

Social Work Practice With Populations at Risk

Fifth National Symposium
on Doctoral Research and
Social Work Practice



College of Social Work

November 8 and 9, 1989

FIFTH NATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON DOCTORAL RESEARCH
AND SOCIAL WORK PRACTICE

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<u>Contents</u>	<u>Page</u>
Forward	iii
Richard E. Boettcher, Ph.D.	
 <u>Keynote Speaker</u>	
June Hopps, Ph.D.	1
Research and Practice: Searching for a Partnership	
 <u>Doctoral Research Presentations</u>	
Marcia Cohen, Ph.D.	15
An Empowerment Oriented Framework for Practice with Homeless Mentally Ill Clients	
Syretha Cooper, Ph.D.	31
Impact Comparisons of Job Assistance Programs for Dislocated Workers	
Colette Didier, Ph.D.	45
Latchkey Children: At Risk in Urban Neighborhoods?	
Donna Hardina, Ph.D.	61
Consumer Control in Organizations Serving Three Low Income Communities	
Sue Howard, Ph.D.	77
Anti-Poverty Impact of Home Equity Conversion: Plans for Local Elderly	
Elizabeth Kaufman, Ph.D.	93
Successful Relocation	
Evelyn Mahairas, Ph.D.	101
Resolving Chronic Care Needs Under Acute Care Model: Implications in Discharge Planning for Long Term Care	
Mary Ruffolo, Ph.D.	117
Social Supports and Women with Fulltime Work and Parenting Roles: Implications for Practice	
George Savares, Ph.D.	129
A Family-Based Behavioral Approach to Treatment of the Elderly	
Cudore Snell, DSW	143
Help-Seeking Behavior Among Young Street Males: A Challenge to Social Work Practice	

	<u>Page</u>
William Sullivan, Ph.D. Improving the Lives of the Mentally Ill through Technical Assistance Consultation	165
Shirley Thrasher, DSW Social Work Practice with West Indian Families	181
John Turner, Ph.D. Predictors of Recidivism in Foster Care: Implications for Practice	197
Shafer Zysman, DSW Computer-Based Technology and Practice: A Review of How Information and Communication Technology Can Be Used in Working with Alcoholics/Substance Abusers and Other High Risk Clients	213

FORWARD

The Ohio State University College of Social Work National Symposium on Doctoral Research and Social Work Practice is intended to provide a mechanism for improving linkages between doctoral scholarship and the practice of social work. The symposium papers serve to recognize the contributions of recent graduates of social work doctoral programs by featuring those research efforts which offer potential for making a significant contribution to the development of new knowledge for the practice of social work. The format of the symposium is designed to provide practitioners with active roles in the discussion of dissertation research presented by recent Ph.D. graduates from around the country. Through extensive panel and floor discussions, the practice implications and applications of research findings are elucidated and new questions for further research are generated. Through exchanges of this kind, the symposium organizers hope to encourage a better appreciation and utilization of research on the part of practitioners and, similarly, to encourage an appreciation, on the part of researchers, of the nature of significant crucial researchable questions pertaining to social work practice.

The papers from our fifth symposium represent the college's continuing dissemination of recent dissertation research findings to the social work community. Through this dissemination, we encourage the wider utilization of research in practice. The Fifth National Symposium on Doctoral Research and Social Work Practice took place on November 8 and 9, 1989, on the campus of The Ohio State University. The symposium theme was on Social Work Practice with Populations at Risk. The keynote address, entitled "Research and Practice: Searching for a Partnership," was delivered by Dr. June Hopps, Dean of the Boston College Graduate School of Social Work. A total of 19 papers on research on populations at risk--ranging from the severely mentally disabled to homeless families to substance abusers--were presented. The presentors represented 19 different social work doctoral programs from all sections of the country, and in many instances our conference was enriched by the presence of the principal advisers to these dissertations. Our conference was additionally enriched by the closing address of Dr. Carol Austin, Director of the Ohio Department of Aging and on leave as Associate Professor of Social Work at Ohio State. We are grateful for the insights and information shared with us by all who presented at our symposium.

The symposium was an exciting and memorable intellectual event, and we hope that readers of the papers presented in the volume will find the ideas both stimulating and enlightening. My sincere thanks and appreciation to the Symposium Planning Committee for all their hard work and dedication.

Richard E. Boettcher, Dean
College of Social Work
The Ohio State University
March, 1990

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