

JENNIFER L. K. OBINNA, Ph.D.

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Gender: Female * Race: African-American

EDUCATION

- Fall 2001 **PH.D. IN SOCIAL WELFARE**, University of Wisconsin, School of Social Work, Madison, Wisconsin; Dissertation Title: *Assessing the Mental Health Outcomes of Adult Rape Victims Receiving Crisis Intervention Services.*
- Fall 1995 **MASTER OF SCIENCE IN SOCIAL WORK**, University of Wisconsin - Madison, Wisconsin
- Spring 1992 **BACHELOR OF ARTS IN SOCIAL WORK**, minor in Sociology, Marquette University, Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

RESEARCH EXPERTISE AND INTERESTS

- Violence against women, primarily sexual victimization and violence in the lives of deaf women and women of color
- Adolescent development, juvenile justice
- Program evaluation, organizational development
- Assessing the effectiveness of mental health and other intervention programs in community contexts

RESEARCH/EVALUATION EXPERIENCE

2005-Present **CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER: World Bridge Research, LLC, Twin Cities, Minnesota –** World Bridge Research (WBR) is a for-profit, woman-owned, minority-owned business that began in 2005. WBR started through a combined effort of bringing culturally competent research approaches together with efforts to promote social justice. WBR represents a network of researchers and practitioners across the United States.

Research responsibilities include:

- Develop research projects addressing crime, violence and racial disparities.
- Engage in evaluation activities with community partners.
- Conduct trainings and workshops on participatory research and evaluation.

Administrative responsibilities include:

- Quality control and marketing
- Fund development
- Building research and practitioner networks

Project involvement includes:

Growing Together Project - Wisconsin Coalition Against Domestic Violence (WCADV)

In 2010, the Wisconsin Coalition Against Domestic Violence (WCADV) began the Growing Together Project as an effort to increase the capacity of Wisconsin domestic violence programs, particularly those serving under-represented or culturally-specific populations, to support non-abusing parents and mitigate the impact of exposure to domestic violence on their children. Dr. Obinna serves as the evaluation consultant on this project.

Empowerment Evaluation Project

Beginning in March 2006 the Wisconsin Coalition Against Domestic Violence (WCADV) with funding from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) under the Domestic Violence Prevention Enhancements and Leadership Through Alliances (DELTA) Program began an *Empowerment Evaluation Project* with Dr. Jennifer Obinna as the Empowerment Evaluator. The emphasis for this project is to determine how a public health approach to primary prevention of intimate partner violence can be applied to a social movement. The Wisconsin local DELTA sites involved are in Brown, Chippewa, Dane, Milwaukee and the Oneida Nation.

The Empowerment Evaluator the DELTA effort in evaluating the DELTA Program by: 1) building the evaluation capacity of state and local DELTA efforts; 2) based on the needs, assets, and challenges identified, assisting the state and local DELTA efforts develop Strategic Plans; and 3) leaving an infrastructure that supports continued evaluation by state and local program staff through training and other technical assistance for state and local audiences.

From 2007-2010 the New York State Coalition Against Domestic Violence (NYSCADV) also engaged Dr. Jennifer Obinna as the Empowerment Evaluator for their DELTA project. NYSCADV is working with three (3) programs that receive DELTA Project funding: Rockland Family Shelter, Inc. representing the STOP F.E.A.R. Coalition and Rockland County; A New Hope Center, Inc. representing the Community Response Network and Tioga County; and Catholic Charities of Saratoga, Warren and Washington Counties, representing the Domestic Violence Community Coordination Council (DVCCC) and Warren and Washington Counties.

In 2010 Dr. Obinna began working with the North Dakota Council on Abused Women's Services/Coalition Against Sexual Assault in North Dakota (NDCAWS/CASAND) as the Empowerment Evaluator for both their DELTA work as well as the Enhancing and Making Programs and Outcomes Work to End Rape (EMPOWER) Program. DELTA Funded Local Projects: Bismarck - Abused Adult Resource Center; Grand Forks - Community Violence Intervention Center; Fargo - Rape & Abuse Crisis Center; and Stanley - DV Program of Northwest ND. EMPOWER includes a focus on sexual violence prevention system capacity.

