10th Annual Suburban Studies Conference Social Problems and Solutions

April 13, 2012



Kennesaw State University

Social Science Building

Sponsored by the Provost's Office, the Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice, the Burruss Institute, the Department of Student Life, AKD, and SOS.

Schedule Overview

8:00am: Check-in and Late Registration, Coffee and Danish

8:30am-8:45am Welcome

9:00am-10:20amConcurrent Sessions

Session 1A (1021): Drug Courts (Moderator: Jan Morian)

- 1. Drug/DUI Courts: Facts and Fallacies about Accountability Sentencing (Kristie Garrett and Lynn Epps)
- 2. An evaluation of the Cherokee County DUI Court (Kelleigh Trepanier)
- 3. The Social Recovery Initiative at the DeKalb County Drug Court (Sarah Haftings and Dr. Miriam Boeri)

Session 1B (1020): Suburbia and Community Engagement (Moderator: Dr. Gail Markle)

- 1. Changing Demographics of the Suburbs (Dr. Gail Markle)
- 2. Engaging Stakeholders: A Conceptual Model for Effective Donor-Community Collaboration (Amanda Guidero)

Session 1C (2021): Housing and Social Service Needs (Moderator: Dr. Gheorghiu-Stephens)

- 1. Social Service Barriers Experienced by Low-Income Extended-Stay Hotel Residents (Dr. Terri Lewinson and Dr. Carol Collard)
- 2. Aging & Community Health: An Exploratory Review of the Aging Population's Utilization of a Community Health Clinic (Dr. Vanessa Robinson-Dooley)
- 3. Homeownership: Expectations and Challenges for Low-income Households (S. Kelley Henderson)

10:30am-11:30am Concurrent Sessions

Session 2A (1021): African and Lation/a American' Psychological Well-being (Moderator: Dr. McMahon-Howard)

- 1. 'From the Hood to the Burbs': Relational and Media Moderators to Body Image among African American Men (Dr. Sean Stickney and Michael Kwakumey)
- 2. Differential Protective Role of Sociocultural Factors on Relationship between Psychosocial Stressors and Community Level Factors on Mental Health of Ethnocultural Groups (Dr. Saul Alamilla) (Co-authors: Dr. Marc Scott and Dr. Diane L. Hughes, New York University).

Session 2B (1020): Drugs and Gangs (Moderator: Dr. Rebecca Petersen)

- 1. Marijuana Prohibition in California: Racial Prejudice and Selective- Arrests (Dr. Kenneth White)
- 2. Gangs in the Suburbs (Dr. Rebecca Petersen)

Session 2C (2021): Student Presentations (Moderator: Dr. Christopher Totten)

- 1. Mass Incarceration: A Wasted Investment (Chad Voci)
- 2. Bridges to Nowhere: Understanding Social Network Dynamics of Drug Court Participants (Melanie Alm and Kristie DiIorio)
- 3. Burning More than Grass: Understanding Cultural Capital of Drug Court Participants (William Holt, Peter Adzudzor, and Dakota Fidram)

11:40am-12:40pm: Keynote Speaker (1021): Dr. Sam Tsemberis (Introduction: Provost Ken Harmon)

12:45 pm -2:15 pm: Lunch (Atrium); Lunch with Brainstorming Session (1020)

2:30 pm- 3:30 pm Concurrent Sessions

Session 3A (1021): Research to Practice: What it Means to be Homeless en French: Implementing Housing-First in Marseilles (Hermann Händlhuber)

Session 3B (1020): Methods Discussion (Dr. Sam Tsemberis)

3: 40 pm – 5:00 pm Concurrent Sessions

Session 4A (1021): Occupy Panel Discussion (Panel Organizer: Daniel Pass; Moderator: Mr.Paul Boshears)

1. Occupy Our Homes! The Occupy Movement & Home Defense Direct Actions (Panelists: Paul Boshears, Jay Atkins, Tim Franzen, and Thomas Pynn)

Session 4B (1020AB): HIV/AIDS (Moderator: Dr. Jennifer McMahon-Howard)

- 1. Voices of Persons Living with HIV (Dr. Barbara Blake and Dr. Gloria Taylor)
- 2. Prevention and Care Needs of HIV Positive Youth Living in Georgia (Dr. Quienton Nichols)
- 3. Evaluation of AID Atlanta (Dr. Christine Ziegler, Sarah Holland, and Ashley Sellers)

