2020 DMHAS Collaborative Pilot Study Seed Funding Opportunity

**Purpose:** This opportunity encourages the development of pilot project proposals that involve collaborations between the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS) Research Division faculty and staff (stationed primarily at DMHAS) and tenured/tenure track faculty housed in the UConn School of Social Work. Up to $6,000 will be made available to support at least one pilot study using this mechanism. No letter of intent is required for this mechanism. Additionally, winners of the 2019 SSW internal funding awards are eligible for this mechanism, provided they have made sufficient and substantial progress (as indicated by a submitted progress report) on these awards.

**Deadline:** All proposals must be submitted by 5/1/20 at 5 p.m. to the Associate Dean for Research via email (michael.fendrich@uconn.edu).

Pilot studies can involve secondary analyses or primary data collection. **Data may be qualitative, quantitative or mixed.** Some examples of studies that could be proposed are listed below (these are examples only and not intended to specify which projects need to be proposed).

- Analyses of Connecticut Treatment Episodes Data to Investigate the Prevalence and Correlates of Drug Use/Abuse in high risk subpopulations
- Development and/or pilot testing of a psychosocial measure for clients involved in a DMHAS-funded treatment program
- A survey / focus groups of treatment staff at a DMHAS-funded program (or programs)

**Requirements:**

1) Potential applicants from DMHAS/SSW are expected to meet at least two weeks prior to the submission deadline (no later than 4/17/20) to discuss and identify areas of mutual interest. A cover letter included with the application should briefly document that collaborative discussions have occurred prior to the submission and identify the DMHAS faculty/staff member who was contacted.

2) Applications will require the following:
   a. A cover letter (with pre-application mutual collaboration noted as mentioned above in “1”).
   b. A 300 word, one paragraph abstract describing the research question/problem, the specific aims of the study, and project objectives.
   c. A 500 word summary of 1) the project significance, including any relevant literature; describe why this is an important project to be carried out; 2) the tasks to be carried out for the proposal – including data to be collected, instruments that will be used (or developed), description of the sample, recruitment, etc. 3) If secondary analysis will be used, describe the sources of data and discuss how the data will be analyzed.
   d. A brief, one paragraph summary biosketch summarizing the relevant expertise of the co-investigators on the project. Include relevant training/education and skills needed to complete project as well as up to 5 recent publications or presentations. Note that one co-investigator must be based in DMHAS and one must be based at the SSW.
   e. A project budget (in an excel spread sheet); and an accompanying budget justification (note, applicants may work with Lindsay Wessell to prepare budgets).
   f. A project timeline (all work should be carried out in a one-year time frame).
   g. Deliverables (three sentences) – this should include: A potential conference presentation and/or manuscript and a brief idea of possible funding sources for building on this pilot work.
   h. Awardees must submit a final report to the ADR (which will be shared on the School’s Q Drive) no later than the final day of the Spring 2021 semester.

3) **Budget:** Funding is not intended to support faculty salaries. It is meant to support costs of data collection, acquisition, and analysis. See Michael Fendrich or Lindsay Wessell for further details about allowable costs.

**Review:**

Applications will be reviewed jointly by the Associate Dean for Research and the DMHAS Research Division Director. Funding will be based on feasibility, proposed outcome (e.g., conference presentation, white paper, published manuscript, etc.) and potential for future funding. Once approved, all projects must receive appropriate IRB approval to proceed (note: DMHAS IRB approval is acceptable to UConn).