Technology of Participation (ToP: Mentor Trainer and Certified ToP Facilitator)

Dr. Obinna has been using ToP Facilitation Methods since 2003 and has seen how these approaches can transform communities and organizations. There are also many applications to the research and evaluation context that Dr. Obinna has been refining and is a "Mentor Trainer" and Certified ToPs Facilitator (CTF)

The Technology of Participation (ToP) opens lines of communication to foster creative thinking and consensus-based decision-making. ToP methods generate ownership, create clear goals and mobilize appropriate action resulting in lasting bottom line results. The unique features of ToP training include the speed and efficiency of these highly participatory methods and the depth of experience of the ToP trainers.

Family & Children's Service of Minnesota (FCSMN) Healing Generations Curriculum Evaluation

In 2008 FCSMN pilot tested an innovative group curriculum called "Healing Generations". "Healing Generations" is designed to engage African American men to support their healing from past experiences with violence. For the pilot there are two healing groups--one comprised of men in the African-American community and one of men of multi-ethnic backgrounds in the Minnesota Correctional

Facility-Stillwater. The evaluation results show that many group participants are on a pathway to healing. Dr. Obinna serves as the evaluation consultant on this project.

Wisconsin Department of Justice Office of Crime Victim Services (OCVS) Needs Assessment

From 2006-2008 Dr. Obinna led a team of researchers and practitioners assisting the Wisconsin Department of Justice, OCVS conduct a statewide needs assessment to document all crime related services across the State of Wisconsin. In addition documentation of crime victims' unmet needs and communities' priorities related to crime victim services was also a scope of this project.

2002-2005

VICE PRESIDENT OF PROJECTS AND RESEARCH: Council on Crime and Justice, Minneapolis, Minnesota - The Council on Crime and Justice is a private, non-profit agency that has been working in the criminal justice field for over 40 years. Its mission is to build community capacity to address the causes and consequences of crime and violence through research, demonstration and advocacy. The Council has an innovative vision that integrates cutting-edge approaches to direct services with evaluation and research.

Research responsibilities include:

- Develop research projects addressing crime, violence and racial disparities.
- Engage in evaluation activities with community partners.
- Evaluate the efficacy of in-house demonstration projects.

Administrative responsibilities include:

- Direct supervision of 7-10 managers; responsible for a staff of 30-40 researchers and practitioners
- Assist in organizational development activities.
- Integrate demonstration/direct service project work and research activities.
- Maintain communication systems.
- Facilitate policy development efforts.

Project involvement (selected):

School Success Court Intervention for Truancy (CIT) Project

This study tracked attendance improvement for 9th and 10th graders who are referred to the Hennepin County Attorney's Office for truancy in 10 select schools. In order to further understand the phenomenon of truancy with youth, focus groups are to be conducted. The goal of this project is to produce findings that will provide the foundation for a planning process that will allow for new strategies in responding to truant youth in Hennepin County.

Minneapolis Traffic Stops Audit and Anoka County Attorney's Office Plea Negotiations Audit

Dr. Obinna served as the Co-Principal Investigator, Consultant for the Council on Crime and Justice, part of a \$1.2 million dollar Congressional Appropriation administered by the U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance (September 2005-December 2005)

The Traffic Stops Audit is an institutional ethnography that explores how policies and practices of the Minneapolis Police Department contribute to or deter from racial disparities in traffic stops and searches. Methods include a comparative analysis of best practices in the policing field, using semi-structured interviews, direct observation and documents review.

The Plea Negotiations Audit is an institutional ethnography that explores how policies and practices of the Anoka County Attorney's Office contribute to or deter from racial disparities in plea negotiations. Methods include semi-structured interviews, direct observation and documents review.

