

Laura Curran, PhD, LMHC

Assistant Professor

University of South Florida, Sarasota-Manatee
College of Behavioral and Community Sciences
Department of Mental Health Law and Policy

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Professional and Research Interests

- Public sector services for substance use and mental health disorders
- Technology-based interventions for substance use and mental health
- Substance use treatment for pregnant and parenting individuals and families
- Prenatal substance use policy on federal, state, and local levels
- Intersections of substance use services and criminal justice, child welfare, and healthcare systems
- Collaborative and community-engaged research

Education and Training

2022-2023	Tulane University, School of Social Work, Postdoctoral Research Fellow
2022	New York University, PhD, Social Work (degree conferred September 2022)
2019-2022	New York University, NIDA-funded (T32) Predoctoral Fellowship Behavioral Sciences Training Program, Rory Meyers College of Nursing
2013	University of South Florida, Master of Arts, Counselor Education (CACREP Accredited)
2008	Liberty University, Bachelor of Science, Psychology

Awards and Funding

2024	R21 Grant Proposal Submission (under review), Accelerating the Pace of Drug Abuse Research (RFA-DA-24-037), entitled “ <i>Estimates of Regional and State-level Prevalence Prenatal Alcohol Exposure in the U.S.: Addressing the challenges to measurement and reporting of alcohol use during pregnancy</i> ”
2022	Global Research Institute at NYU, Athens, Greece, Summer Dissertation Writing Fellowship (\$3,000)
2022	NYU Silver School of Social Work Dissertation Funding (\$2,000)
2019-2022	NIDA (T32) Predoctoral Fellowship (annual stipend)

Publications

- (2024) Hai, A., Lopez-Quintero, C., Curran, L., Elton, A.I. & Bo, A. Socioeconomic status differences in U.S. multiracial adolescents’ substance use and mental health problems. *Addictive Behaviors*.
- (2024, under review) Hai, A., Vaughn, M., Salas-Wright, C., Oh, S., Curran, L., & Li, S. Sniffing, Injecting, or Smoking of Heroin by Women: New evidence on trends 2002-2021. *Journal of Social Work Practice in the Addictions*.
- (2024, under review) May, J., Naidu, T., Ramlall, S., Patankar, K., Israel, K., Esquivel, L., Curran, L., Mhlungu, S., Zondi, M., Lessell, R., Tomita, A., Manuel, J. Strategies for prevention relapse among schizophrenia patients in KwaZulu-Natal Province, South Africa: Qualitative inquiry from health care provider perspectives. Submitted to *Early Intervention in Psychiatry*.

- (2024, under review) Curran, L., Kelly, E., Thorning, H., Davis, L., Brekke, J., & Pahwa, R. Substance Use and Community Integration Among Individuals with Serious Mental Illness: A social network mixed methods approach (submitted to *Social Science and Medicine*)
- (2024, under review) Curran, L., Hai, A., Simons, J., & Bordnick, P. Technology-based interventions for substance use among young adults: A systematic review and meta-analysis.
- (2024, manuscript in progress) Curran, L., Hai, A., & Simons, J. Technology-based prevention and harm reduction interventions for substance use among young adults: A systematic review and meta-analysis.
- (2023) Curran, L., Manuel, J. Trends in Receipt of Medication for Opioid Use Disorder Among Pregnant Individuals Entering Treatment Programs in the U.S. *International Journal of Drug Policy*.
- (2023) Curran, L., Manuel, J. The Receipt of Medications for Opioid Use Disorder Among Pregnant Individuals in the U.S.: A Multi-level Analysis. *Drugs, Habits, and Social Policy*.
- (2023) Manuel, J., Yuan, Y., Curran, L., Equivel, L., Israel, K. Feasibility and Efficacy of a Continuing Care Program Following Residential Substance Use Treatment. *Poster and Abstract published in a special supplement of Substance Use and Addiction Journal*.
- (2021) Frank, D., Mateu-Gelabert, P., Perlman, D., Walters, S., Curran, L., & Guarino, H. "It's like 'liquid handcuffs'": The effects of take-home dosing policies on Methadone Maintenance Treatment (MMT) patients' lives. *Journal of Harm Reduction*.
- (2021) Curran, L., Jordan-Arthur, B., Tan, T., Rice, J. The risk of child removal by child protective services among pregnant women in medication-assisted treatment for OUD. *Journal of Social Work Practice in the Addictions*.
- (2020) Curran, L. Multi-level Barriers to Accessing Medication-Assisted Treatment Among Pregnant Women with Opioid Use Disorder in the U.S. *Poster and Abstract published in a special supplement of Addiction Science and Clinical Practice*.
- (2016) Tan, T., Jordan-Arthur, B., Garafano, J., Curran, L. Mental Health Counselor Trainees' Explicit and Implicit Attitudes toward Transracial Adoptive Families Headed by Heterosexual, Lesbian, and Gay Couples. *Journal of Homosexuality Online*.
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Research Experience

