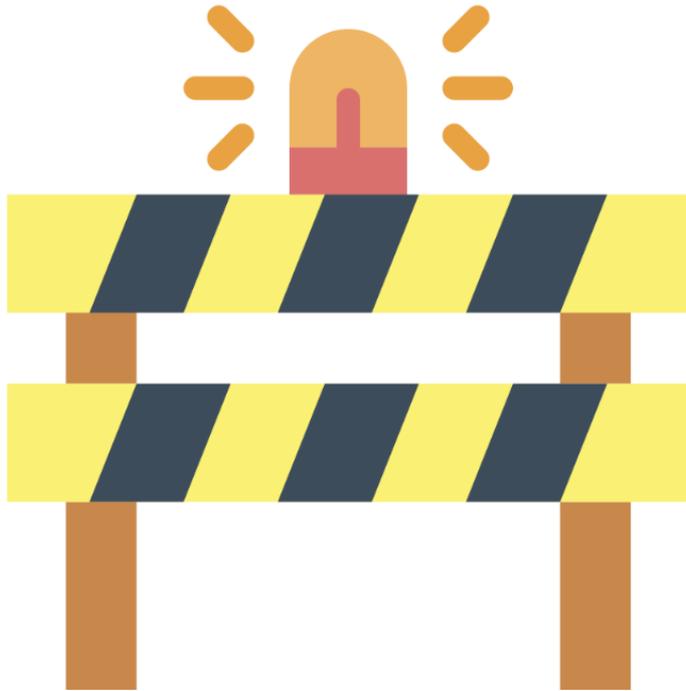
- Methods for obtaining, recording, and coding of data and/or samples are adequately described and provide a satisfactory plan.
- Plan for storage of data and/or samples is described and is satisfactory.
- Specific procedures for sharing of data and/or samples are described and it is a satisfactory plan for maintaining confidentiality.

Helpful Hints for Navigating IRBs

- Your organization will likely need to provide a letter of support.
- Informed consent procedures.
- Some research sites may require a contract or memorandum of understanding.
- Reinforce to PSC participants that their participation in any studies is voluntary and does not impact their case.

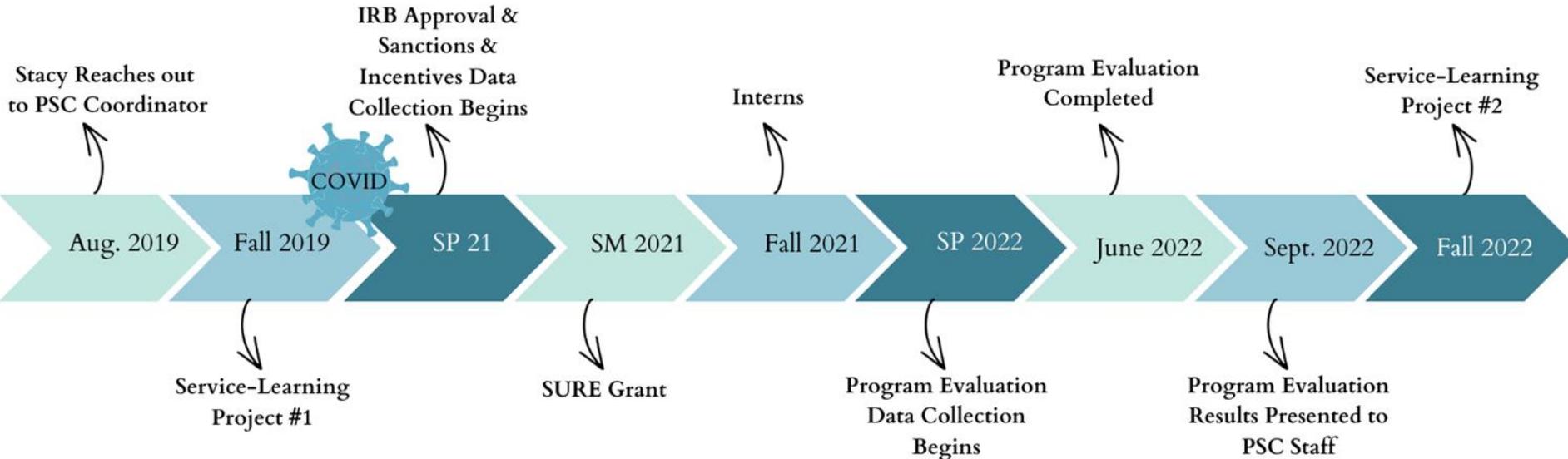


Our Obstacles with IRB



- **Presently cannot interview incarcerated individuals**
 - Lack of appropriate individual on our university's IRB committee.
- **COVID**
 - Had to revise the IRB application to explore the impact of the pandemic on the PSCs.
 - Needed to conduct interviews via Zoom.