Disproportionate Minority Contact – Juvenile Justice and Blended Sentencing

The Hennepin County Racial Disparities Committee, in partnership with the Council on Crime and Justice and with funding from Hennepin County Community Corrections via the State of Minnesota Office of Justice Programs, conducted a research project examining Extended Jurisdiction Juvenile (EJJ) and Adult Certification (AC) of juveniles in Hennepin County.

Dr. Obinna served as lead research on the study to investigate factors that may contribute to the large number of African-American youth represented in EJJ/adult certification within Hennepin County.

Research on Sexual Victimization Project (RSVP) in the Deaf Community

Dr. Obinna served as the Principle Investigator on a 2 year Federal Grant from the Department of Justice, National Institute on Justice, \$214,000.

This two-part study combines both an exploratory examination into the needs of the deaf and hard of hearing community in relation to sexual victimization and an institutional ethnographic investigation of Minneapolis Police department's response to deaf persons who seek criminal justice intervention. Part-one focuses on collecting primary data from the deaf persons, law enforcement, hospitals and other human service providers using semi-structured interview methods. Part-two is an institutional ethnography that will determine whether the policies and practices of the Minneapolis Police Department promote a response that is aligned with both deaf community needs and best practices in the policing field using semi-structured interviews, direct observation and documents review.

Victims' Experience Study

The Battered Women's Justice Project in partnership with the Council on Crime and Justice conducted interviews with domestic violence victims whose abusers were on intensive supervision in Hennepin County. Dr. Obinna led this study that involved "lived experience" interviews with African-American, Latina and White women.

Summer 2002

ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR: Rainbow Research, Inc, Minneapolis, Minnesota

Administrative responsibilities included:

- Provided internal coordination, development assistance and administrative leadership to research staff as agency's Associate Director.
- Coordinated inter-project project activities.
- Led agency's policy development efforts.
- Recruited, hired and supervised Research Assistants and Interns.
- Led and coordinating internal planning activities.

Research responsibilities included:

- Conducted evaluations and studies for socially concerned organizations as consultant and researcher.
- Generated research proposals.
- Developed qualitative and quantitative study and evaluation designs.
- Developed evaluation tools.
- Managed projects.

- Analyzed qualitative and quantitative data.
- Wrote reports.
- Networked with clients, funders, researchers and others in relevant fields.

2001-2002

RESEARCH ASSOCIATE: Rainbow Research, Inc, Minneapolis, Minnesota

- Conducted evaluations and studies for socially concerned organizations.

Project involvement included:

- **Project Manager** – Evaluated a diversity training curriculum for the American Cancer Society National Home Office (Atlanta, GA)
- **Project Manager** - Evaluated the effectiveness of 2 empirically-based youth tobacco cessation programs for the Public Health Department of Dakota County (South St. Paul, MN)
- **Team Member** – Evaluated technical assistance efforts by a childcare development agency to understand if efforts to support child care administrators in stabilization and expansion of childcare agencies is having a positive effect (Minneapolis, MN).
- **Team Member** - Developed an evaluation design for the Faith-Based Civic Engagement portfolio for the James Irvine Foundation (San Francisco, CA)
- **Team Member** - Evaluated a transitional substance abuse treatment program for Recovery Resources, Inc. (Minneapolis, MN)

Managed the following completed Rainbow Research projects:*Violence Against Women: Focus Groups with Culturally Distinct and Underserved Communities and Violence Against Women Abuse Assessment Project: An Assessment of the Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services, with Jane Sadusky, 2002*

Conducted a needs assessment of underserved populations in Wisconsin and an institutional ethnography of the Department of Health and Family Services in relation to victim-centered approaches to grant-making, staff knowledge of abuse issues and effective collaborative efforts with other state agencies and community agencies

Evaluation of Twin Cities Public Television Youth Media Literacy Project, "Don't Believe the Hype, 2002

- Worked with staff to develop an outcome-base evaluation design and tools to measure changes in youth's media related knowledge, cultural awareness and media technical skills. Managed student interns in data collection.
- Prepared deliverables that included an various tracking tools and a final evaluation report.

