



Doctoral Dissertation Defense Announcement

“Analyzing Collaboration and Partnerships for Affordable Housing in South Carolina: A Public Health Perspective”



Brenna Bernardin

Candidate for Doctor of Public Health

School of Graduate Studies

Medical College of Wisconsin

Committee in Charge:

David Nelson, PhD (Mentor)

Christopher Simenz, PhD

Katherine Quinn, PhD

Date: Wednesday, March 27, 2024

Time: 9:00 AM (CST)

Zoom: <https://mcw-edu.zoom.us/j/7430568544?pwd=Qktzejk3RGJ0L0hqR2lkODFyTWIBZz09&omn=97289796133>

Meeting ID: 743 056 8544 Passcode: v6GhW9Fq

Graduate Studies:

Research Theory (PUBH 28150)

Public Health Practice I: Building a Foundation (PUBH 282021)

Doctoral Seminar (PUBH28301)

Public Health Research Study and Design (PUBH28160)

Public Health Practice II: Building Community Partnerships and Coalitions (PUBH28202)

Introduction to Community Engagement (PUBH28106)

Data Collection and Analysis (PUBH28151)

Public Health Practice III: Strategies for Eliminating Health Disparities (PUBH28203)

Executive and Organizational Leadership (PUBH28152)

Doctoral Dissertation (PUBH28399)

Applied Practice Experience

Dissertation

“Analyzing Collaboration and Partnerships for Affordable Housing in South Carolina: A Public Health Perspective”

Affordable housing is a critical issue in South Carolina, affecting the lives of many individuals and families. To delve deeper into this pressing concern, this study adopts a phenomenological approach to explore the lived experiences and perceptions of stakeholders involved in affordable housing initiatives across the state. Through in-depth interviews with key participants, including policymakers, nonprofit leaders, and community organizers, the research seeks to uncover the intricate dynamics of collaboration and partnership in addressing housing disparities and promoting housing equity. Drawing on the rich narratives and insights participants share, the study sheds light on the multifaceted challenges low-income individuals and families face in accessing affordable housing. It examines the strategies and approaches employed by local governments, community organizations, and advocates to address these challenges and foster more inclusive and equitable housing solutions.

Central to the study is the exploration of multi-sectoral collaborations and partnerships, which are pivotal in tackling complex social issues like affordable housing. The research highlights the importance of coordinated action and collective efforts in addressing marginalized communities' diverse needs and priorities by analyzing stakeholder interactions and relationships. Furthermore, the study emphasizes the critical role of community engagement and resident involvement in shaping affordable housing initiatives. Through meaningful participation in decision-making processes, community members can contribute valuable insights and perspectives, ensuring that affordable housing programs are tailored to meet the specific needs of local populations.

BRENNA C. BERNARDIN

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EDUCATION

- DrPH** Medical College of Wisconsin, Public Health May 2024 (expected)
Dissertation: “Analyzing Collaboration and Partnerships for Affordable Housing in South Carolina: A Public Health Perspective”
Committee: David Nelson, PhD (Chair), Christopher Simenz, PhD, and Katherine Quinn, PhD
- MPH** University of South Carolina, Public Health May 2016
Thesis: “Homeless Veteran Food Insecurity in the South East”
Advisor: Rachel Davis, PhD
- BA** University of South Carolina, Anthropology December 2011
Deans List
Minored in Women and Gender Studies

EXPERIENCE

- Columbia Classical Ballet** **Columbia, SC**
Grant Writer (2020-Present)
- Secured funding: Independently researched and wrote grant proposals to secure financial support for the Columbia Classical Ballet’s artistic and educational programs, generating one million in funding over the past three years.
 - Collaborated effectively: Partnered closely with artistic and administrative staff to understand program needs and craft compelling grant narratives that aligned with funder priorities.
 - Managed grant lifecycle: Oversaw the entire grant process, from identifying funding opportunities to proposal submission, budget development, and post-award reporting.
 - Demonstrated strong writing and research skills: Conducted comprehensive research on relevant funding sources and crafted persuasive grant proposals that adhered to strict guidelines and deadlines.
 - Maintained grant compliance: Ensured all grant proposals and reports adhered to funder regulations and maintained accurate grant documentation.