Detailed Schedule

8:00am Check-in and Late Registration, Coffee and Danish

8:30am-8:45am Welcome

9:00 - 10:20 am

Moderator: Jan Morian

Session 1A (1021): Drug Courts

Drug/DUI Courts: Facts and Fallacies about Accountability Sentencing

Kristie Garrett (Cobb County Drug Court) and Lynn Epps (Cherokee County Drug Court)

In this panel discussion, representatives from 2 county drug/DUI courts will discuss what drug courts do, how they are alike and different, components of the programs, the challenges faced by both participants and program administrators as well as the successes experienced the parties involved. In addition, the panel will discuss the benefits to society in terms of both costs and human life.

An evaluation of the Cherokee County DUI Court

Kelleigh Trepanier, (A.L. Burruss Institute of Public Service & Research, KSU)

In the Spring of 2009, the A.L. Burruss Institute of Public Service and Research conducted an evaluation of the Cherokee County DUI Court. The evaluation was based on the mission of the DUI Court: 1. To protect the safety of all citizens of Cherokee County. 2. To give participants an opportunity to become productive members of our community; 3. To provide the necessary treatment, services, and tools through intensive judicial supervision. As part of the evaluation, the Burruss Institute conducted a web survey of program stakeholders and a paper and pencil survey, conducted on-site, of program participants. The survey instruments used as part of the evaluation were developed in conjunction with the Cherokee County DUI Court. This presentation will highlight findings of these data collection efforts.

The Social Recovery Initiative at the DeKalb County Drug Court

Sarah Haftings and Dr. Miriam Boeri (Kennesaw State University)

Social recovery refers to the process of acquiring the skills, resources, and networks needed that enhance people's ability to live in society and enjoy being with others without resorting to problematic alcohol or drug use. The initiative is designed to facilitate people into making new connections, enjoying new activities, and creating new social networks. It is built on the theory of social capital, which is a conceptual framework that shifts our focus of analysis from individuals to patterns of relationships between individuals, communities and institutions. We will discuss the logistics of implementing this program, successful outcomes, limitations, and future directions.

Session 1B (1020): Suburbia and Community Engagement Moderator: Dr. Gail Markle

Changing Demographics of the Suburbs

Dr. Gail Markle (Kennesaw State University)

The song, "Little Boxes," written by Malvina Reynolds in 1962 became a hit for folk singer Pete Seeger in 1963. The lyrics characterize suburbia as the epitome of social conformity, be it the housing - "little boxes all the same," the homeowners - who "all look just the same," and even their children - who go "to the university where they are put in boxes and they all come out the same." This image of the suburbs as bastions of middle class homogeneity is certainly not reflective of American suburbs today. Nor is it very reflective of American suburbs in general, historically. This paper describes the evolution of the American suburbs, from their elite origins in the early 1900s to their present state of polarization. I present longitudinal data to illustrate how contemporary suburbs are becoming increasingly similar to cities in terms of the race and ethnicity, nativity, age, and socioeconomic status of their residents.

Session 1B (cont)

9:00 - 10:20 am (cont)

Engaging Stakeholders: A Conceptual Model for Effective Donor-Community Collaboration

Amanda Guidero (co-authored with Dr. Volker Franke) (Kennesaw State University)

I will present the outcome of a project completed by Dr. Volker Franke and myself for the research firm RTI International. This research project provided a comprehensive overview over the methods used by donor agencies as well as those recommended by academic experts to engage stakeholders in development projects. We looked at documents produced by the World Bank, the International Finance Corporation, the United Nations, USAID, and the German Technical Corporation (GTZ), supplemented by scholarly as well as private sector analyses of specific case studies provided the most comprehensive framework and practical guidelines for this research. As a result of this approach, we developed a conceptual model for systematically identifying and recruiting local stakeholders and for effectively engaging them in the sustained delivery of technical assistance and development aid (IRES model).