American Cancer Society, National Home Office - Organizational Diversity Assessment, 2002

- Analyzed data from a small sample of employees who completed the Organizational Diversity Inventory (ODI) to determine areas for staff development efforts.

Evaluation of the Dakota County Tobacco Prevention Initiative, 2001

- Worked with the Dakota County Public Health Department in a study to learn about youths' participation in the Dakota County Tobacco Prevention Initiative. Rainbow Research conducted telephone interviews with youth leaders in the initiative. Findings suggest that the more youth leaders are involved, the more they self-report gaining knowledge and learning new skills.
- Managed student interns in data collection.
- Prepared deliverables that included an interview guide and a final evaluation report.

Evaluation of St. David's Child Development and Family Services (St. David's) Steps Toward Effective Enjoyable Parenting (STEEP) program, Mentorship Component 2001

- Worked with St. David's to evaluate the mentorship component of the STEEP program, a program that helps to prevent social and emotional problems among children born to first-time parents who may be challenged by risk factors such as poverty, youth, lack of education, social isolation and stressful life circumstances. Rainbow conducted in-depth, one-on-one interviews with 9 mentors.
- Supervised student interns in data collection.
- Prepared deliverables that included an interview guide, a final evaluation report and an evaluation tool for continued inquiry by the program staff.

1998-2000

INDEPENDENT CONSULTANT, Madison, Wisconsin – Consulting clients included:

- Institute for Law in Justice, Alexandria, Virginia - Summer 2000
- Wisconsin Coalition Against Domestic Violence (WCADV), Madison, Wisconsin - Spring 1999-Fall 2000
- FAST (Families and Schools Together) National Training and Evaluation Center in Madison, Wisconsin - Summer 1998-Fall 2000
- Wisconsin Association of Family and Children's Agencies (WAFCA), Madison, Wisconsin – Fall 1999
- Domestic Abuse Intervention Services (DAIS), Madison, Wisconsin – Summer 1998

PROGRAM EVALUATOR: Independent Consultant, Madison, Wisconsin

Worked with the Institute for Law in Justice in Alexandria, Virginia to implement the Dane County, Wisconsin evaluation of the national evaluation assessing the outcomes from the National Institute of Justice's Violence Against Women "Grants to Encourage Arrest" program.

- Managed the quantitative data collection.
- Supervised research assistants.
- Prepared a final Dane County report documenting trends in prosecution activity.

PROGRAM EVALUATOR: Independent Consultant, Madison, Wisconsin

Worked with the Wisconsin Coalition Against Domestic Violence (WCADV) Rural Technical Assistance Program to assess organizational change in rural domestic violence shelters.

PROGRAM EVALUATOR: Independent Consultant, Madison, Wisconsin

Worked with the FAST (Families and Schools Together) National Training and Evaluation Center in Madison, Wisconsin, an organization, which promotes the dissemination of a multi-family group program, designed to enhance children's psychosocial functioning.

- Analyzed outcome evaluation data.
- Prepared evaluation tools for evaluation sites to administer.
- Trained and managed research staff.
- Generated outcome evaluation reports for sites that implement the FAST program.

PROGRAM EVALUATOR: Independent Consultant, Madison, Wisconsin

Worked with the Wisconsin Association of Family and Children's Agencies (WAFCA) to identify tools for outcome evaluations in member agencies

- Specialized in tools to evaluate Alternatives to Aggression Programs for youth.

EVALUATOR: Independent Consultant, Madison, Wisconsin

Conducted an evaluation of organizational structure for Domestic Abuse Intervention Services (DAIS), a Madison-based battered women's shelter

- Used participatory research methods to determine relevant evaluation outcomes.
- Employed various qualitative methods to collect data including structured interviews and focus groups with various stakeholders and analysis of agency documents.
- Provided educational sessions with agency participants regarding types of organizational structures.
- Prepared a final report with an analysis of data, various findings and options for organizational restructuring.