Fast Forward **Columbia, SC**

- Grant Writer (2017-Present)**
- Secured substantial funding: Authored and secured Federal, state, and local grants totaling over \$600,000 annually for Fast Forward, supporting various programs and initiatives including the Department of Labor’s Homeless Veteran Reintegration Program Grant.
 - Demonstrated expertise in grant writing: Successfully navigated diverse grant requirements, crafting compelling proposals that aligned with funder priorities across various levels (federal, state, local).
 - Ensured meticulous reporting: Maintained strict adherence to federal grant reporting regulations, delivering monthly and quarterly reports on time and with accuracy.

Grant Manager (2014-Present)

- Independently researched, authored, and secured grants. Collaborated with senior staff for effective strategies and outcomes.
- Ensured organizational compliance with grant requirements, managed policies, and provided technical expertise.
- Contributed to policy development to enhance grant management processes.

Program Director (2010-Present)

- Developed and oversaw training and employment programs, including those focused on technology and veteran support.
- Designed and executed budget plans, ensuring year-round fiscal responsibility.
- Demonstrated exceptional problem-solving, adaptability, and patience in program coordination.

Summer Camp Teacher (2004-2015)

- Designed and delivered engaging summer/out-of-school curricula with a focus on nutrition.
- Supervised groups of 20 children, working with volunteers to create a positive learning environment.

Earth Fare, Columbia, SC (2006-2018)**Bookkeeper (2016-2018):**

- Managed cash flow, processed payments, and ensured accurate financial records.
- Reconciled daily transactions and prepared financial reports.
- Maintained a clean and organized checkout environment.

Customer Service Supervisor (2006-2016):

- Resolved customer concerns and ensured positive guest experiences.
- Acted as a liaison between staff and management, addressing questions and resolving issues.
- Scheduled and supervised teams of 5-10 employees.
- Developed and implemented work plans, policies, and objectives.

PRESENTATIONS

- National Coalition for Homeless Veterans Annual Conference (Presenter: 2013, 2015, 2016, 2018, 2019, 2023, 2024), Washington, DC

Presentations:

- Techno-socially Connected Homeless Veterans • Low-cost resources for Small Businesses and Non-Profits • Homeless Veteran Food Insecurity • Affordable Housing Barriers for Veterans • Spatial Mismatch: Public Transportation
- Department of Labor Regional Conference (Presenter 2023)
- Department of Labor National Training Conference (Presenter 2022)
- Small Business Opportunities Conference (Presenter: 2014, 2016), Columbia, SC
- CompTIA Annual Conference-Breakaway (2009, 2010), Las Vegas, NV & San Antonio, TX
- CTCNET Annual Conference (Presenter: 2006), Washington, DC
- VISN 7 Regional Summit on Homeless Veterans (2009), Atlanta, GA
- Homeless Veteran Reintegration Program Grant Conference (2010), Atlanta, GA
- Homeless Female Veterans & Veterans w/Children Conference (2010), Atlanta, GA

PROFESSIONAL TRAINING

- **Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) National Center for Disaster Preparedness (NCDP):**
 - AWR-370-W: Addressing Gaps in Disaster Housing Recovery: Conducting Impact Assessments
 - AWR-371-W: Addressing Gaps in Disaster Housing Recovery: Pre-Disaster Planning
 - AWR-372-W: Addressing Gaps in Housing Disaster Recovery: Post-Disaster Planning
 - AWR-386-W: Establishing Collaborative Case Management Services
- **NCDP Training:**
 - PER-389-W: Incorporating Best Practices for Short Term and Long Term Housing Construction
 - PER-403-W: Addressing the Needs of Disaster Victims Through State, Tribal, and Territorial Housing Programs
- **CITI Program**
 - Human Subject Research

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

American Public Health Association, 2020-Present

South Carolina Public Health Association, 2015-2019