Moderator: Dr. Gheorghiu-Stephens

Session 1C (2021): Housing and Social Service Needs

Social Service Barriers Experienced by Low-Income Extended-Stay Hotel Residents

Dr. Terri Lewinson (Georgia State University) and Dr. Carol Collard (Kennesaw State University)

This paper presents findings from a qualitative study of 14 individuals residing in extended-stay hotels after housing displacement. Framed in ecosystems and structuration theory, the purpose of this study was to understand social service barriers experienced by help-seeking residents. Participants were engaged in in-depth interviews and asked about challenges faced when they reached out for assistance to prepare for stable housing. Reported barriers included negative interactions with social service personnel, cumbersome agency processes, and insufficient/inappropriate resources. Hotel residents identified guidance, compassion, and advocacy as interventions practitioners can use to support client transitions to stable housing.

Aging & Community Health: An Exploratory Review of the Aging Population's Utilization of a Community Health Clinic

Dr. Vanessa Robinson-Dooley (Kennesaw State University)

The number of individuals aging in society is increasing and their healthcare needs are diverse. Many are living on fixed incomes or have limited (to no) income to assist with meeting their increasing health needs. These individuals, like many others, seek out and utilize resources in their communities to assist with meeting their healthcare needs. Community health clinics serve those in the community who are uninsured or underinsured. This paper takes an exploratory look at the aging population utilizing a community health clinic. This clinic is a partnership between a major university and local non-profit. The clinic is staffed, and patients are served, by faculty practitioners and interns. This paper explores the needs of these patients and makes recommendations about how a community clinic utilizing a multidisciplinary model of practice and teaching can better serve this population.

Homeownership: Expectations and Challenges for Low-income Households

S. Kelley Henderson (Walden University; MUST Ministries).

Homeownership continues to be seen as an important component of the American Dream, yet affordable housing remains out of reach for many families in America. In addition to problems of housing affordability, little research has been done to fully understand the needs of low-income households to maintain housing and make informed purchase decisions. Record numbers of foreclosures during the recent financial crisis in America have raised awareness of the disproportionate number of low-income first time homeowners who have lost their homes. Understanding the driving and restraining forces behind the home purchase decision for low-income households is an important first step. Further study into understanding the changing needs of growing and diverse communities can inform our policy response to a shifting landscape.

Session 2A (1021): African and Latino/a Americans' Psychological Well-being

Moderator: Dr. Jennifer McMahon-Howard

'From the Hood to the Burbs': Relational and Media Moderators to Body Image among African American Men

Dr. Sean Stickney and Michael Kwakumey (Kennesaw State University)

The largest study on body image among African American men to date is currently underway which examines the role of family, media, sporting/exercise culture, and relational history as they might contribute to body image. This presentation will be highlighted by a discussion of the background, research questions, findings, and implications for social, psychological health research and programming.

Differential Protective Role of Sociocultural Factors on Relationship between Psychosocial Stressors and Community Level Factors on Mental Health of Ethnocultural Groups

Dr. Saul Alamilla (Kennesaw State University)

(Co-authors: Dr. Marc Scott and Dr. Diane L. Hughes, New York University).

In light of known mental health risk factors for ethnocultural groups, the present study examined the differential protective effects of relevant sociocultural factors in tandem with other personal and neighborhood factors. Using multilevel modeling, the present study examined psychological wellbeing as a function of sociocultural factors (i.e., enculturation, religious/spiritual coping), generation status, personal factors (i.e., sense of control), individual psychosocial stressors (i.e., discrimination, neighborhood disorder), perceived neighborhood cohesion, and community level psychosocial factors (i.e., neighborhood socioeconomic status, racial/ethnic segregation) on psychological wellbeing among a sample of 1306 African and Latino/a Americans. The second goal was to examine the moderating role of sociocultural factors, sense of control, generation status, and perceived neighborhood cohesion on the relationship between psychosocial stressors and several dimensions of psychological wellbeing. The present study utilized a subset of data from the Midlife Development study (Hughes & Schweder, 2005), which was part of a larger, national survey of midlife Americans (Brim, Ryff, & Kessler, 2004). The specific data were collected from a survey conducted in Chicago and New York City and was designed to assess the well-being of middle-aged, urban, ethnic minority adults living in both hyper-segregated neighborhoods and in areas with lower concentrations of minorities (Hughes & Schweder, 2005).