Postdoctoral Research Fellow School of Social Work, Tulane University November 2022 to present

Projects:

- Technology-based prevention and harm reduction interventions for substance use among young adults: A systematic review and meta-analysis (2023). Collaboration with Dr. Audrey Hai, Assistant Professor, Tulane University School of Social Work. Role: first author, reviewer for the study selection process, conducted study screening, data extraction, data cleaning, and risk of bias assessment, literature review, manuscript preparation
- Technology-based interventions for substance use among young adults: A systematic review and meta-analysis (2023). Collaboration with Dr. Audrey Hai, Assistant Professor, Tulane University School of Social Work and Dr. Jocelyn Simons, Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Tulane University School of Social Work. Role: reviewer for the study selection process, conducted study screening, data extraction, data cleaning, and risk of bias assessment
- A qualitative exploration of substance use, mental health, and resilience among musicians (2023). Collaboration with Dr. Tonya Hansel, Associate Professor and DSW Program Director, Tulane University School of Social Work (provided consultation on qualitative methods, manuscript preparation)
- Socioeconomic status differences in U.S. multiracial adolescents' substance use and mental health problems (2023). Collaboration with Dr. Audrey Hai, Assistant Professor, Tulane University School of Social Work (conducted literature review, manuscript preparation)

Responsibilities:

- Collaborate with faculty on multiple funded projects
- Conduct qualitative, quantitative, and mixed methods research

- Grant writing
- Co-teach doctoral level courses
- Attend Hanover Grant Writing Training Workshops (individually tailored grant writing support for faculty)
- Provide training, support, and mentorship for research assistants and MSW and DSW students

**Predoctoral Research Fellow
Behavioral Sciences Training Program (NIDA T32)
New York University, Rory Meyers College of Nursing
July 2019 to July 2022**

Responsibilities:

- Collaborate with multidisciplinary predoctoral and postdoctoral researchers across New York City
- Weekly intensive mentorship and dissertation support
- Weekly group presentation of ongoing research progress
- Attend NIH grant reviews in the College of Nursing
- Attend NIH Grant-Writing Workshops (NYU)

Access to Medication for Opioid Use Disorder (MOUD) Among Pregnant Women in the US: A Mixed Methods Dissertation (2019-2022)

- Successfully defended, September 2022
- Mixed methods and multi-level modeling
- Primary qualitative data collection
- Three-paper format
- Supported by funding from the NYU Behavioral Sciences Training Program (T32) and the 2022 NYU Global Research Initiatives Summer Dissertation Writing Fellowship (Athens, Greece)
- Dissertation committee: Dr. Jennifer Manuel (chair), Dr. Marya Gwadz, Dr. Ellen Benoit

**Research Assistant, Dr. Jennifer Manuel
Silver School of Social Work, New York University
September 2017 to 2022**

Projects:

- Critical Time Intervention (CTI) for Individuals with Substance Use Disorders Transitioning from Residential Treatment, partnership with Starhill Residential, Bronx, NY. Principal Investigator: Dr. Jennifer Manuel. Research Team: Yeqing Yuan, Laura Esquivel, Laura Curran.
- Using Mobile Phone Technology to Assess Substance Use Outcomes and Promote Recovery, a mixed methods study to pilot test an existing smartphone application, Addiction Comprehensive Support System (ACHESS). Principal Investigator: Dr. Jennifer Manuel. Co-investigators: Laura Esquivel, Laura Curran.

