

Strategies for Engaging in Community-Based Participatory Research with Community Partners, Universities, and Mental Health Practitioners from Justice-Involved Youth

Megan Irgens, PhD
Jeanne McPhee, PhD
Cynthia Valencia-Ayala, PhD
Johanna Folk, PhD

Level

Intermediate

Room

Track

Juvenile, Sex Offender, PALs

CE

CPA/BBS/CJER

Bio

Megan Irgens, PhD is a licensed psychologist, a part time research staff associate in the Juvenile Injustice Behavioral Health lab at UCSF, and a mental health clinical specialist for Contra Costa County's Mental Health and Probation Services. Her research and clinical interest are adapting and implementing evidenced based interventions for youth who are legally involved.

Jeanne McPhee, PhD is a licensed psychologist and a researcher in the Juvenile Injustice Behavioral Health lab at UCSF. She has a PhD in Clinical Psychology from Drexel University with a focus in forensic and child and adolescent psychology. Her research focuses on promoting positive outcomes for legally involved youth by adapting and implementing evidence-based treatment and policies for youth, their families and communities, and within the larger systems that they come into contact with, such as probation systems. Right now, the focus of her research is thinking through how best to adapt, implement, and evaluate trauma treatments specifically for youth within the juvenile legal system in various settings (like in juvenile detention). Her previous research was done at the systems-level to understand and integrate what legal system practitioners like probation officers and judges and legal teams think about policies and practices that specifically acknowledge and harness the strengths of adolescents, given where they are with brain and social development.

Cynthia Valencia-Ayala, PhD is a credentialed school psychologist and postdoctoral scholar in the Juvenile Injustice and Behavioral Health Lab at UCSF. Cynthia has direct experience providing assessment and therapeutic services to overly disciplined and racially minoritized youth in schools and in detention settings. Her current research focuses on understanding and disrupting the link between schools and prisons, including strategies to leverage higher education to reduce recidivism, and assessing the overrepresentation of special education students in the legal system. She specializes in qualitative research and utilizes qualitative methods to center youth experiences and perspectives in her work.

Johanna Folk, PhD is a licensed clinical psychologist, Assistant Professor, Associate Director of the Juvenile Injustice Behavioral Health Lab, and Director of Research, Evaluation, and Analysis at the University of California, San Francisco at Zuckerberg San Francisco General Hospital and Trauma Center. Johanna's research and clinical work focus on addressing the behavioral health needs of youth and families impacted by the legal system. She uses community engaged and longitudinal research methods to understand the effects of childhood adversity and legal system contact on adolescent trajectories. Her work also leverages technology to develop and test novel interventions designed to support families of systems-impacted adolescents.

Narrative

Scholars from the Juvenile (in)Justice Lab at the University of California San Francisco will present on the continuum of community engaged research and how mental health practitioners, probation, community agencies, universities, and other key system partners can collectively use research in the field of juvenile justice to better address mental health

concerns of this population. We will discuss real world examples of community engaged research from the Juvenile (in)Justice Lab and other scholars who have used Community-Based Participatory Research (CBPR) in the field of juvenile justice. In addition, attendees will get the opportunity to learn best practices of community engaged research and how to develop trusting and collaborative research partnerships between community members, mental health practitioners, and research universities.

Learning Objectives

1. Describe three principles of community engaged research, including community-based participatory research (CBPR), and understand examples of this work in the juvenile justice literature
2. Identify three key system partners in their local communities who may foster effective community engaged research partnerships
3. Apply criteria and best practices for selecting appropriate university partners for community research initiatives