Moderator: Dr. Rebecca Petersen

Session 2B (1020) Drugs and Gangs

Marijuana Prohibition in California: Racial Prejudice and Selective- Arrests

Dr. Kenneth White (Kennesaw State University) (co-authored with Kenneth Michael White and Mirya Holman)

In 1913, California outlawed marijuana on the basis of express racial animus directed towards non-white ethnic groups. The federal government prohibited marijuana in 1937 on a similar basis. Today, both California and the federal government continue to enforce marijuana prohibition, even though it would be illegal to adopt the same policy anew today for the same reasons. We assume that the past influences the present and hypothesize that the express racism behind marijuana prohibition influences current arrests for marijuana offenses in California. An analysis of arrest data from 2000-2008 in California shows a connection between the racialized origins of marijuana prohibition and the current nature of marijuana arrests. Blacks and Hispanics are significantly more likely than whites are to be arrested for a marijuana offense in California. We conclude that modern marijuana prohibition is too entangled with the racism of the past to be fairly enforced today. Evaluating what we call selective-arrest behavior reveals fundamental evidence of institutional racism in the enforcement of marijuana prohibition in California. We argue that marijuana prohibition should be replaced with a medical marijuana framework, essentially returning to the policy paradigm that existed prior the biased beginning of marijuana prohibition in the early 1900s.

10:30 - 11:30 am (cont)

Session 2B (cont)

Gangs in the Suburbs

Dr. Rebecca Petersen (Kennesaw State University)

Dr. Petersen will be presenting her research on "Myths and Facts of Gangs in the Suburbs." Many people are surprised to hear of gangs in suburban communities. In Cobb County, Georgia, gangs are present in every community and in each of the high schools. They are, however, mostly concentrated in high-density areas that border the City of Atlanta. This session explores myths and facts of suburban gangs and how to raise awareness of this social problem from a public policy perspective.

Moderator: Dr. Christopher Totten

Session 2C (2021): Student Presentations

Mass Incarceration: A Wasted Investment

Chad Voci (Kennesaw State University)

The United States faces significant and challenging issues regarding its incarcerated population. The U.S. correctional system over time has jailed more non-violent criminals than violent offenders. The consistent increase in the amount of incarcerated inmates has quickly become an enormous burden on the taxpayers of the United States. The number of people who are sent to prison and the length of time they stay there must be reduced. Better rehabilitation programs, a higher quality of reentry practices, and reduction of individuals on probation and parole could play significant roles in reducing the inmate population. The purpose of this paper is to bring awareness to the mass incarceration problem within the United States in an attempt to better inform inmate release alternatives.

Bridges to Nowhere: Understanding Social Network Dynamics of Drug Court Participants Melanie Alm and Kristie DiIorio (North Georgia College and State University)

The primary focus of drug courts is to provide an alternative to traditional sentencing using a combination of psychological methods in the form of counseling and monitoring in addition to frequent drug testing (Lindquist et al. 2006). While some drug court programs have begun to focus on the importance of social networks in relation to recidivism by providing increased social resources and interactions few studies have looked into how these drug court programs could benefit from a more sociological analysis of its approach (May 2008). To address some of these shortcomings, the current study constructed a network analysis of drug court participants. Results are not only discussed with reference to factors conducive to "program success" or processes that reduce future recidivism but also by offering a number of trajectories for future research.

Burning More than Grass: Understanding Cultural Capital of Drug Court Participants William Holt, Peter Adzudzor, and Dakota Fidram (North Georgia College and State University)

The primary focus of drug courts is to provide an alternative to traditional sentencing using a combination of psychological methods in the form of counseling and monitoring in addition to frequent drug testing (Lindquist et al. 2006). While some drug court programs have begun to focus on the importance of social networks in relation to recidivism by providing increased social resources and interactions few studies have looked into how these drug court programs could benefit from a more sociological analysis of its approach (May 2008). To address some of these shortcomings, the current study conceptualized social capital as an amalgam of four different types of network resources: emotional, financial, normative and symbolic/cultural resources. Our study operationalized and examined cultural capital. Results are not only discussed with reference to factors conducive to "program success" or processes that reduce future recidivism but also by offering a number of trajectories for future research.

11:40am - 12:40 pm

Keynote Address (1021): Dr. Sam Tsemberis

Introduction: Provost Ken Harmon

Housing First is an evidence-based intervention that effectively ends homelessness and supports recovery for people who have lived on the streets for years and who suffer from mental health, addiction, and other problems. The presenter will describe this intervention and present the research supporting its clinical effectiveness and cost savings.