SOCIAL POLICY EXPERIENCE

- 1996-1998 **POLITICAL ACTION CANDIDATE ENDORSEMENT (PACE) COMMITTEE CO-CHAIR: National Association of Social Workers, Wisconsin Chapter, Madison, Wisconsin**
- Coordinated the Chapter's efforts in endorsing and supporting candidates running for political office at the state and local levels
- 1996-1999 **LEGISLATIVE/SOCIAL POLICY COMMITTEE CHAIR: National Association of Social Workers, Wisconsin Chapter, Madison, Wisconsin**
- Facilitated the development of tools to process legislative information
 - Worked to inform and mobilize the Chapter membership on priority issues.
 - Expanded the Chapter's involvement in political activities.
- 1992-1995 **POLICY DEVELOPMENT SPECIALIST: Wisconsin Coalition Against Sexual Assault, Madison, Wisconsin**
- Monitored legislation at state and national levels.
 - Coordinated legislative initiatives regarding sexual assault.
 - Reported the social impact of sexual assault policies to membership and policy-makers.
 - Mobilized grassroots activist efforts.
 - Secured state funding for direct service programs.
 - Developed media releases and editorials.
 - Conducted statewide training and national workshops on legislative advocacy.
- 1991-1992 **SOCIAL WORK INTERN: Congressman Jim Moody's Office, Milwaukee, Wisconsin**
- Managed a caseload of constituents who were exhibiting difficulty negotiating with federal agencies.
 - Advocated on behalf of clients in the development and reform of federal legislation, primarily health care reform.

COUNSELING EXPERIENCE

- Summer 1997 **CRISIS-LINE COUNSELOR: Dane County Rape Crisis Center, Madison, Wisconsin**
- Provided telephone support to sexual assault victims/survivors and families using short-term crisis intervention counseling methods with an empowerment approach.
 - Accompanied victims to the emergency room for rape exams and police interviews.
- Summer 1996 **CRISIS-LINE COUNSELOR: Dane County Rape Crisis Center, Madison, Wisconsin**
- Provided telephone support to sexual assault victims/survivors and families using short-term crisis intervention counseling methods with an empowerment approach
 - Accompanied victims to the emergency room for rape exams and police interviews.

- 1993 - 1996 **ON-CALL ADVOCATE: Dane County Rape Crisis Center, Madison, Wisconsin**
- Accompanied sexual assault victims to the emergency room and police station for rape exams, evidence collection and police interviews.
 - Counseled victims/survivors and families experiencing the trauma of sexual violence.
 - Provided supervision and training to the volunteer crisis-line counselors.

UNIVERSITY INSTRUCTIONAL EXPERIENCE

- Fall 2004 - 2006 **FIELD INSTRUCTOR, MASTERS PROGRAM: Social Work 8102 – Community Practice, University of Minnesota, St. Paul Campus**
- Spring 2003 - 2005 **LECTURER, MASTERS PROGRAM: Social Work 8106 – Social Work Research Methods, University of Minnesota, St. Paul Campus**
- 1995-2000 **GRADER: Social Work 605 - The Field of Social Work, University of Wisconsin-Madison, School of Social Work**

RESEARCH/ACADEMIC AWARDS

- 1998 - 2001 **MINORITY MENTAL HEALTH RESEARCH FELLOW**, Council on Social Work Education & National Institute of Mental Health
- 1995 - 2000 **ADVANCED OPPORTUNITY FELLOW**, University of Wisconsin-Madison
- 1995 - 1999 **VILAS FELLOWSHIP AWARD RECIPIENT**, University of Wisconsin-Madison

