****Opportunities for Rapid Research Funding for Investigators at Columbia University and NYSPI****

Small Grants Available Now for Research on Topics of High Policy Relevance to the New York State Office of Mental Health (OMH)

Request for Proposals, Release Date: March 9, 2012

Topic: Policy Relevant Mental Health Services Research

Purpose and General Instructions:

The New York State Office of Mental Health (OMH) is announcing its intent to continue to fund a program to encourage researchers at Columbia University/ New York State Psychiatric Institute (NYSPI) to conduct projects on topics identified by OMH as being of high policy relevance in the coming year (please see topic list at the end of this announcement). These awards will be administered by the Research Foundation for Mental Hygiene, Inc. (RFMH) on behalf of the Division of Mental Health Services and Policy Research (DMHSPR) at NYSPI. Recipients of these funds will be known as **OMH Policy Scholars** and will be invited to present their work at OMH planning sessions. The purpose of this announcement is to invite applications for grants to be funded by this program.

The healthcare issues and business interests of OMH are similar to those faced by behavioral health delivery systems nationwide, hence research projects funded under this initiative are likely to be of high public health significance nationally. Funded projects will be of immediate policy relevance to OMH and small enough in scope to be completed in one year. Depending on the existing knowledge base in the research area, projects may range from critical reviews of the existing evidence base, through analyses of secondary data, creating performance monitoring tools, qualitative interviews with key informants, or mounting new clinical interventions and assessing their effectiveness. Ideally, these projects will produce pilot data or other background material to strengthen grant proposals to NIMH and other funding sources on ways to identify, implement ,sustain new andeffective policies or treatment protocols in these target areas. To enhance projects' feasibility and to help ensure that the research projects' findings will inform OMH's practices An OMH facilitator will be paired with each funded applicant. This mentor will help the applicant understand OMH's mission and functioning. They will facilitate obtaining access to data, information, or other resources from OMH or its sister state agencies that may be necessary to conduct the research.

OMH has an annual budget of over \$3 billion to fulfill its mission of promoting the mental health of all New Yorkers with a particular focus on providing hope and recovery for adults with serious mental illness and children with serious emotional disturbances. OMH's Commissioner, Michael Hogan, is served by an Executive Team, and the potential topic areas listed below are of

interest to one or more of these senior staff. Hence, these awards afford the successful applicant the opportunity to work in partnership with a large state mental health agency on a topic of current policy importance. For junior investigators or for more senior individuals new to such public-academic partnerships; a senior member of the NYSPI Division of Mental Health Services and Policy Research (DMHSPR) will serve as a mentor in addition to the OMH facilitator to help insure the success of each funded project.

DMHSPR anticipates awarding approximately \$100,000 under this announcement in 2012. Proposals seeking modest support are encouraged and are more likely to be funded so that more projects can be conducted. The average award size is anticipated to be under \$20,000 in direct costs, with variability across projects.

The first application deadline is 5:00 PM on April 9, 2012. Funding may be requested to commence as early as May 17, 2012. Proposals will be accepted on a rolling basis after this deadline contingent upon the continued availability of funds. Please contact the administrator of this award, listed below, for information on availability of funds after May 17, 2012.

Eligibility Requirements:

- Individuals at Columbia University with an academic appointment in psychiatry (including residents, interns, and fellows) and graduate students and junior faculty at Columbia pursuing mental health services research. Preference will be given to individuals early in their research career. Restrictions may apply for salary support for some of these positions.
- Investigators may request up to \$30,000 in direct costs.
- Projects must be initiated in 2012 and plan for completion within 12 months. Short-term policy relevant projects will be given the greatest consideration.