12:45 pm - 2:15 pm

Lunch (Atrium); Lunch with Brainstorming Session (1020)

2:30 pm - 3:30 pm

Session 3A (1021): Research to Practice

What it Means to be Homeless en French: Implementing Housing-First in Marseilles Hermann Händlhuber

After being homeless for many years, Hermann Händlhuber began working with a psychiatrist, Dr. Vincent Girard, and an outreach team with the doctors of the world (Médecins du Monde) to visit the homeless people in the streets from Marseille. While Dr. Girard cared for those with serious mental diseases, such as schizophrenia and bipolar disorder, Mr. Händlhuber was the peer worker who took care of the social problems, such as looking for places to treat people far from the danger of the street. They founded an association called "Les Nomades Célestes," which means the nomad's modern (literally heavenly), and in the name of this association occupied an old and empty house in the center of Marseilles. Then, they founded the association "le Marabout" (African word meaning shelter), and opened a shelter with a capacity of 15 beds in single-bed, private rooms. The model followed the "housing first" model that Dr. Girard learned while studying in the United States with Dr. Tsemberis. Their work has been recognized by the French government as a viable and successful model for addressing homeless populations with dual diagnosis. The city of Marseilles gave the organization more homes to house the homeless they work with, and the French government recently asked them to come start similar Marabout homes in five other cities in France. During this session, Mr. Händlhuber will discuss his efforts to help the homeless population in France.

Session 3B (1020): Methods Discussion Dr. Sam Tsemberis

3:40 pm - 5:00 pm

Session 4B (1020): Occupy Our Homes! The Occupy Movement & Home Defense Direct Actions

Panel Organizer: Daniel Pass (Kennesaw State University) Moderator: Paul Boshears (the European Graduate School) Panelists: Paul Boshears (the European Graduate School), Jay Atkins (New School for Social Research), Tim Franzen (American Friends Service Committee), and Thomas Pynn (Kennesaw State University)

Inspired by the direct actions in Spain, Greece, and the Arab Spring of 2011, the North American Occupy movements have activated a surprising number of people across a variety of social situations. This panel will present perspectives from direct action participants as well as participant observers of the ongoing Occupations. The panelists will present a "worm's eye view" of the Occupy movements with an emphasis on contexts (urban vs. suburban) the affective politics of non-hierarchical direct action, and what impact these have.

3:40 - 5:00 pm (cont)

Moderator: Dr. Jennifer McMahon-Howard

Session 4A (1021): HIV/AIDS

Voices of Persons Living with HIV

Dr. Barbara Blake and Dr. Gloria Taylor (Kennesaw State University)

The advent of highly active antiretroviral therapy has transitioned HIV disease from a death sentence to a chronic illness. Unfortunately, during the past 30 year of this epidemic, the underserved and vulnerable populations have suffered the most. This presentation will include a historic overview of the HIV epidemic in the United States and the presenters will share highlights from their research – especially among older adults living with HIV. The presenters will share the personal perspectives of persons living with HIV, address societal barriers HIV positive people encounter, and discuss recommendations for future needs.

Prevention and Care Needs of HIV Positive Youth Living in Georgia

Dr. Quienton Nichols (Kennesaw State University)

The presentation will present a qualitative study conducted that identified the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) prevention and care service needs for HIV infected youth living in Georgia. It examined care service utilization of HIV positive youth ages 13 to 24 and reviewed their Knowledge, Attitude and Behaviors toward HIV/AIDS prevention and care service utilization in four different cities in Georgia (Atlanta, Albany, Savannah, Stone Mountain and Augusta). It was designed to understand the experiences of youth living with HIV who received care from community based and AIDS service organizations. The major thematic findings from the focus groups and individualized interviews will be discussed and the voices of the youth and their perceived utilization of social services will be shared.

Evaluation of AID Atlanta

Dr. Christine Ziegler, Sarah Holland, and Ashley Sellers (Kennesaw State University)

Presently, there are over one million people living with HIV/AIDS and over 50,000 new infections each year. AID Atlanta is a leading HIV/AIDS service organization that offers an array of educational programs. In an effort to determine the effectiveness of each program, AID Atlanta created and compiled pre and post-tests from participants in each of these educational programs from 2000 to 2010. Employing pre and posttest scores, patterns of program effectiveness were compared across this 8-year period. Results indicate that across all programs there was significant improvement in HIV/AIDS awareness. Examination of the individual programs produced surprising variability in effectiveness between programs. In addition we will discuss the fluctuations in effectiveness for each program across the years of data collection. Discussion will focus on how the patterns discerned can be used to improve program effectiveness and broaden participation in the HIV/AIDS educational programs offered by AID Atlanta.

