

Welcome to the 3rd issue of the JBOT Newsletter! This issue includes snapshots of active projects in the U.S., a student –practitioner reflection on occupational justice, and notables on research, accolades and resources. Our next issue will feature international collaboration at the Canadian OT Association Conference. Stay tuned...!



## AOTA 2019

We had a wonderful time in New Orleans at the AOTA conference. Three, productive JBOT meetings resulted in the development of an action plan to inform a wide variety of audiences on the role of OT in and around justice-based work. We will be developing a series of JBOT fact sheets for general and targeted audiences. Resource lists for practice, education, and research will be created and shared.

We are featuring a few stories about JBOT practitioner work in this issue. If you would like to share your work in a future JBOT newsletter, please send your brief story (about 300 words) to [ljaegers@slu.edu](mailto:ljaegers@slu.edu).

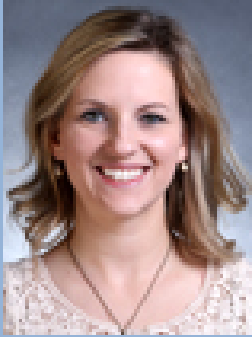


## JBOT AROUND THE U.S.

### Active Projects

**The University of Louisiana at Monroe,  
Emily Mike, OTD, LOTR**

The [University of Louisiana Monroe MOT and OTA programs](#) have conducted psychosocial & life skills group sessions at Green Oaks Detention Center for the past 2 ½ years. This facility houses juvenile offenders ages 9-16 and 17 year old non-violent offenders. A group of 8, Level 1, OTA students visit the site one time a week and a group of 10, Level 1, MOT students visit the site one time a month during the Spring semester. During the summer and fall semesters, Level 2 students visit the site one time a week. The clinical supervisor at the site is currently engaged in a two-year study, collecting data on the sensory processing needs of the population. For more information on the site, see last year's article in [OT Practice](#).



**OT and Recovery Courts,  
Kaylin Flamm, MOT, OTR/L. Mental Health  
Court Case Manager and Occupational Therapist.**

[http://www.rutherfordcountyttn.gov/drug\\_court/](http://www.rutherfordcountyttn.gov/drug_court/)

As the number of incarcerated Americans continues to rise, the work of diversion programs becomes increasingly important. Recovery Courts are nationally recognized as a successful treatment and diversion option for many Americans facing jail time for non-violent offenses. Drug Courts and DUI Courts are becoming increasingly common, in an effort to provide treatment to individuals experiencing substance abuse problems. In places like Rutherford County in Middle Tennessee, diversion courts have become even more client centered to include not only DUI and Drug courts, but also Veterans Court, Co-Occurring Court, and Mental Health Court.

I am Kaylin Flamm and I have been fortunate enough to join Rutherford County's Recovery Court to develop Occupational Therapy services for their Mental Health Court program. Through this position, I facilitate several groups, including Life Skills groups, Coping and Communication Skills groups, and a generalized OT group focused on socialization. Additionally, I see clients on an individual basis, to focus on client centered goals often involving money management, social participation, job retention, IADL/ADL skills, emotional regulation, leisure exploration, and addressing sensory needs, to name a few. I am looking forward to expanding occupational therapy's reach within the Recovery Court system by accepting level II fieldwork students at the beginning of 2020 and potentially securing funding for a sensory room and neurofeedback equipment.

Working as a justice based OT, specifically in a diversion program, has been a challenging and rewarding experience. Seeing the unique and distinct value occupational therapy can offer to this special population is incredibly motivating. It is a great reminder of the endless possibilities for occupational therapists within the criminal justice system by supporting recovery through occupation.