Our Collaboration Research Process Timeline

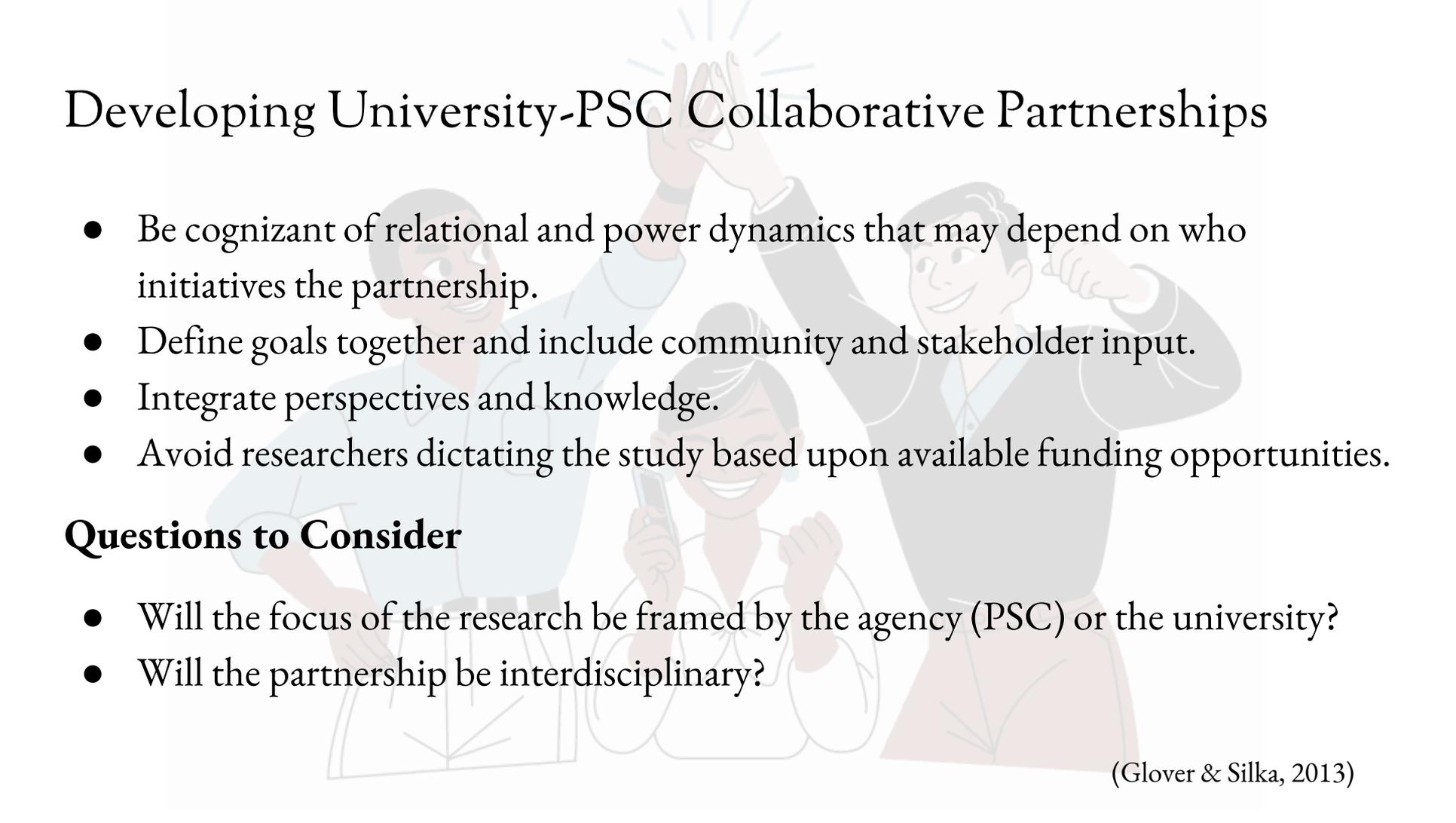




Strategies for Developing & Maintaining a University-PSC Partnership



Developing University-PSC Collaborative Partnerships



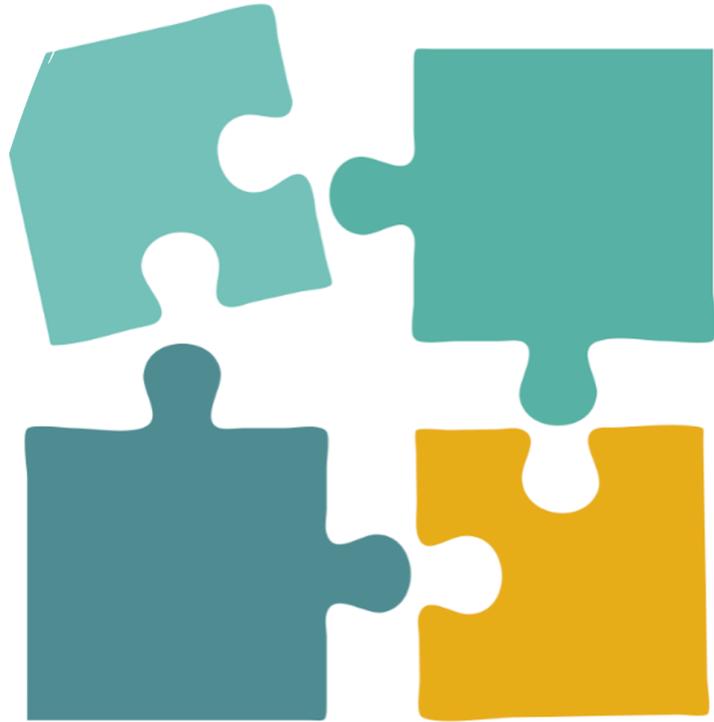
- Be cognizant of relational and power dynamics that may depend on who initiates the partnership.
- Define goals together and include community and stakeholder input.
- Integrate perspectives and knowledge.
- Avoid researchers dictating the study based upon available funding opportunities.

Questions to Consider

- Will the focus of the research be framed by the agency (PSC) or the university?
- Will the partnership be interdisciplinary?

Developing and Maintaining Collaborations

- Recognize that each partner has specific needs, resources, challenges, and expectations.
- Trust and communication.
- Commitment and leadership.
- Realistic timeframes.



(Clodfelter et al., 2014; Price et al., 2013)

Strategies for Forming a University-PSC Partnership



Contact your Local Universities

- Consider Criminal Justice, Social Work, Psychology, and/or Sociology Departments.
- Staff working with the University should have some knowledge of research.

Foster Staff Buy-In

- Researchers attended staff meetings.
- PSC Coordinator sent emails to staff.

Partnership Process Guidelines for Thriving & Minimizing Hurdles

Communication About:	Examples
Mission	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Form and build a relationship that is focused on supporting each other's missions and identifying a common goal from the partnership.● Discuss ways that differences in mission may be complementary and/or conflicted.
Research Ethics & Participant Perspectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Acknowledge the agency's central commitment to protect clients and staff.● Integrate trainings for agency staff around research ethics and human subjects protections as a pre-research activity and on an ongoing basis.● Involve all partners in responding to concerns of the IRB and advocate for solutions that maximize protection for all participants.
Roles & Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Ask: What does each partner bring? What does each partner want? What does each partner need?● What resources are still needed to accomplish goals of the partnership. Focus on how to go about getting that together and who will take on what roles.
Timelines & Priorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Articulate desirable, as well as acceptable, time-frame parameters.● Keep timelines and priorities as an ongoing conversation, but one grounded in the other areas of mission, ethics, and roles/resources.

(Price et al., 2013, p. 47)