Review Criteria:

Proposals submitted in response to this RFP will be evaluated on their fit with the OMH priority areas listed below, their scientific merit (including feasibility), and their likelihood of providing pilot data or otherwise serving as a key component of future grant applications in the priority area. Preference will be given to individuals early in their research career. We highly encourage potential applicants to seek consultation with senior faculty in the Division of Mental Health Services and Policy Research prior to submitting a proposal. While not a requirement, historically, successful applicants have sought consultation and feedback on their proposals prior to submission. We anticipate making multiple awards, with an effort to represent a wide variety of the topic areas listed below. The review committee will include members of DMHSPR, OMH administration, and other stakeholders, such as providers, program administrators, or consumers; depending on the nature of the application. Because the nature and scope of the proposed evaluations will vary from application to application, the size and duration of each award will also vary within the constraint that projects should be completed; including the production of a

¹ The award of the grant funds described in this announcement is dependent upon legislative appropriation and control agency approval, where required. OMH reserves the right to elect not to award all or any grants under this announcement and to waive technical requirements and/or minor inconsistencies or irregularities in any proposal.

final report, within one year. Projects can be up to one year in duration, but project expenditures must be planned for completion by the end of the state fiscal year, March 31, 2012. Reviewers' comments will not be available for unfunded projects.

Application Contents:

I. Cover page:

Provide a cover page that gives the title of the proposed project and the name, degree, academic title, and contact information for the applicant (address, phone number, and email address) plus a brief abstract of the proposal.

II. Biographical information:

- A) Provide a CV or NIH Biographical Sketch for the applicant
- **B)** Provide a paragraph describing the applicant's current and long-term **research/career objectives**.
- C) Note name(s) of **current employer(s)** [routes of access to some OMH data vary depending on whether an individual is an employee of OMH/RFMH/other entity]

III. Research Plan:

In a maximum of **5 pages** (single-spaced with 1-inch margins), set forth the proposed research plan including the following 4 Sections presented in the order below:

- A) Specific Aims (including which of the area(s) listed below the project addresses),
- **B)** Background and Significance (include a review of the literature sufficient to justify the rationale for conducting the proposed project),
- C) Preliminary Studies (if relevant),
- **D)** Research Design and Methods (this should be the longest section at least 2 pages; also include a discussion of anticipated next steps following completion of the project).

Projects may be up to **one year** in duration and must produce brief **interim and final reports**. These reports will be reviewed by a Scientific Advisory Committee which will oversee this funding mechanism and look for ways to enhance the feasibility and utility of these projects. Ideally, the final report will also be suitable for incorporation into a policy briefing to the OMH Commissioner as well as suitable for a poster presentation at a scientific meeting or brief report to a journal such as *Psychiatric Services* or *Journal of Administration* in *Public Policy and Mental Health Services Research*.

IV. Budget:

Provide the following:

- A) **Detailed Budget** (direct costs only; indirect costs, if any, will be negotiated separately; we anticipate that no indirect costs will be required for work completed by employees of RFMH),
- **B)** Budget Justification (briefly justify each line item)
- **C) Project Timeline** (a table or chart is preferable, but a text paragraph is also adequate)

Funds may support data collection, recruitment of research participants (e.g., outreach activities, stipends for participants), data analysis, and dissemination of findings. Core staff from the Division may be available to assist with data analysis. Applicants should budget for their projected analytic needs; if core staff are available to offset these expenses, these adjustments will be made at the time of the award. Individuals in T32 lines are not allowed to use these funds as non-federal dollars to supplement their federal stipends. Funds may also be used for purposes such as travel, salaries and fringe benefits, meeting expenses, paying consultants and research assistants so long as all expenses relate directly to carrying out the applicant's proposed project. Individuals who are full-time OMH employees and who wish to apply for these grants may do so as long as they demonstrate that they meet the following criteria: the proposed research project will not interfere with the employee's official duties (i.e., either the proposed project will be an extension of the employee's current work and approved by the employee's supervisor, or the project will be conducted outside of normal business hours). While full-time OMH employees cannot draw salary from these small grants, they may seek funds through this grant mechanism for other research expenses (fees to pay study participants, statistical consultation, etc.). Part-time OMH employees may request salary support for that portion of their full-time salary not paid by OMH. Applicants are welcome to contact Dr. Stroup (contact information listed below) with any questions.

