

JENNIFER L. K. OBINNA

5697 Green Circle Drive, #212
Minnetonka, Minnesota 55343
800-936-1370

jobinna@worldbridgeresearch.com

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:

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 Empowerment Evaluator assists WCADV and 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. The Wisconsin local DELTA sites involved are in Brown, Chippewa, Dane, Milwaukee and the Oneida Nation.
- The New York State Coalition Against Domestic Violence (NYSCADV) also engaged Dr. Jennifer Obinna as the Empowerment Evaluator for their DELTA project from 2007-2010. NYSCADV are working with three (3) highly qualified 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.

Institute of Cultural Affairs (ICA) Training Project

- Dr. Obinna has been using ICA Group 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 ICA is a worldwide organization with more than 35 years of experience fostering participation through facilitation. The ToP methodology is used in Fortune 500 companies, local communities, in education and government sectors throughout the world.
- The ICA's 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.

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 included:

School Success Court Intervention for Truancy (CIT) Project

- Consultant for the Council on Crime and Justice (September 2005-September 2006)
- This study tracks 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

- 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)
- This study is an institutional ethnography that will determine whether 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.

Anoka County Attorney's Office Plea Negotiations Audit

- 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)
- This study is an institutional ethnography that will determine whether 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.
- The purpose of the Hennepin County Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC) project is to investigate factors that may contribute to the large number of African-American youth represented in EJJ/adult certification within Hennepin County. To this end the research questions examined include:
- Are there significant and substantive differences between juveniles who are motioned for EJJ or AC and those who commit similar offenses and are not motioned for EJJ or AC?
- What, if any, factors influence the likelihood that a juvenile will be motioned for and/or adjudicated EJJ or AC?

- What opportunities exist within the criminal justice system to prevent juveniles from reaching this stage?

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

- 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 are conducting interviews with domestic violence victims whose abusers are on intensive supervision in Hennepin County.
- Interviews were qualitative using mostly open-ended questions regarding victims' experiences and employing lived experience methodology. Interviews were conducted with African-American, Latina and White women.

East Side Crime-Related Needs Assessment

- In 2002 an assessment of the crime-related needs of residents of the east side of Saint Paul was conducted.
- The crime-related needs of five target populations were explored: African Americans, American Indians, Asians, Latinos, and whites.
- Participants from each population agreed that a primary concern was keeping their youth from being the perpetrator or the victim of crime.

Eliminating Health Disparities Initiative

- In 2002 an HIV/AIDS/STD-related needs assessment for African American, male ex-offenders was conducted.
- As part of this assessment both focus groups and interviews with HIV/AIDS/STD-related service providers, HIV positive African American ex-offenders, and HIV negative African American ex-offenders were conducted.
- The results highlighted the need for HIV/AIDS/STD education in the prisons and for comprehensive case advocacy for recently released offenders.

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 **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.
 - 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

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 TRAINING 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

Developing a Coordinated Community Response to Violence

- Midwest Conference on Child Sexual Abuse and Incest, Madison, Wisconsin: Oct. 14, 1999
- Department of Justice Coordinated Community Response Conference, Eau Claire, Wisconsin: April 25, 1997
-

Influencing Public Policy in the State Legislature

- American Association of University Women, Madison, Wisconsin: Oct. 16, 1993;
- Wisconsin Chapter, National Association of Social Workers, Madison, Wisconsin: Lobby Day, May 11, 1995
- University of Wisconsin-Whitewater, Social Work Student Organization: Oct. 23, 1996

Assessing Interpersonal Relations - Conducting Diversity Assessments

- American Cancer Society, Annual Diversity Roundtable, Phoenix, Arizona: October 14, 2001

Guide to Conducting Focus Groups: Focus Group Facilitator Training

- Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services, Madison, Wisconsin: June 12, 2002
- Council on Crime and Justice, St. Paul, Minnesota: November 18, 2002

Conducting Outcome-Based Evaluation

- Northfield Area United Way, Northfield, Minnesota: April 8, 2002

State Funding for Sexual Assault Programs

- National Coalition Against Sexual Assault, Chicago, Illinois: Aug. 7, 1993