

Welcome to the 4th issue of the JBOT Newsletter! This issue includes highlights from the CAOT conference, correctional worker health symposium, news on sensory environment interventions, and studying vocational interests of women incarcerated.



Above, Dieleman giving a passionate address at the CAOT Conference's Breakfast with a Scholar. Below, Dieleman leading a discussion during a JBOT networking event.



Canadian Association of Occupational Therapists Conference, 2019

Association canadienne des ergothérapeutes Congrès

Out of only a few featured speaker events at the 2019 CAOT Conference in Niagara Falls, our esteemed colleague Dr. Crystal Dieleman was given the stage to talk about OT and criminal justice during Breakfast with a Scholar. She was named COIF (Canadian Occupational Therapy Foundation) 2019 Scholar in recognition of her research and leadership in the Mental Health and the Criminal Justice System (*Dalhousie University School of OT*).

Crystal set the tone for the day by exploring the criminalization of mental illnesses among Canadians. She explained how the role of OT in addressing occupational concerns related to criminal justice involvement is largely overlooked. Dieleman's critical appraisal explored the "silences around criminal justice involvement of people living with mental health concerns, the taken-for-granted ideas and habitual practices of our profession that reinforce processes of criminalization, and the untapped potential of OT for improving and expanding the occupational opportunities and choices of people subject to both mental health and criminal justice systems."

For more highlights of CAOT Conference sessions that addressed JBOT topics and related stories, see [CAOT Highlights](#) and Crystal's Twitter feed [@CrystalDieleman](#)

A JBOT meeting was also held at CAOT to convene OT practitioners in Canada for expanding the international network. A variety of scholars, practitioners, and students attended the meeting. Topics of interest included: Traumatic brain injury and incarceration, homelessness, need for increased criminal justice and occupational science education in OT programs, assessment, fieldwork experiences in justice forensic facilities that do not employ OTs, and self care for practitioners (to prevent burnout, compassion fatigue).



Department of Occupational Therapy



JBOT AROUND THE U.S.

Active Projects

Saint Louis University,
Selena Washington, PhD, MSPH, OTR/L



Research by the Council of State Governments has shown that Missouri (MO) has the highest rate of female incarceration in the U.S. In response to this issue and due to interest by the MO Department of Corrections, the [Transformative Justice Initiative](#) in partnership with the [Health Criminology Research Consortium](#) at Saint Louis University has conducted a study of vocational interests among women residing at a prison facility in MO. Co-investigators from criminology, industrial-organizational psychology, and occupational science and therapy conducted the study led by Dr. Selena Washington. Graduate assistants from social work and public health also joined the project.

This study verified the need for understanding and identifying the vocational interests of women incarcerated at one of two female prison facilities in MO. Dr. Washington utilized the Occupational Information Network (O*NET) Interest Profiler (IP) for exploring career aspirations, Holland Occupational RIASEC, and Perception of Barriers Modified Scale for vocational related barriers. The results were used to identify needed vocational programming at the prison.

Staff at the site expressed interest in the project and were extremely helpful with coordinating logistics for the research team to perform the study onsite with over 100 women. Dr. Washington used iPad technology to gather survey responses. As a result of the project, Dr. Washington and Dr. Lisa Jaegers from the Transformative Justice Initiative are continuing work with the MO Department of Corrections to inform vocational programming at their facilities for women. They have informed their next steps with results gleaned from the study, especially perceived barriers to becoming employed. In case you would like to learn more about this study, check out the future special issue, Justice-Based Occupational Therapy, in the [Annals of International Occupational Therapy](#).

This project was supported in part by funding from [Lindenwood University's Hammond Institute](#).



Save The Dates

3rd Annual Health
Criminology Research
Symposium & Practitioner
Day

- October 4, 2019, Saint Louis University
- Sponsored by The [Health Criminology Research Consortium \(HCRC\)](#)
- No fee
- Light breakfast and lunch provided
- Updates on Twitter @SLUHCRC



2020 AOTA Annual
Conference & Expo

- March 26 - 29, 2020
- Boston, Massachusetts
- Stay tuned for JBOT meetings schedule



JBOT AROUND THE U.S.