Benefits of a
University-PSC
Partnership

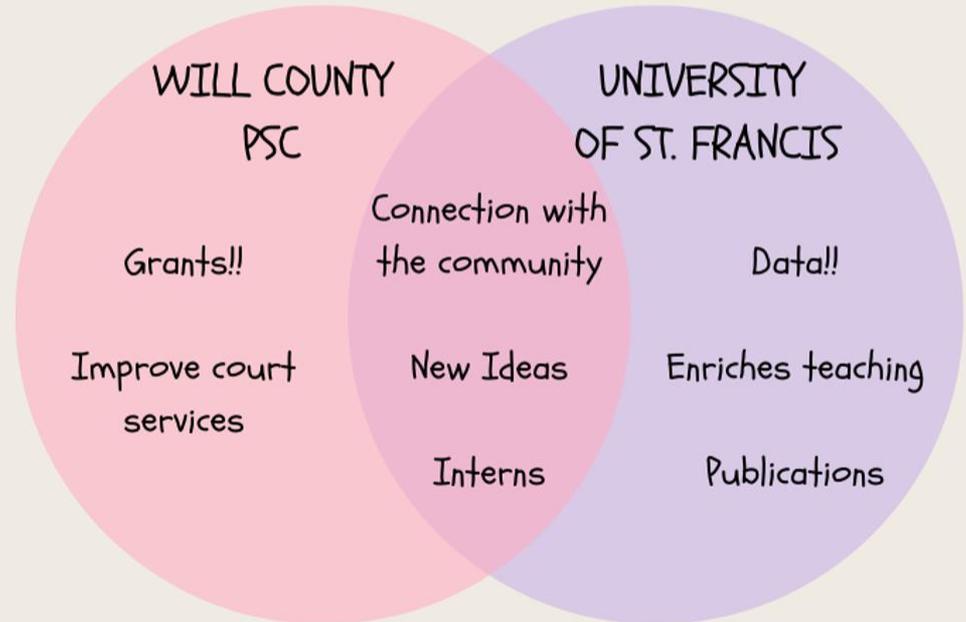
Find a group of people who challenge and inspire you, spend a lot of time with them, and it will change your life.

– Amy Poehler

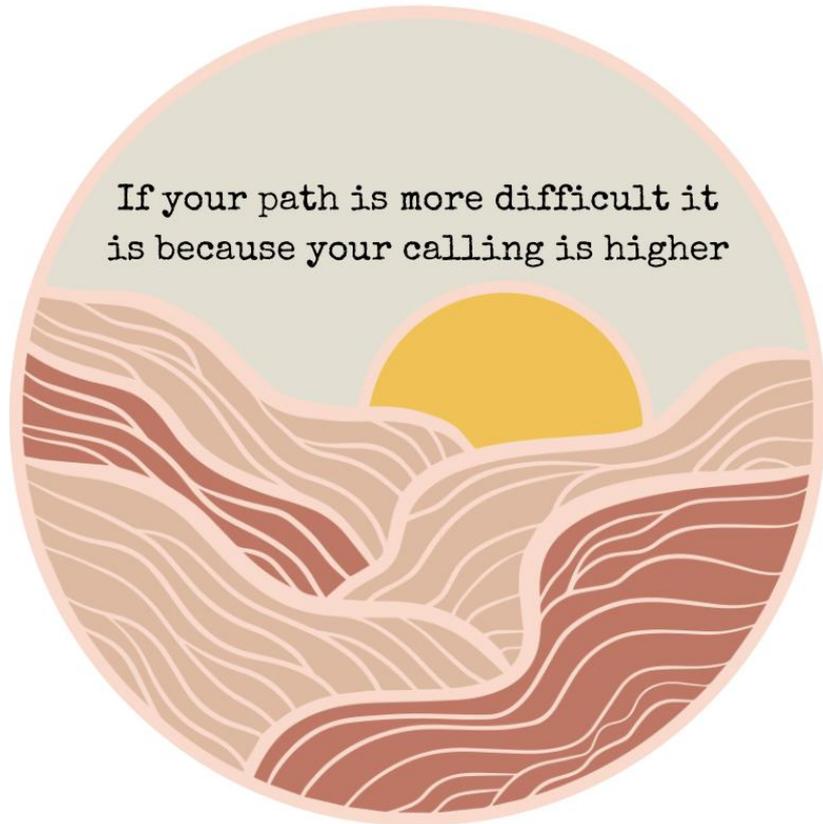
Mutually Beneficial

“The appeal of creating thriving university-community partnerships is the anticipated mutual benefits to faculty, students, and community agencies through service-learning, infrastructure and capacity building, translating practice to research, and likewise real-world practice-informing research choices” (Price et al., 2013, p. 46).

BENEFITS



Research on Benefits of Collaboration



Benefits

- Generate quality policy-relevant research (Bales et al., 2014).
- Improve services to the community (Clodfelter et al., 2014).
- Provide students with real-world experience.

Obstacles

- Access to data (Bales et al., 2014).
- Conflicting research goals (Clodfelter et al., 2014).
- Limited time and resources (Bales et al., 2014).