Responsibilities:

- Coordinate with community substance use treatment programs in NYC to recruit study participants
- Maintain partnership with community agencies and key stakeholders
- Participant recruitment and tracking
- Semi-structured interviews at baseline and follow-up intervals
- Smartphone app tracking and electronic data collection
- Thematic coding and analysis of qualitative interviews in Dedoose
- Comprehensive literature reviews and manuscript preparation
- Data coding and cleaning using Excel and Stata-17

**Research Assistant, Dr. Rohini Pahwa
Silver School of Social Work, New York University
September 2017 to August 2018**

Projects:

- Community Integration and Social Networks Among Individuals with Serious Mental Illness. Principal Investigator: Dr. Rohini Pahwa, Dr. John Brekke. Research Team: Dr. Erin Kelly, Dr. Yeqing Yuan, Laura Esquivel, Laura Curran, Krushika Uday Pantakar.
- Experiences of Substance Use and Community Integration for Individuals with Serious Mental Illness. Principal Investigator: Dr. Rohini Pahwa. Research team: Dr. Erin Kelly, Laura Curran.

Responsibilities:

- Collaborate with community mental health programs in all 5 NYC boroughs to recruit study participants
- Conduct qualitative and semi-structured interviews focused on community integration for individuals with serious mental illness (SMI) in residential psychiatric services
- Comprehensive review of literature pertaining to severe mental illness and community integration
- Thematic coding and analysis of qualitative interviews
- Social network data collection and analysis

Research Assistant, Dr. Cora DeLeon
Silver School of Social Work, New York University
November 2020 to February 2021

- Fulfill research assistant duties for a pilot grant funded study entitled Examining Smoke-Free Compliance Challenges and Social Norm Fluctuations Among NYU Public Housing Residents During COVID-19
- Quantitative survey data collection via phone interviews using Qualtrics, with residents of NYCHA Public Housing units

Research Assistant, Dr. David Frank
School of Global Public Health, New York University
July 2020 to October 2020

- Fulfill research assistant duties for a pilot grant funded study entitled Stakeholders' perceptions of Medication for the Treatment of Opioid Use Disorder: Factors influencing patient uptake and retention
- Recruitment and qualitative data collection via semi-structured phone interviews with users and providers of medication-assisted treatment

Research Assistant, Dr. Tony Tan
Psychological and Social Foundations, University of South Florida
September 2014 to May 2017

- Data collection and analysis
- Developed conference presentation for findings

Teaching Experience

Co-Instructor, Applied Social Science Statistics (hybrid), Tulane School of Social Work, DSW Program, Spring 2023
 Adjunct Faculty, Social Work Practice in the Child Welfare System (online), NYU Silver School of Social Work, MSW Program, Spring 2021

Teaching Assistant, Dr. Jennifer Manuel. Seminar in Evidence-Based Practices for Mental Health, Fall 2020
 NYU Silver School of Social Work

Teaching Assistant, Dr. Suzanne England. Digital Practices for Social Justice Advocacy, Spring 2020.
 NYU Silver School of Social Work

Presentations

Curran, L. Poster Presentation: The Receipt of Medications for Opioid Use Disorder Among Pregnant Individuals in the US: A Multilevel Analysis. American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM) Annual Conference, Washington DC, April 2023.