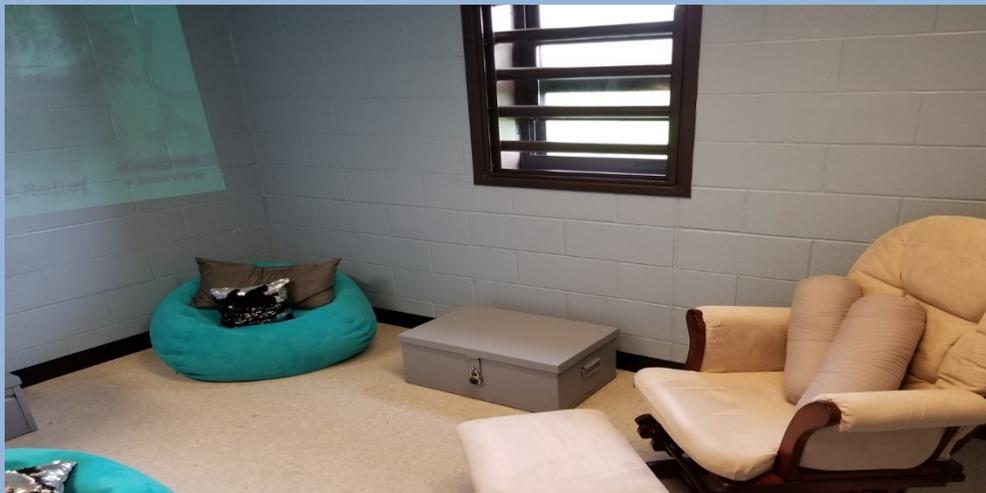
Active Projects

Implementation of a Sensory Space to Address Environmental Stressors at a Reintegration Center for Women

Cleveland State University
Karen M. Keptner Ph.D., OTR/L



Starting in 2015, the Master of Occupational Therapy program at Cleveland State University initiated a partnership with the Northeast Reintegration Center in Cleveland, Ohio, a reintegration center for female inmates who are transitioning back into the community. Once occupational therapy was explained to the behavioral health team, they requested an in-service on sensory processing since they perceived that inmates were having difficulty with environmental stressors related to sensory input.



Following a successful in-service, the MOT program was asked to consult on a “sensory cell” for the facility. The MOT program (Karen M. Keptner PhD, OTR/L) provided recommendations that included equipment, color, and lighting recommendations along with general rules for use. The sensory cell has been a success, with multiple inmates using it on a regular basis and the sensory cell idea has been shared with multiple reintegration centers in Ohio.

The partnership is now focusing its efforts on the environment as a possible occupational injustice and the CSU MOT program has been asked to make structured observations of the environment and share their recommendations. Other projects that are currently underway include looking at life skills for release and the impact of sensory processing and leisure on reintegration.

JBOT AROUND THE U.S.

Accolades

Mission: St. Louis Staying Power Awards Presented to Saint Louis University TJI/OTTIS Graduates

From left: Christine Hayes, MOT; Claire Daaleman, MOT; Tracy Stanton, Darrell Standard, Lisa Jaegers, PhD

First published by [Mission: StL Staying Power Awards](#):

After experiencing a horrific childhood, *Tracy Stanton* quickly found herself using substances to ease her pains. She gradually moved to harder drugs and found herself celebrating her 35th birthday in prison. It was during her time with SLU's Transformative Justice Initiative that Tracy determined that she "wanted better for myself, and I deserved better." Her time with the Center for Women in Transition provided her not only with secure transitional housing, but the ability to heal. Her tenure with the Clark-Fox Foundation afforded her with diversion programs that helps herself up for greater success.