Benefits from a Criminal Justice Professor's Perspective

Service-Learning Projects

- Self-care/family/after-care
- Reading project with incarcerated parents
 - *"This project marks a rare opportunity - an opportunity to rehumanize individuals in the court systems, be it problem-solving courts or otherwise. A reminder that despite the uniform of corrections and shackles, these are still people, with families they care about and people they love."*

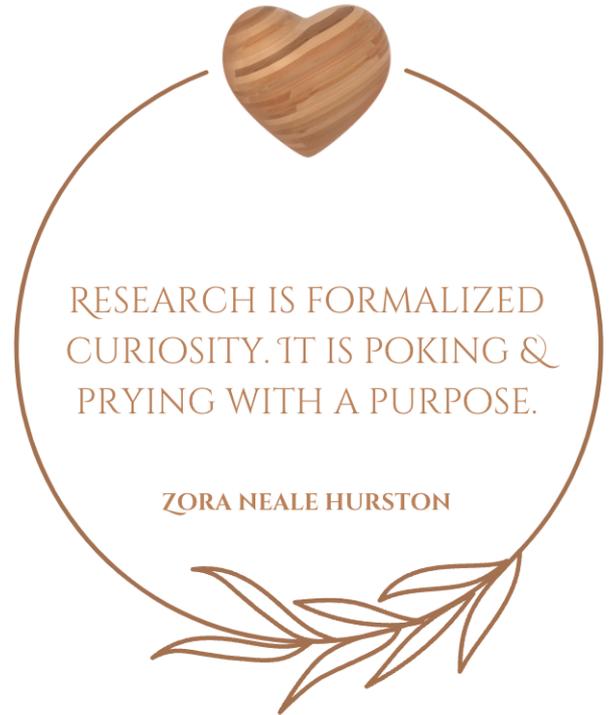
Guest Speakers

Enrich Lectures and Discussions



Benefits from a Social Work Professor's Perspective

- Enhances my teaching.
- Fosters a deeper connection with students who are within my classes and intern at the PSC and/or are graduate research assistants within our [Interdisciplinary Research on Justice Initiative](#) (IRJI).
- Maintains my connection to community services and practitioners.
- Provides meaning and purpose to my research.



Benefits from the Practitioner's Perspective

Scott DuBois, Psy.D., CADC

Mitch Crandall, MPA

Jaclyn Hilderbrand Sopcic, JD



Research Projects/Endeavors Resulting from our Partnership

1. National Science Foundation (NSF) grant proposal
2. Study on how incentives and sanctions shape participant behavior
3. Grant-funded PSC program evaluation
4. Collaborative conference presentation
5. Future possibilities: co-authored journal articles; evaluating Will County PSC housing; assessing equity and inclusion, etc.



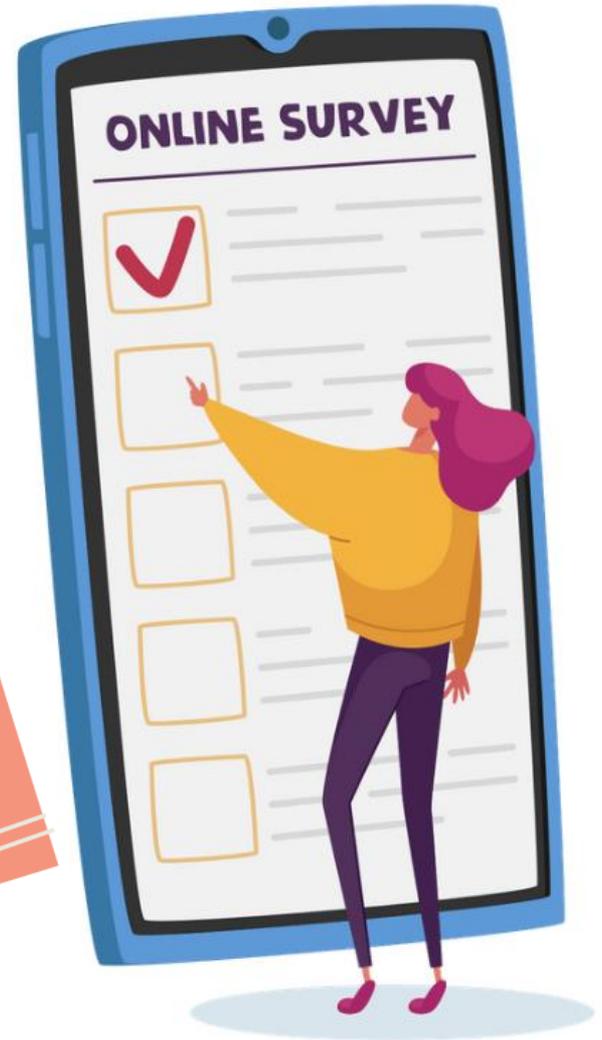
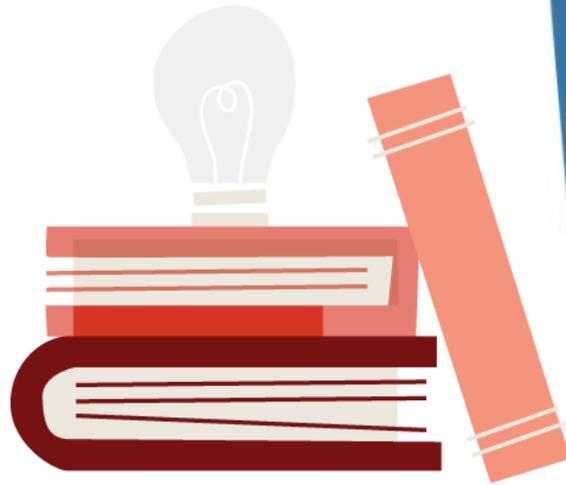
Research Project
Possibilities for
Your PSC