5:15 pm

Closing Remarks: Dr. Sam Abaidoo

Keynote Speaker: Dr. Sam Tsemberis



Our keynote speaker for the 10th Annual Suburban Conference is Dr. Sam Tsemberi, founder *Housing First* and professor of Psychiatry at Columbia University Medical Center. Dr. Tsemberis is also a researcher with the Center for Homelessness Prevention Studies (http://www.columbia-chps.org/) and the core founder and CEO of Pathways to Housing (http://www.pathwaystohousing.org/). Dr. Tsemberis began his interest in pursuing solutions to the problems of chronic homelessness among the dual-diagnosed when he was completing his medical studies as a field worker on the streets of New York City. Viewing the problematic recycling of the mentally ill from street to psychiatric hospital to homeless shelters and back to the street, Dr. Tsemberis thought there must be a better way. Based upon his observations, he identified trauma and substance abuse as factors that contribute to the never-ending cycle. Dr. Tsemberis set out to find solutions through community fieldwork and listening to the people he

was trying to help. What he learned is that the greatest barriers to stable housing among the homeless with mental health and substance abuse issues were restrictions and obstacles imposed by shelter and social service regulations.

Tsemberis' model is a consumer-centered approach that focuses on providing options for housing based on consumer choices in contrast to traditional shelter options for the homeless that imposed strict structure and control with loss of autonomy (Padgett, Gulcur and Tsemberis 2006; Tsemberis 1999; Tsemberis et al. 2003). The well-intended traditional models for homeless individuals with mental health and substance abuse problems require treatment first as a criteria to obtaining shelter and services; whereas Tsemberis offered the option of housing first and linkage to substance treatment and other services based on the consumer's request. A four-year study of a randomized trial comparing clients of housing first intervention with the traditional treatment first programs found greater benefits for the homeless in the housing first programs, including higher rates of stable housing and lower costs with no significant difference in substance use abstinence (Gulcur, Stefancic, Shinn, Tsemberis and Fischer 2003; Gulcur, Tsemberis, Stafancic and Greenwood 2007; Padgett, Gulcur and Tsemberis 2006; Tsemberis and Eisenberg, 2000; Tsemberis, Gulcur and Nakae, 2004). The empirically-supported success of the *Housing first* model has been replicated in more than 40 cities across the United States, as well as in Canada, Japan, the Netherlands, Spain, and Portugal. (http://www.pathwaystohousing.org).

Guest Speaker: Mr. Hermann Händlhuber



Using the consumer-driven model modified to fit the cultural and political realities of the homeless in France, Dr. Aline Sarradon-Eck, a researcher with the Centre Norbert Elias (http://centre-norbert-elias.ehess.fr/), Dr. Vincent Girard, a psychiatrist with Medicins du Monde in France (http://centre-norbert-elias.ehess.fr/), Dr. Vincent Girard, a psychiatrist with Medicins du Monde in France (http://www.mdm-international.org/), and Mr. Handlhuber, a mediator for the homeless, implemented an intervention for the chronically homeless with dual diagnosis in Marseilles, France. To accomplish this, Mr. Handlhuber, a formerly homeless man, occupied an abandoned inner-city building and remodeled the formerly derelict house to make it the home of choice for men and women who were under Dr. Girard's care while they were living on the street. Mr. Handlhuber's descent into homelessness in Marseilles is common to the experiences of many homeless here in the United States. His story of how he not only helped himself but also many people around him in similar situations bring blood, sweat and tears to the academic presentation and discussion of the *Housing First* model.

Mr. Handlhuber's lived experience of homelessness and his role as the mediator and advocate for the socially marginalized in Marseilles, France provides the crucial link between research and practice for the conference. Indeed, in keeping with current academic initiatives to recognize the importance of grassroots community participation in finding solutions to social problems, Mr. Handlhuber's role in the conference is essential. Moreover, solutions to social problems is needed in suburban areas where, according to recent studies, poverty is increasing while suburban services for addressing the issues related to poverty remain inadequate (Allard and Roth 2010; Raphael and Stoll 2010).