Submission of proposals:

Please email your application to Scott Stroup at stroups@nyspi.columbia.edu plus send a hard copy to him at the address below.

As much as possible, please combine all pieces of the application into a single Word or PDF file to ensure all parts of your application get reviewed by the review committee.

Individuals may submit more than one proposal.

Due date for the first round of applications: April 9, 2012 at 5:00 PM.

Earliest Start Date: May 17, 2012.

Questions?

Potential applicants who have questions or who would like assistance in developing their ideas are encouraged to contact (note that historically, successful candidates have sought consultation and feedback on their proposal prior to submitting):

Scott Stroup, MD, MPH
Department of Mental Health Services and Policy Research
New York State Psychiatric Institute
Room 2703, Box 100
1051 Riverside Drive
New York, NY 10032

Phone: 212-543-5676

email: stroups@nyspi.columbia.edu

For administrative questions (budget, etc.), please contact:

Anne M. Skrobala, M.A.

Administrator, Department of Mental Health Services and Policy Research Room 2700, Box 100 1051 Riverside Drive New York, NY 10032

Phone: 212-543-5954 Fax: 212-543-5085

email: skrobal@nyspi.columbia.edu

Informational Meeting: Tuesday, March 27, 2012, 4:00 PM

An optional informational meeting will be held for individuals who would like to learn more about this initiative. This informational meeting will be on Tuesday, March 27, 2012 at 4:00 PM in **NYSPI Room 1706C**. Potential applicants as well as investigators who may have members of their research groups who could be applicants are welcome to attend and ask any questions they may have.

2012-13 OMH Policy Scholars RFP Potential Policy Scholars Topics of Interest to OMH

Examples of topics of particular interest to OMH for Policy Scholars Projects include:

- Impact of the OMH's implementation of Behavioral Health Organizations on discharge planning and client outcomes.
- Impact of the NY Department of Health's implementation of Health Homes on quality of mental health care and client outcomes.
- Improving engagement and retention in appropriate services and decreasing fragmentation for high need and high cost individuals, including:
 - o High-risk individuals who become disengaged from care
 - Individuals with co-occurring disorders
 - Individuals with serious health issues
- Improving access and decreasing fragmentation for people with unmet needs within the mental health system, including:
 - o Racial and ethnic minorities
 - Persons with language barriers
 - o Immigrants with mental health needs
 - Older adults
 - o Individuals with serious mental illness leaving prison
- Promoting Recovery and Success with Living
 - o Infusion of cultural competence into recovery-oriented approaches
 - o Peer education and training aimed at competitive employment
 - Personalized Recovery-Oriented Services (PROS, (http://www.omh.state.ny.us/omhweb/pros/)
- Improving psychotropic medication prescribing practices
- Improving quality through the provision of incentives for positive outcomes
 - o Refocusing oversight toward good clinical practice
 - o Providing technical assistance to improve clinical competencies
 - o Improving the coordination and integration of care
- Support of Physical and Mental Wellness
- Advancement of Evidenced-based practices
- Integration of care for co-occurring mental health and substance use disorders
- Meeting the physical health needs of individuals with mental health disorders

Examples of policy-relevant mental health services research projects could include (this list is illustrative and is not an exhaustive list):

- Identify ways to improve the physical health of people with serious medical disorders (e.g., smoking cessation, weight management, enhanced metabolic monitoring).
- Measure the uptake of the IPS approach to supported employment of agencies and clients
- Explore promising practices that integrate supported employment as a part of clinical care (e.g., "Return to Work" strategies in sports medicine and workers compensation; lessons learned to think about employment as a cost containment strategy in managed care)
- Pilot test and evaluate a smoking cessation program for people with serious mental illness.