IF WE KNEW WHAT
WE WERE DOING IT
WOULD NOT BE
CALLED RESEARCH,
WOULD IT?

-Albert Einstein

Types of Data Collection Methods

- Surveys
- Interviews
- Focus Groups
- Chart Review
- Observation



Alumni Survey

The alumni survey consisted of questions related to:

- Program satisfaction
- Length of time from arrest to entering the PSC
- Areas for improvement
- Accomplishments post-graduation
- Types of treatment they continue to engage in post-graduation
- Level of connection to the PSCs post-graduation

PSC Alumni Respondent Demographics

Drug Court

n=4

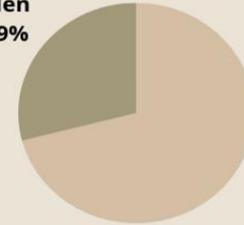
ARI

n=2

Mental Health Court

n=1

Men
29%



Gender

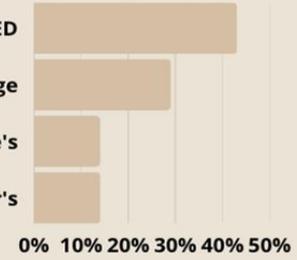
High School/GED

Some college

Associate's

Bachelor's

Women
71%



Education



6 Working Full Time

1 Working Part Time

Employment Status

In your opinion, what are you most proud of in your life today?

- The majority (86%) specifically pointed to their sobriety with other mentions of their career, family, and being an active member of their community.
- Nearly all respondents (86%) indicated they have continued with treatment since they graduated from the program with one respondent indicating they have become a CADC and help others deal with addiction.

Resources

- **Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority**
 - [Research Hub](#)
- **National Center for State Courts (NCSC)**
 - [Performance Measurement for PSCs](#)
 - [MHC Performance Measures](#)
- **National Drug Court Resource Center (NDCRC)**
 - [Program Evaluation Tools](#)
- **National Drug Court Institute**
 - [Equity & Inclusion Assessment Tool](#)



Equity & Inclusion Assessment Tool (EIAT)

- **An excel-based tool developed by Cheesman et al. (2019) for drug courts.**
- **Holds potential for all PSCs seeking to assess referral, acceptance, retention, and graduation rates by race, ethnicity, gender, and sexual orientation.**
- **Data entry steps:**
 - ***Step 1:*** Compile arrest data for your jurisdiction, or use the
 - ***Step 2:*** Enter Referral Cohort Data
 - ***Step 3:*** Determine Which Members of the Referral Cohort Were Admitted to Drug Court & Successfully Completed the Program
 - ***Step 4:*** Compare & Interpret the Demographic Characteristics of the Referral Cohort to the Demographics of Arrestees
 - ***Step 5:*** Compare the Admission and Successful Completion Probabilities by Demographic Characteristics

The background is a light gray color with a pattern of large, black, hand-drawn question marks and a single lightbulb. The question marks are scattered across the page, and the lightbulb is located in the lower-left quadrant. The text is centered in the upper half of the image.

What Would You Like to
Know About Your PSC?

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Mitch Crandall - mcrandall@willcountyillinois.com

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CONTACT US

The phrase "CONTACT US" is rendered in large, bold, 3D block letters. Each letter is a different color: 'C' is orange, 'O' is purple, 'N' is light blue, 'T' is dark purple, 'A' is orange, 'C' is purple, 'T' is purple, 'U' is pink, and 'S' is green. The letters are set against a white background and cast soft, blurred reflections on the surface below them.

References

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