- Curran, L. Poster Presentation: The Receipt of Medications for Opioid Use Disorder Among Pregnant Individuals in the US: A Multilevel Analysis. Tulane Research, Innovation, and Creativity Summit, New Orleans, LA, March 2023.
- Curran, L. Oral Presentation: Trends in Receipt of Medication for Opioid Use Disorder Among Pregnant Individuals Entering Treatment Programs in the U.S. Presented at the 27th Annual Society for Social Work Research Conference, Phoenix, AZ, January 2023.
- Curran, L., Kelly, E. Oral Presentation: Experiences of Substance Use and Community Integration Among People Living with Serious Mental Illness (SMI). American Public Health Association (in person), Denver, CO, October 2021.
- Curran, L. Virtual Presentation: Meeting the Need for Substance Use Treatment Among Pregnant Women During the Opioid Crisis. American Psychopathological Association (virtual), March 2021.
- Curran, L. Virtual Poster Presentation: Multi-level Barriers to Accessing Medication-Assisted Treatment Among Pregnant Women with Opioid Use Disorder in the U.S. Addiction Health Services Research (virtual), October 2020.
- Esquivel, L, Curran, L. Roundtable Presentation: A Qualitative Study on Evidence Based Implementation Decision Making in Substance Use Treatment Programs in the Context of Healthcare Reform. American Public Health Association Annual Meeting and Expo, Philadelphia, PA, November 2019.
- Manuel, J., Curran, L.. Poster Presentation: Gender Differences in Opioid Agonist Treatment and Outcomes Among Persons with Opioid Use Disorder in the United States. Addiction Health Services Research, Park City, Utah, October 2019.
- Curran, L. Poster Presentation: Children's Risk of Removal and Pregnant Women in Methadone Treatment: Correlates with Treatment Adherence. Poster presented at the 23rd Annual Society for Social Work Research Conference, San Francisco, CA, January 2019.
- Pahwa, R., Curran, L. Oral Presentation: Social Networks and Community Integration Among Individuals Living with Severe Mental Illness. Presented at the New York State Assertive Community Treatment (NYS ACT) Conference, Ellenville, NY, October 2018.
- Tan, T., Curran, L. Conference Presentation: Mental Health Counselor Trainees' Explicit and Implicit Attitudes toward Transracial Adoptions Headed by Gay, Lesbian, and Heterosexual Couples. Journal of Homosexuality. Paper presented at the 5th International Conference on Adoption Research, Auckland University of Technology, Auckland, New Zealand, January 2016.

Clinical Experience

Drug Abuse Comprehensive Coordinating Office (DACCO) (now COVE Behavioral), Tampa, FL
Substance Abuse Counselor, Pregnancy Specialist, Opioid Addiction Treatment Services (OATS) Program
April 2015- May 2016

- Provided counseling and case management services for pregnant and post-partum women enrolled in medication-assisted treatment for opioid use disorder
- Developed individualized psychosocial assessments and treatment plans
- Coordinated therapeutic interventions with medical staff, Zero Exposure Program (ZEP), Child Protective Services, Family and Drug Court, Department of Children and Families, and local hospitals
- Administered ASQ (Ages and Stages Questionnaires) as part of a grant-funded project coordinated with Champions for Children

Life Share, LLC, Tampa, FL
Outpatient Therapist
October 2014- April 2015

- Provided in-home counseling services for children and families in Hillsborough County

- Conducted biopsychosocial assessments and CFARS (Child Functional Assessment Rating Scales)
- Coordinated care with Hillsborough County Dependency Court and Department of Children and Families

Bay Area Behavioral Services, Brandon, FL
 Outpatient Therapist
 May 2013- October 2013

- Assisted children, families, and couples reach their potential with in-home family counseling services
- Specialized in working with children and families in the child welfare system with emphasis in the areas of trauma, abuse, domestic violence, and play therapy

Metropolitan Ministries, Tampa, FL
 Intake Coordinator (internship)
 August 2012- May 2013

- Served homeless individuals and families by providing individual counseling, psycho-educational groups, and community referrals for children and families residing in the “Uplift U” Residential Program
- Facilitated training for new interns on intake procedures and motivational interviewing

Certifications

- Licensed Mental Health Counselor (LMHC) (License #MH14319), Florida Board of Clinical Social Work, Marriage and Family Therapy, and Mental Health Counseling, active since 2016
- Antiracist Pedagogy for Social Work Faculty Certification, NYU Silver School of Social Work, August 2021
- Certified Administrator for ASQ Assessments (Ages and Stages Questionnaire for Infant Development), 2015
- Adoption Competency Certification, Sylvia Thomas Center Training Institute, 2012
- Certified Rater for CFARS (Children’s Functional Assessment Rating Scale), 2012
- Certified Guardian ad Litem Volunteer, 13th Judicial Circuit of Hillsborough County, FL, 2011-2016

