**“Chatham Cares 4 U (CC4U)” Program Description and Initial Findings**

**Brief Program Description**

* The CC4U was launched in July 2017 by Chatham Police Department in Chatham, NY (Chief Peter Volkmann), which is a rural small town
* The Chatham Police Department is a part-time police department (22 part-time officers)
* The program assistance is not limited to opioid users as long as there is no outstanding warrant
* Individuals can be referred to a substance use treatment facility (detoxification or inpatient treatment) that is certified by the New York State Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services (OASAS)
* A decision not to enter the treatment will not result in arrest (illicit drugs will be confiscated), thereby removes a factor of coercion from the program

**Modifications Needed to Implement the PAARI in Chatham, NY**

* In NY, substance use treatment centers can deny service because of insurance (lack of or inadequate coverage). It is therefore critical to:
  + Obtain insurance (i.e., Medicaid) for the uninsured; and
  + Make sure that the client’s insurance plan covers the treatment
* There are no specialty substance use treatment clinics in Columbia County. Providing transportation for those who are in need has also been crucial to make sure the client actually enters the treatment.

**What do we know so far about how the CC4U is doing** (selected highlights from the available data)**?**

*The data so far shows that the program is successful in linking substance users to the needed care immediately*

* Between July 2016 and mid-October 2017, **142 walk-ins** (**132** **individual participants**) came to the police station and completed the intake interview (an average of 10 individuals per month)
* **116 walk-ins (81.7%)** entered into a treatment facility (confirmed cases)
* The average time between the intake assessment and placement to treatment is **0.77±1.81 days**
  + **69.4%** entered into treatment on the same day.
* **83.5%** reported use of opioid (heroin or prescription)
* **7.3%** were uninsured, **54.8%** on Medicaid, and **19.3%** on private insurance plans
* **54.7%** reported being denied treatment in the past
* **61.5%** reported no past drug-related arrest history
* **69.4%** transported by police officers (49.5 ± 19.0 miles, range = 31.9-123.0 miles)
* **58.8%** from Columbia county and **32.5%** from neighboring counties (Albany, Rensselaer, Duchess, and Greene)
* Utilization by the populations that traditionally do not seek treatment
  + **32.3%** are < 25 years old (vs. 18.3% in NYS); **38.2%** are 25-35 years old (vs. 29.9% in NYS)
  + **37.8%** women (vs. 27.8% in NYS)

**What University at Albany Research Team is interested in investigating?**

1. To evaluate the life outcomes of the CC4U participants, including the domains beyond substance use behaviors and future offending (e.g., employment/housing, physical and psychological health), with a particular interest for the life trajectories of those without any previous arrest history
2. To understand contextual factors (both barriers and facilitators) that are key to successfully implement this type of police-diversion program (both initial implementation and sustainability)
3. Is the program cost-effective relative to traditional criminal justice system approach and use of social services (e.g., shelter for homeless individuals)?

**Contact Information:**

Tomoko Udo, PhD

Assistant Professor

School of Public Health, University at Albany

Email: [tschaller@albany.edu](mailto:tschaller@albany.edu) (best)

Phone: 518-473-5861