- 3<sup>rd</sup> National Symposium on Corrections Worker Health
- August 1, 2019, Boston MA
  - The Symposium will bring together correctional leaders, industry practitioners, labor, and researchers to discuss solutions and collaboration possibilities to improve correctional worker health and well-being using principles of Total Worker Health
  - Sponsored by CPH-NEW, UMass Lowell, Saint Louis University, HWC, and other partners.
  - See details from the 2017 conference for more info about the event.  
<https://www.uml.edu/research/cph-new/symposium-corrections-worker-health.aspx>

3<sup>rd</sup> 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

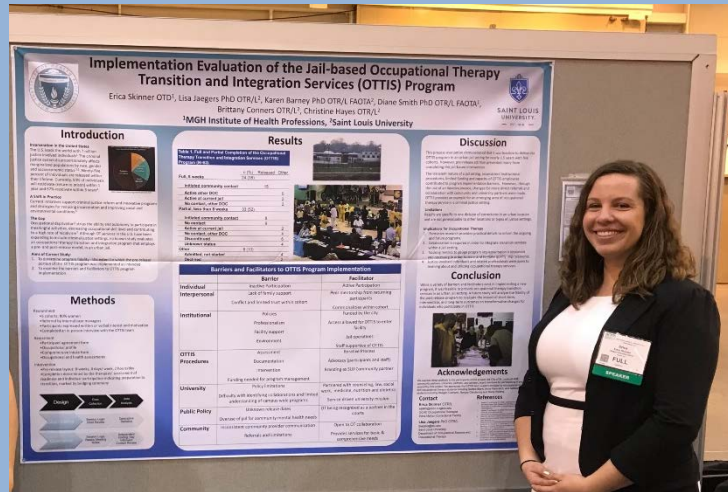


JBOT AROUND THE U.S.

Student to Practitioner Reflection

**Erica Skinner, OTD, OTR/L**  
**Rutgers, University Correctional**  
**Healthcare, Edna Mahan Correctional**  
**Facility for Women.**  
**Clinton, New Jersey**

*Dr. Skinner presenting  
at the American Occupational  
Therapy Conference, April 2019*

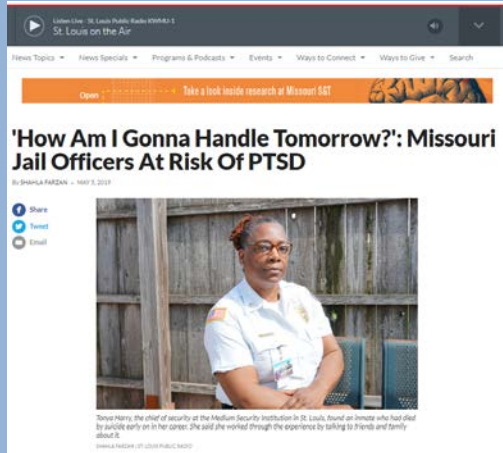


During my first semester at the [MGH Institute of Health Professions](#) students participate in a course called Foundations of OT Practice. I vividly remember the lecture in which we were introduced to the concept of occupational justice. As we began to explore barriers and risk factors that may increase an individual's or population's vulnerability to occupational deprivation, alienation, and marginalization we spoke about opportunities to promote occupational balance and wellbeing. One population that was highlighted at this time was individuals experiencing incarceration. Although none of my professors had direct experience in this field of work, I was encouraged by my mentor to further explore the role of occupational therapy in criminal justice settings through a self-guided independent study.

After obtaining the foundational knowledge of OTs' potential to work in this setting, my passion to promote occupational justice for incarcerated individuals grew. I began setting short- and long-term goals for myself, which included attending community events hosted by and for formerly incarcerated persons, connecting with occupational therapists who have clinical experience in this setting, and completing my advance doctoral experience (ADE) in a related area. It was at my first AOTA Conference in 2016 (and again in 2017) that I connected with practitioners working in and advocating for this emerging area of practice. I am fortunate to have completed my ADE in conjunction with [Saint Louis University's Transformative Justice Initiative](#), during which time I conducted an implementation evaluation, helped to develop groups for women and men at the City of St. Louis Division of Corrections Medium Security Institution, and implemented one on one services to support individuals who had recently reentered back into the community through [SLU's Occupational Therapy Transition and Integration Services](#) program.

