Creating New Knowledge: Community-embedded research and collaboration in the ASU School of Social Work

Dr. Natasha Mendoza
Center for Applied Behavioral Health Policy

- The Center for Applied Behavioral Health Policy’s mission is to expand knowledge and improve quality of care.

Center Objectives
- Conduct research and evaluation that informs policy and improves behavioral health systems.
- Design, provide and support educational opportunities to meet the needs of the current and emerging behavioral health workforce.
- Develop community-driven solutions by intentionally cultivating partnerships that strengthen capacity.

Our Core Beliefs
- We believe that we have a moral and civic responsibility to make our world and our communities a better place.
- We believe, that as part of Arizona State University, we are uniquely situated to influence change and promote new approaches to the problems of society.
- We believe that use-inspired research can empower individuals, families, and communities to transform policies and programs promoting the behavioral health of all people.
- We believe that by fusing academic disciplines and being socially embedded, we enable the success of our students through service-focused learning opportunities that transcend disciplinary and geographic boundaries.
- We believe that individuals, families, and communities possess the innate capacity to heal themselves.
The Center for Human Capital and Youth Development (CHCYD) is a space in which faculty, students, community partners, youth and policymakers can work together on research, practice and policy initiatives for youth to enhance their educational, employment and leadership opportunities.

The goal of CHCYD is to understand the strengths youth possess and the challenges they face in accomplishing positive educational, employment and life outcomes. We work with community partners and youth to design, implement, evaluate and disseminate evidence-based and community-inspired strategies and solutions to the educational and employment challenges our youth face.

For more information, please contact Dr. Kristin Ferguson-Colvin at Kristin.Ferguson@asu.edu
Areas of Focus

- Research
  - Exiting tools for victims of human trafficking
  - Supportive therapeutic services for victims of human trafficking
  - Sex trafficker behaviors and movement
  - Sex buyers interdiction
  - Detecting victims in various settings

- Service
  - Phoenix Starfish Place (15 unit HUD housing for sex trafficked women and their children).
  - Phoenix 1st Step Pop Up Drop In Center (bi-annual, street focused)
  - Community collaborations for victims of human trafficking

- Training
  - 10,000 persons trained on human trafficking in past 4 years. (Awareness and clinical interventions)
Southwest Interdisciplinary Research Center

Dr. Sabrina Oesterle, Director

Research
Dr. Stephanie Ayers, Director
Specialized Center of Excellence on Minority Health and Health Disparities
Flavio Marsiglia, PhD, PI

Advances knowledge on how to prevent cardiometabolic disease and substance abuse disorders among the health disparities populations of the Southwest by integrating biological and sociocultural factors into efficacious, culturally grounded health interventions.

Office of Evaluation
Dr. Wendy Wolfersteig, Director

Partners with local, city, county, state and national non-profit, governmental agencies to perform evaluations that support effective research-based interventions aimed at preventing, reducing and eliminating health disparities.

Office of Refugee Health
Dr. Crista Johnson-Agbakwu, Director

Supports culturally grounded interventions in partnership with the growing refugee and immigrant communities and local health providers while working to reduce and eliminate health inequalities and cultural barriers.

MISSION
To prevent, reduce, and eliminate health disparities in partnership with communities of the Southwest