Continuing Education

- Hanover Grant Writing Workshop, individualized and intensive grant writing support and mentorship (January 2023 to January 2024)
- Multidisciplinary Association of Psychedelic Studies Conference, Conference Attendee, Denver, CO (June 2023)
- Multi-level Modeling in the Social Sciences, ICPSR Summer Session, 2021 (online)
- Quantitative Methods to Advance Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, ICPSR Summer Session, 2020 (online)
- NIH Grant Writing Workshop Series, Center for Drug Use and HIV Research (CDUHR) and NYU School of Global Public Health, 2019
- Online courses: HIV/AIDS: Epidemic Update for Florida, Management of Opioid Dependency During Pregnancy, Medical Marijuana and Other Cannabinoids, Sensory Processing Disorder: Impact on Care, March 2019
- CDUHR Symposium: The Current Opioid Overdose Epidemic, March 2019
- Naloxone Training, CDUHR, June 2018
- Introduction to Quantitative Methods for the Social Sciences and Humanities, Harvard Extension School, Fall 2016
- HIV and AIDS Training, DACCO Training Center, 2016
- Preventing Medical Errors: Best Practices for Mental Health Professionals, 2016
- Collaborative Workshop entitled “Comprehensive Care of Pregnant and/or Parenting Women with Substance Use Disorders: Applying Research Findings to Real-World Practice”, presented by Dr. Lori Keyser-Marcus, December 2015
- Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy Training, Medical University of South Carolina, 2014
- Psychotropic Medications Training, Eckerd Community Alternatives, 2013

- “Emotional Regulatory Healing (ERH) Trauma-Informed Care for Mental Health Professionals”, presented by Juli Alvarado, 2013
 - “Neuroscience, Stress Management, and Substance Abuse Counseling: Suggestions for Effective Integration”, presented by Allen E. Ivey, EdD, ABPP and Mary Bradford Ivey, EdD, NCC, LMHC, 2012
 - Understanding the Needs of Persons with Co-Occurring Disorders, Louis de la Parte Florida Mental Health Institute, 2010
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Skills and Expertise

- Research skills including coordinating and partnering with community agencies and key stakeholders, participant recruitment and engagement, data collection and analysis, literature reviews
 - Qualitative and semi-structured interviewing (virtual and in person)
 - Mixed methods research designs
 - Academic writing, including grant proposals, literature reviews, and empirical work
 - Clinical counseling skills including child and family interventions, case management, motivational interviewing, crisis intervention, treatment planning, psychological assessments, and play therapy
 - Therapeutic interventions and medication for opioid use disorder (MOUD) for pregnant and post-partum individuals
 - Specialized knowledge of the child welfare system, adoptions, foster care, trauma informed care, child/parent attachment, and infant development
 - Excellent leadership and interpersonal communication skills
 - Ability to work effectively within collaborative groups
 - Proficient in STATA-17 and Dedoose
 - Basic analytic skills in Python and Jupyter Notebooks
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Community Service

Doctoral Student Association, Silver School of Social Work, New York, NY
Secretary (2018 to 2019), Vice President (2019-2020)

Guardian Ad Litem Volunteer (FL), 2011 to 2016

- Advocate for Florida’s abused and neglected children involved in child welfare system
- Represent the best interest of the child in court proceedings until a permanent home is found
- Provide monthly reports to Hillsborough County Dependency Court to monitor the child’s wellbeing
- Attend ongoing training in child development, adoption, and Florida law and policy

Orphan’s Heart, October 2013

- Addressed physical and emotional needs of children at the Malnutrition Center in San Juan, Guatemala
- Provided daily care for infants with chronic malnutrition
- Studied infant development in the context of poverty and malnutrition

References

Dr. Susan Davies
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