

Andrew Choens, MSW - Resume

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RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Healthcare Program Research Advisor
(Embedded with New York State
Department of Health)
Albany, NY

I PRO

March 2014 - Current

Embedded consultant with the New York State Department of Health. I am responsible for leading a team of analysts in evaluating care management in New York State and advising policy makers on how use these programs to improve the health of vulnerable New Yorkers. This includes working with external evaluators and internal stakeholders to understand and improve the delivery of care management services.

Evaluation responsibilities include Care Management programs administered by the Medicaid Managed Care Plans (plan-led) and Health Homes. Plan-led care management programs are an intervention for people with moderately complex health care needs who may have higher than average utilization of emergency and inpatient services. Health Homes are a more intensive care management program for enrollees with highly complex health care needs. Health Home enrollees have a history of high utilization of emergency, high-cost services. Health Homes provide continuous, integrated health care services to improve participants health and well-being while reducing unnecessary utilization of inpatient and emergency department services.

Accomplishments:

- Monitored Emergency Department, Inpatient, and Primary Care utilization of Medicaid enrollees who agreed to receive care management services.
- Monitored HEDIS quality metrics as listed in New York States SPA for the 1115 waiver program.
- Developed a novel methodology to measure pre-post enrollee utilization.
- Redesigned the Health Home - Care Management Assessment Reporting Tool (HH-CMART).
- Developed the Titanic Introduction To R to introduce DOH research scientists to the R programming language.

Policy Analyst

Hornby Zeller Associates

Troy, NY

September 2007 - March 2014

Hornby Zeller Associates (HZA) is a consulting firm specializing in child welfare, elder care, juvenile justice, and mental health. As a policy analyst, I was responsible for developing research hypotheses and methodologies. I was also responsible for providing support and mentoring to less experienced staff. Other responsibilities include data collection, management and analysis of research data and dissemination of results.

Example projects:

- Program / Systems Evaluation: Arkansas (IV-E Waiver), West Virginia (Jacob's Law), Alaska (Mental Health Beneficiary Program)
- Time Study: Virginia, Westchester County, Wisconsin
- Accounting & Title IV-E Funding: Wisconsin, Georgia, Mississippi

Accomplishments:

- Started an internship program and supervised intern.

- Developed templates and processes to automate the production of reports.
- Provided ongoing training and support for junior staff learning how to manage and structure administrative and research data in tools such as PostgreSQL, SQL Server, R and SPSS.
- Mentored junior staff in of research methods and application of statistical tests.
- Introduced the use of version control for analytic code resulting in more reliable, reproducible results.

Principal Investigator
Albany, NY
Coalition for the Homeless
September 2006 - June 2007
Principal Investigator for an exploratory research project which established the existence of homeless men and women with borderline intellectual functioning in New York State homeless shelters.

Accomplishments:

- Obtained IRB Approval.
- Demonstrated the validity of the Mini Mental Status Exam to identify homeless adults with borderline intellectual functioning.
- Recruited, trained and supervised a team of BSW students.
- Interviewed over 150 homeless New Yorkers. Successfully identified homeless adults with a historical diagnosis of borderline intellectual functioning.
- Presented results to the Assistant Commissioner of the Office of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities¹.

**CLINICAL
EXPERIENCE**

Residential Habilitation Provider
Albany, NY
Catholic Charities
October 2005 - September 2007
Delivered in-home services to Albany residents with mental retardation and other developmental disabilities. Services included family support, socialization skills and crisis counseling.

Advocate / Case Manager
Troy, NY
Joseph's House & Shelter
September 2005 - May 2006
Worked with homeless guests to find housing and income in the form of jobs or social services such as SSD. Addressed other needs on a case-by-case basis. Developed a Guest Satisfaction Survey for the shelter. Surveyed guests in the shelter during the winter of 2005 - 2006.

Teen Leadership Program Director
Rhinebeck, NY
Ramapo for Children
June 2003 - September 2005
Supervised an outdoor experiential program for teens with developmental disabilities and mental health diagnoses. Responsibilities included staff supervision and program development. Implemented a unique peer support program using conference calls. Led multi-day canoe trips on Indian Lake. Led family / team building activities including low and high ropes facilitation.

**RESEARCH
TOOLS**

Data Analysis: R, Python, SAS, SPSS, Excel
Data Management: PostgreSQL, MySQL, SQL Server, Access
Reproducible Research: L^AT_EX, Sweave, knitr, Org-Mode

¹Now called the Office for People with Developmental Disabilities.

EDUCATION

Master of Social Work	The State University of New York at Albany	Albany, NY 2007
Bachelor of International Affairs	Georgia Institute of Technology	Atlanta, GA 2002

Updated: 2015-02-03

L^AT_EX version of this document available at: <https://github.com/Choens/Resume/>