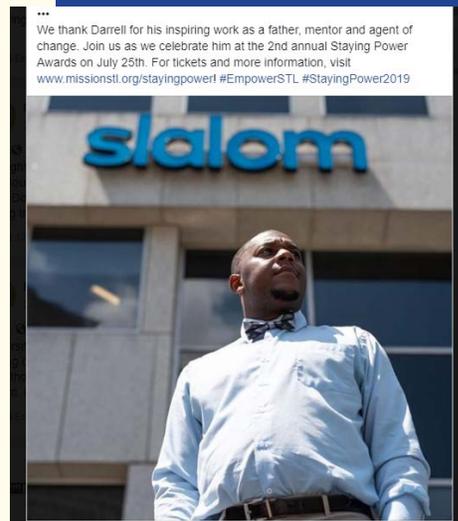
Today, Tracy works with the Institute for Peace and Justice, Clark-Fox, and her own nonprofit Addiction to Ambition to increase awareness and assistance for programs that aid current and former incarcerated individuals. She is employed at Saint Louis University where she will start classes in August, fulfilling a lifelong dream. When reflecting on her past, Tracy sees a life without regret. "If I never would have experienced the bottom, I would not be able to appreciate life today. I would not have so much empathy and compassion to do the work that I do."

"I don't think I've ever been this excited. It's been a lot to take in, being honored for something...someone wanting to recognize me for just doing right...I didn't think you could do that without being famous."

...

Life hit *Darrell Standard* quickly as he became a father at 21. He struggled to find a way to push towards a greater purpose. Recognizing the importance of his actions had always been a difficult task for Darrell. Gradually, he grew to understand the gravity of his actions upon his loved ones. Darrell, frustrated by his minimum wage job, met with Mission: St. Louis and decided to try the Job and Leadership Training (JLT) program.

After graduating JLT, Darrell found his dream job at Slalom, a business and technology consulting firm, where he recently celebrated his one-year anniversary. His greatest treasure is the impact he has made on his family. "My kids see that, and they want to dress and be like me...and I feel like I would want [them] to be like me now, because I'm actually doing something good."



JBOT AROUND THE U.S.

National Corrections Worker Conference Held in Boston

Saint Louis University
Lisa Jaegers, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA

The 3rd National Symposium on Corrections Worker health was held 2019 at Suffolk University Law School on August 1, 2019. The symposium coordinated by Dr. Mazen El Ghaziri (UMass-Lowell), Dr. Carlos Monteiro (Suffolk University) and Dr. Lisa Jaegers (Saint Louis University) brought together corrections leaders, corrections officers, practitioners, university researchers and government representatives to explore current evidence and practice about the promotion of corrections worker health and well-being.

The goal of the event was to identify new research opportunities, and strengthen collaborations and evidence based policies and programs that address the critical health and safety challenges of this workforce. This meeting occurred the day preceding the American Correctional Association's (ACA) 148th Congress of Correction, also in Boston, MA. Having the meeting scheduled prior to ACA allowed many corrections professionals to attend both events.



*From left: Scott Erfe,
Alex Frank,
and Lisa Jaegers*

Jaegers facilitated a panel titled, "Intersectionality of restorative justice and workplace health." The panel included speakers, Scott Erfe (Connecticut Department of Correction) and Alex Frank (Vera Institute of Justice, Restoring Promise). Erfe and Frank have worked together on building rehabilitation programming that focused on restorative justice and models used from prisons in Germany. The successful project has been featured on "60 Minutes," <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/at-a-connecticut-maximum-security-prison-lifers-mentor-young-inmates-in-a-german-style-unit-60-minutes/>

Jaegers described research and programming utilizing a Total Worker Health strategy (TWH), occupational science informed frame of reference, and occupational therapy interventions. Her presentation was titled, "Bridging reentry / transition services with workplace health." She highlighted the need for a social ecological approach to address problem-solving with policy makers, communities, institutions (jails/prisons), work groups, workers, and facility residents. "Problem-solving together [TWH] shows promise for making a greater impact on workplace health and criminal justice issues."