OTHER EXPERIENCE

- 2000-2001 **BOARD MEMBER: Dane County Rape Crisis Center, Madison, Wisconsin**
- 1999-2000 **ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBER: GroundWork, Inc., Madison, Wisconsin**
 Provided organizational and evaluation consulting to the GroundWork, an agency which uses an urban farm to provide employment training, life skills development and career development services to low-income women in Dane County.
- 1994-1999 **COORDINATED COMMUNITY RESPONSE FOR SEXUAL ASSAULT COORDINATOR: Dane County Commission on Sensitive Crimes, Madison, Wisconsin**
 Coordinated the activities of an interdisciplinary body that works to develop community standards in responding to sexual assault victims.
- Summer 1999 **ORGANIZATIONAL CONSULTANT: FAST, Madison, Wisconsin**
 Worked with the FAST (Families and Schools Together) National Training and Evaluation Center, an organization which promotes the dissemination of a multi-family group designed to enhance children's psychosocial functioning, to develop an organizational structure and long-range plan.
- 1995 - 1997 **CONSULTANT - WISCONSIN COALITION AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, MADISON, WISCONSIN**
 Coordinated and staffed meetings and activities conducted by Battered/Formerly Battered

Women's Committee, an entity that recommends measures to improve the lives of battered and formerly battered women in Wisconsin. Also, developed a comprehensive training curriculum used in the 1996 Violence Against Women Act Statewide Law Enforcement Training of Trainers for the State of Wisconsin.

1995 - 1997 **BOARD MEMBER, National Association of Social Workers, Wisconsin Chapter, Madison, Wisconsin**

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- Institute for Cultural Affairs
- American Evaluation Association
- Society for Social Work Research

PUBLICATIONS

Kervin, D. and Obinna, J. (2010) 'Youth Action Strategies in the Primary Prevention of Teen Dating Violence', *Journal of Family Social Work*, 13: 4, 362-374

TECHNICAL REPORTS

Obinna, J., S. Krueger, C. Osterbaan, J.M. Sadusky, and W. DeVore, (2006). *Understanding the Needs of the Victims of Sexual Assault in the Deaf Community*, final report submitted to the National Institute of Justice, Washington, DC: (NCJ 212867), available at www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/grants/212867.pdf.

Obinna, J. (2005) *Understanding Sexual Violence in the Deaf Community: A Preliminary Report on Community Members Perspectives*. Council on Crime and Justice, Minneapolis, MN: available at <http://www.worldbridgeresearch.com/files/RSVP.Members.Final.pdf>

Obinna, J. (2005) *Understanding Sexual Violence in the Deaf Community: A Preliminary Report on the Service Provider Perspective*, Council on Crime and Justice, Minneapolis, MN: available at http://www.worldbridgeresearch.com/files/RSVP.Service_Providers.Final.pdf

Obinna, J. (2005) *Participatory Approaches to Research: Understanding Sexual Violence in the Deaf Community*, Council on Crime and Justice, Minneapolis, MN: available at <http://www.worldbridgeresearch.com/files/RSVP.PAR.Final.pdf>

Sadusky, J. and Obinna, J. (2002). *Violence Against Women: Focus Groups with Culturally Distinct & Underserved Communities*. Rainbow Research, Minneapolis, MN: available at <http://www.rainbowresearch.org/vertical/Sites/%7B06FC814B-ACB5-4A63-8976-E19EAD460C12%7D/uploads/%7BAF5DCB06-6ADB-4844-93DA-153D96E4AF06%7D.PDF>

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS

Researching Sexual Violence in the Deaf Community

- National Center for Victims of Crime, Advancing Practice, Policy, and Research Conference, Washington DC: June 18, 2007
- National Institute of Justice, Research and Evaluation Conference, Washington, DC: July 17, 2006
- Dane County Rape Crisis Center, In-service, Madison, Wisconsin: June 13, 2005
- Wisconsin Coalition Against Sexual Assault Statewide Institute, Wisconsin Dells, Wisconsin: June 9, 2005

- Centers for Disease Control Sexual Violence Prevention Conference, Los Angeles, California: May 15, 2004
- National Institute of Justice, Research and Evaluation Conference, Washington, DC: July 20, 2004
- National Institute of Justice, Cluster Conference, Washington, DC: October 21, 2004