- Develop or refine fidelity tools for implementing evidence-based practices, particularly tools which help clinical staff carry out an intervention and which also can be summarized to assess uptake of a particular intervention.
- Evaluate the ongoing access to care for older individuals with SMI.
- Assess the impact of the Center for Practice Innovations' online training for treating cooccurring disorders
- Identify approaches to strengthen linkages between inpatient and community programs to promote engagement in appropriate services post discharge;
- Characterize the efforts made by Behavioral Health Organizations to ensure that individuals are engaged in appropriate care post discharge
- Characterize the impact of Health Homes on the health of individuals with serious mental illnesses
- Pilot test and evaluate promising peer-run or peer-facilitated interventions, e.g. for employment success
- Pilot programs that increase the appropriate use of clozapine
- Evaluate the role of peer staff on ACT teams
- Investigate how OMH housing programs influence housing choices of consumers
- Investigate how obtaining employment alters use of general and mental health services
- Investigate agency and staff predictors of good clinical supervision
- Evaluate the impact that clinical supervision has on acquiring new skills and on client outcomes
- Identify barriers and facilitators for good clinical supervision, particularly with respect to treating co-occurring disorders
- Evaluate the impact of distance learning techniques for gaining new clinical skills

This year OMH has identified the following two initiatives for which a policy scholar could play a key role. Successful applicants would have the opportunity to work closely with senior OMH staff as they design and implement evaluations of these initiatives while also having the opportunity to see first-hand how large projects aimed at changing practitioner behavior are designed, implemented, and sustained.

- Design and carry out an impact analysis of suicide-prevention efforts in the state psychiatric facilities. OMH is planning to pilot a suicide-prevention program in several state adult psychiatric centers (state hospitals). The program will involve changing the culture and core values around suicide so that it is viewed it as an event that must never happen as well as implementing evidenced based clinical care (use of empirically validated risk assessment, treatment methodologies, safety planning, follow-up, and support).
- Design and carry out an evaluation of the cost benefit and efficacy of using EMMA (Electronic Medication Management Assistant) in OMH residential settings. EMMA is a remote medication management system which controls and monitors the administration of medications. EMMA's manufacturer notes that it has been used successfully with individuals with cognitive impairments who have difficulty remembering the dosing and timing of their medication regimens and who would otherwise need ongoing supervision in taking their medications. OMH would like to evaluate EMMA's effectiveness and estimate costs/savings associated with its use in OMH's residential settings.

List of OMH Policy Scholars and research topics to date.

Project Year	Recipient of Award	Project Title
		Cultural Competence and Mental
		Health Service Needs among African
	Pamela Y Collins, MD, MPH, Assistant	Diaspora Populations living with
	Professor of Clinical Epidemiology and	HIV/AIDS: A Systemic Intervention
2007-2008	Clinical Psychiatry	Approach
	Fang-pei Chen, MSW, PhD, Assistant	Discharge from Assertive Community
	Professor, Columbia University School	Treatment Services: A Multiple-
2007-2008	of Social Work	Perspective Study
		An Analysis of Treatment Response
		and Medication Satisfaction in a
		Group of Patients with Gonadotropin
		Releasing Hormones Agonist Therapy
		for Hypersexual and/or Paraphilic
	Richard B. Krueger, MD, Medical	Disorders and An Analysis of
	Director, Sexual Behavior Clinic, NYSPI	Diagnoses of a Group of Patients
	& Columbia University Department of	Arrested for Crimes Against Children
2007-2008	Psychiatry	over the Internet
	Rufina J. Lee, MSW, PhD, Post-	
	doctoral Fellow, Psychiatric	
	Epidemiology Training Program,	A Pilot Study of Joint Crisis Plans for
	Mailman School of Public Health,	Residents of NY/NY Supported
2007-2008	Columbia University	Housing
	Ellen Lukens PhD, LCSW, Firestone	
	Centennial Associate Professor of	
	Clinical Social Work, Columbia	
	University School of Social Work and	Diffusion of Evidence-Based Practice:
	Lauren B. Gates PhD, Senior Research	A Follow-Up Evaluation of Graduates
	Scientist & Research Director,	of the OMH NYS Dean's of Social
	Workplace Center, Columbia	Work Consortium Project for
2007-2008	University School of Social Work	Evidence Based Practice
		Temporal Patterns of Outpatient
	Jennifer I. Manuel, LMSW, Doctoral	Service Use, Medication Adherence,
	Candidate, NIMH Predoctoral Fellow,	and Psychiatric Hospitalization
	Columbia University School of Social	among Individuals with Co-occurring
2007-2008	Work	Disorders
		Understanding How Juvenile Court
	Scott Nolen, JD, PhD, T32 Child	Judges Use Youth's Mental Health
2007-2008	Psychiatry Research Fellow, NYSPI	Information During Adjudication