Having the opportunity to foster my skills in a clinical setting helped to confirm what I had known in the academic context: Occupational justice is not a concept, it is a human right. Justice involved individuals deserve the opportunity and support necessary to access meaningful occupations. The resilience and growth demonstrated by my incredible clients deepened my desire to provide occupational therapy services in this setting. After receiving my doctorate of occupational therapy in September of 2018 and passing the NBCOT exam that October, I began the job application process. With support of my growing network I learned of an occupational therapy position through Rutgers, working on a mental health unit at a women's prison. After applying, interviewing and touring the facility I was offered and accepted the position, beginning my journey as an occupational therapist. Being a new graduate I seek to build my network and call upon my mentors for guidance when needed. Additionally, I continue to revisit and revise my goals for growth as an OTR/L and hope to develop my own program in the future to further advocate for justice involved individuals using our unique occupational lens.

## Research In The News



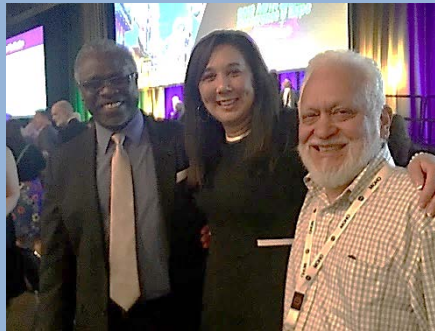
Lisa Jaegers' (Saint Louis University) study was featured on public radio.

'How Am I Gonna Handle Tomorrow?': Missouri Jail Officers At Risk Of PTSD. By Shahla Farzan. St. Louis Public Radio, 90.7 KWMU and KBIA-FM91.3 & 89.7. May 5, 2019.

Article: Jaegers LA, Matthieu M, Vaughn MG, Werth P, Katz IM, Ahmad SO. (2019, publish ahead of print). Posttraumatic stress disorder and job burnout among jail officers. Journal of Occupational and Environmental Medicine. doi: 10.1097/JOM.0000000000001600

## Accolades

Two JBOT members were awarded for their service to the profession of OT and inducted to the AOTA Roster of Fellows at the annual AOTA conference in April. Moses Ikiugu, PhD, OTR/L was recognized for Distinction in Theory, Occupational Science, and Globalization. Lisa Jaegers, PhD, OTR/L was recognized as Practitioner Scholar Promoting Occupational Health and Justice. They were greeted by Jaime Muñoz also a fellow of the AOTA.



Left to right: Dr. Moses, Dr. Jaegers & Dr. Muñoz

## Resources

**Council of State Governments  
Reentry Resource Center**  
<http://csgjusticecenter.org/nrc>  
SAMHSA

<https://www.samhsa.gov/criminal-juvenile-justice>

## Grant Opportunities

**Second Chance Act:**

<https://www.bja.gov/funding/SCAComRe19.pdf>

**National Institute of Justice**

<https://www.nij.gov/funding/pages/current.aspx>

## Join Us On Facebook!



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

Email Pam Stephenson to be added:

[pstephenson@marybaldwin.edu](mailto:pstephenson@marybaldwin.edu)



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

## JBOT's Core Team Includes:

**Lisa Jaegers, PhD, OTR/L,**  
*Saint Louis University*  
*[JBOT Organizer]*

**Cynthia Ballentine, MSOT, OTR/L,**  
*St. Louis Community College*

**Karen F. Barney, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA,**  
*Saint Louis University*

**Mary Beth Dillon, OTD, MOT, OTR/L,**  
*The University of Findlay*

**Christine Haworth, MA, OTR/L**  
*Occupational Therapy Training Program - San Francisco*

**Jaime Muñoz, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA,**  
*Duquesne University*

**Halley Read, MOT, OTR/L, QMHP,**  
*Pacific University*

**Sandra Rogers, PhD, OTR/L,**  
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*Samuel Merritt University*

**John A. White, Jr., Ph.D., FAOTA, OTR/L,**  
*Pacific University*

Please send content for future newsletters to:

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This newsletter was developed at Saint Louis University with the assistance of student worker support through the Center for Service & Community Engagement.