Conference information and links to presentations can be found at:

<https://www.uml.edu/research/cph-new/resources/2019-corrections-worker-national-symposium.aspx>

Student Reflection

Washington University in St. Louis
Matt Brandenburg
Occupational Therapy Doctorate Student



Justice Based OT Reflection for JBOT

I recently completed my first fieldwork II at the [Saint Louis University Occupational Therapy Transition and Integration Services \(OTTIS\)](#) program. While working with program participants I observed that in the jail system, people experiencing incarceration (PEI) have little to no control over their lives during pre-trial detention. They don't choose where they sleep, when they wake up or what activities they can engage in throughout the day. These individuals experience occupational injustice, as they are barred from participating in certain occupations that meet their basic needs, prepare them to reintegrate into the community, or help them to find satisfaction and experience well-being. Living with this level of occupational deprivation can cause frustration, hopelessness, and decreased self-esteem. However, through concentrated and deliberate screening and programming efforts, occupational therapy in the justice system can enable self-control, boost self-esteem, and assist in a positive transition to the community.

Implementing effective programming with PEI presents a unique challenge due to additional limiting factors practitioners face such as restricted resources permitted inside the jail system and the level of occupational deprivation that clients experience. I saw how these difficulties were addressed at each step in the OTTIS program process through standardized program implementation and client-centered treatment. This included identifying pre-release and post-release goals, collaborative life skill training in group therapy sessions, and transition planning adapted to personal needs in individual sessions.

One project we worked on was analyzing how scores on an initial screen of mental health status, cognition, lived trauma and drug or alcohol use correlate with active participation in the program. Identifying scores that correlate with increased engagement and improved outcomes allows practitioners to recognize the potential participants who have the greatest needs and are likely to benefit the most from occupational therapy services. Since this population is underserved and OTTIS has a limited capacity for participants, establishing a starting point of clients with high rehabilitation potential can be beneficial. As the evidence base for occupational therapy in the justice system grows, deliberate and standardized screening and programming efforts will facilitate increased engagement in occupations that promote health and quality of life among PEI.

This summer I learned that being an occupational therapist isn't just about treating clients. It's about recognizing the barriers to occupational engagement and performance they face, empathizing with their difficulties, meeting them where they are at, and working collaboratively to lift them up over everything that holds them down.



Reflections

Share your reflections
on justice-based OT!

Students, practitioners,
researchers,
collaborators, and
clients are welcome to
send their story to JBOT
for a future newsletter!

~250-300 words
~include a photo

Email: ljaegers@slu.edu

Research Opportunity

Karen M. Keptner Ph.D., OTR/L
Cleveland State University

CSU in Ohio students are conducting a qualitative study about OTs who are working as community-based practitioners and consider their work population-based. This includes practitioners working with justice-involved individuals. If you think you might be interested in participating in an interview with CSU students, please contact Maria Atala (MOT student) at m.atala@vikes.csuohio.edu

Interprofessional Opportunities

<https://blog.asha.org/2019/09/12/asha-voices-cognitive-communication-disorders-and-the-justice-system/>

ASHA Voices Podcast Premiere: Communication Disorders and the Justice System

written by J.D. Gray September 12, 2019



On the first episode of ASHA Voices, we take a look at the intersection of cognitive-communication disorders (CCDs) and the justice system.



In the first episode of ASHA - American Speech-Language-Hearing Association - *Voices*, they “take a look at the intersection of cognitive-communication disorders (CCDs) and the justice system.”

See their position paper “Speech-Language Pathology and the Youth Offender: Epidemiological Overview and Roadmap for Future Speech-Language Pathology Research and Scope of Practice,”

https://pubs.asha.org/doi/10.1044/2018_LSHSS-CCJS-18-0027.

Continuing Education

Due to overwhelming interest and in an effort to support the needs of those interested in justice-based practice, education, research, and program development, Saint Louis University is developing an online continuing education course that will be launched in October. Proceeds from the course go directly back to the SLU OT Transition & Integration Services (OTTIS) program (http://bit.ly/ottis_slu)

OTTIS Continuing Education Course:

<https://tji-slu.thinkific.com/>

For more info, please contact Christine Hayes at 314-977-8583 or christine.hayes@health.slu.edu

Join Us On Facebook!



**Justice-based
Occupational
Therapy (JBOT)**

**Email Pam Stephenson
to be added:**

pstephenson@marybaldwin.edu



**Tweet about
JBOT topics
using hashtag #JBOT**

JBOT's Core Team Includes:

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