2007-2008	Ilana Nossel, MD, Psychiatry Resident, Columbia University Department of Psychiatry, NYSPI	Frequent Users of the New York Presbyterian Hospital/Columbia CPEP: Understanding the Problem and Strategizing for Change
2007-2008	Sandra S. Pimentel, PhD, Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Columbia University/NYSPI, Department of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry	Disseminating Evidence-Based Treatments for Children: A Microanalysis of Consultation Calls as an Ongoing Training Strategy
2007-2008	Joan Prudic, MD, Associate Professor of Clinical Psychiatry, NYSPI	Electroconvulsive Therapy in Chronically Psychotic Patients: Towards Evidence Based Treatment
2007-2008	Lisa Hunter Romanelli, PhD, Assistant Professor of Clinical Psychology, Columbia University/NYSPI	Treatment Practices for Disruptive Behavior Disorders: A Survey of New York State School-Based Mental Health Clinics
2007-2008	Alissa A. Taylor, PhD, Instructor of Clinical Psychology in Psychiatry	Consultation and Supervision: Review and Recommendations for Effective Dissemination of EBTs
2008-2009	Mary A. Cavaleri, PhD, Research Associate	Determining the Feasibility and Effectiveness of IPT:EST, a Peer- delivered Triage, Evaluation, and Structured Intervention for Depression
2008-2009	James Rodriguez, PhD, Instructor in Clincal Psychology (in Psychiatry), Columbia University	An exploratory study of parenting skills training among Family Advocates in New York State
2008-2009	Hilary B. Vidair, PhD, Post-Doctoral Research Fellow, Research Training Program in Child Psychiatry, New York State Psychiatric Institute/Columbia University	Evaluating the Effects of a Psychosocial Treatment Program for Depressed Mothers and Their Suicidal Adolescents
2008-2009	Jennifer P. Wisdom, PhD MPH, Assistant Professor of Clinical Psychology (in Psychiatry), Columbia University	Youth Transitioning from Child to Adult Mental Health Services: A Mixed-Method Analysis of Needs and Services Utilization
2009-2010	Melissa Arbuckle, MD, PhD, Assistant Professor in Clinical Psychiatry Columbia University Medical Center	Integrating Standardized Patient Assessment into the Routine Clinical Practice of Psychiatric Residents

	Leopoldo J. Cabassa, PhD, Assistant	Development of A Mental Health
2009-2010	Director, New York State Center of Excellence for Cultural Competence	Literacy Program for Hispanics with Limited English Proficiency
2003 2010	Exercise for editard competence	Elimited English Frontierrey
	Kristin Leight, MD, and Elizabeth	Pregnancy in the Severely Mentally
	Fitelson, MD, Psychiatry Attendings,	III:
2009-2010	Columbia University Department of Psychiatry	Identifying the Population and Understanding Unmet Needs
2009-2010	Psychiatry	
		Supporting The Implementation of Evidence-Based Treatments for
	Erum Nadeem, PhD, Research	Children: A Microanalysis of
	Scientist, Research Foundation for	Supervisory Consultation Calls as an
2009-2010	Mental Hygiene, Inc. @NYSPI	Ongoing Sustainability Strategy
	Sapana R. Patel, PhD, Assistant Professor of Psychology (in	
	Psychiatry), Columbia University,	Shared Decision Making for Pregnant
2009-2010	Department of Psychiatry	Women with Bipolar Disorder
	Carolyn Rodriguez, MD, PhD,	
	Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Mood and Anxiety Disorders, NYSPI,	Compulsive Hoarding as A Potential Modifiable Risk Factor for
	Assistant Attending in Psychiatry,	Homelessness: A Pilot Study of
2009-2010	Columbia University Medical Center	Prevalence and Services Utilization
		Adaptation of the "In Our Own Voice-
	Lawrence H. Yang, PhD, Assistant	Family Companion" Anti-Stigma
	Professor, Department of	Intervention to Chinese American
2009-2010	Epidemiology, School of Public Health, Columbia University	Relatives of People with Psychotic- Spectrum Disorders in New York City
2009-2010	Columbia Offiversity	Spectrum disorders in New York City
	Melissa Arbuckle, MD, PhD, Assistant	Engaging Residents in
	Professor in Clinical Psychiatry	Implementation and Quality
2010-2011	Columbia University Medical Center	Improvement Strategies
		The New York City Mental Health
		Care Monitoring Inititiative: Opinions
2010-2011	Carl Erik Fisher, MD, Resident in	and Perceptions of Public Mental Health System Leadership
2010-2011	Psychiatry, Columbia University	nearth System Leadership

2010-2011	Jennifer I. Manuel, PhD, LMSW, Assistant Professor of Clinical Psychiatric Social Work (in Psychiatry), Columbia University Su-chin Serene Olin, PhD, Instructor, Clinical Psychology (in Psychiatry),	A Web-Based Program to Promote Consumer Choice in Psychiatric Treatment Developing a Training Curriculum to Improve the Integration of Family-to- Family Services in OMH-licensed
2010-2011	Columbia University	Clinics
2010-2011	Sharat Parameswaran, MD, and Matthew Erlich, MD, Psychiatry Residents in Training, Columbia University College of Physicians & Surgeons Columbia University Department of Psychiatry	Implementation Strategies and Evaluation of SHAPE MEDs, An OMH Antipsychotic Mediation Care Pathway
2010-2011	Elizabeth Werner, PhD, Clinical Research Projects Manager, Columbia University Medical Center, Department of Psychiatry	Testing the Feasibility and Acceptabilty of a Behavioral Intervention for Postpartum Depression in a Hight-Risk Community Sample
2011-2012	Melissa Arbuckle, MD, PhD, Assistant Professor in Clinical Psychiatry Columbia University Medical Center	Training the Trainers: Disseminating and Adapting a Quality Improvement Curriculum
2011-2012	Alice Saperstein, PhD, Assistant Professor of Clinical Psychology (in Psychiatry), Columbia University	Recovery Orientation in Community Mental Health: A Preliminary Examination of Personalized Recovery-Oriented Services (PROS) in New York
2011-2012	Katherine Elkington, PhD, Assistant Professor of Clinical Psychology (in Psychiatry), HIV Center for Clinical and Behavioral Studies, Columbia University	From the probation system to the mental health system: Understanding youth engagement
2011-2012	Sharat Parameswaran, MD, and Matthew Erlich, MD, Psychiatry Residents in Training, Columbia University College of Physicians & Surgeons Columbia University Department of Psychiatry	Implementation Strategies and Evaluation of SHAPE MEDs, An OMH Antipsychotic Mediation Care Pathway, continued

		Development of the Cultural
	Neil Aggarwal, M.D., M.B.A., M.A.,	Formulation Interview
	Center of Excellence for Cultural	Implementation Instrument (The CFI-
	Competence, New York State	II): A Method to Rate Fidelity in
2012-2013	Psychiatric Institute	Cultural Communication
	Carolyn Rodriguez, M.D., Ph.D.,	
	Assistant Professor of Clinical	Time Intervention for Individuals
	Psychiatry, NYSPI and Columbia	with Hoarding Disorder Seeking
2012-2013	University Medical Center	Eviction Prevention Services
	Sapana Patel, Ph.D., Assistant	
	Professor of Psychology (in	
	Psychiatry)/ Research Scientist IV,	
	Columbia University, Department of	
	Psychiatry and New York State	Examining Treatment Delivery for
2012-2013	Psychiatric Institute	Obsessive Compulsive Disorder