PIPER

October 2024

Promoters for Iowa Prison Equity and Reform Project

Formerly the Experiencing Health Services in Iowa Prisons "EHSIP" Project

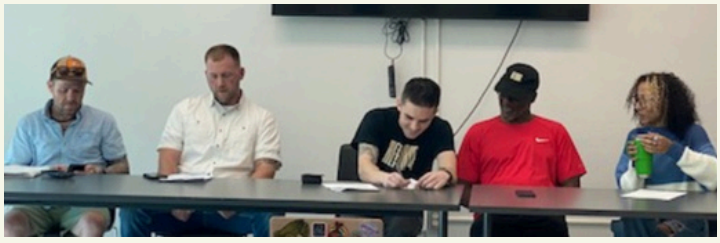
INTRODUCTION

Allow us to reintroduce ourselves as the Promoters for Iowa Prison Equity and Reform Project ("PIPER"). At our October monthly advisory board meeting we collaboratively renamed our project to better fit our refined direction and goals.

This physical and digital newsletter serves as a summary of our monthly progress and updates. It is also a space to celebrate individual CAB (community advisory board) and research members as well as project milestones. For future newsletters, if you have an update you'd like to share— or a shoutout to another team member— please email Amber and Mak.

PROJECT UPDATES

On October 19th at CCAN-CON, four of our CAB members participated in the first panel of our series. On behalf of the team, we want to thank **Joshua, Ken, Tad, and Zach** for sharing their stories and PIPER project co-manager **Amber** for moderating this powerful conversation. Pictured below from left to right are Joshua, Tad, Zach, Ken, and Amber at the panel.



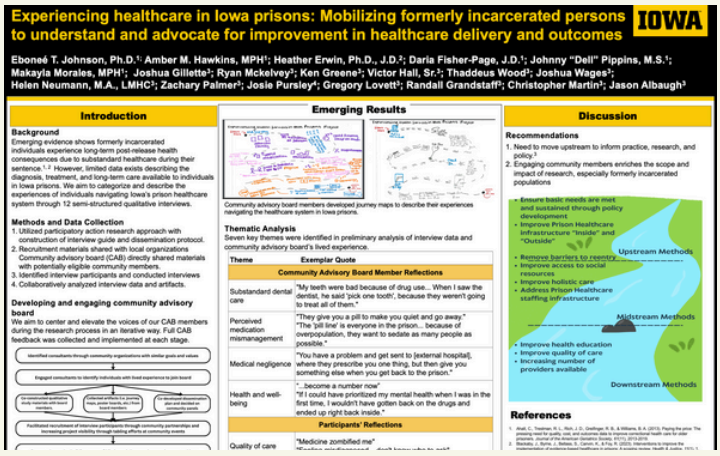
The PIPER project tabled for seven hours at the CCAN-CON event. Informational flyers about the project were shared as well as interview recruitment materials and mental health resources. Thank you to those who helped out; this type of exposure is great for raising public awareness about our project and goals.



Amber and Ken tabling at CCAN-CON.

A second interview was conducted during the last week of October bringing our total to 2 interviews completed. Amber was the lead interviewer and Mak was a notetaker and tech support.

Amber, Ebonee, and Mak traveled to Minneapolis on October 28th for the American Public Health Association (APHA) Conference where Amber presented a poster on PIPER. At the poster session a representative from Springer, a global publisher for academic research, expressed interest in us submitting a manuscript to their upcoming incarcerated health issue. The full poster can be found in the Dissemination folder on our Google Drive.



The poster Amber presented at the 2024 APHA conference.

Ebonee and Chris attended information sessions from potential grant funders PCORI and the Russell Sage Foundation. The insight received at these meetings will help us tailor our initial applications in January.



Amber and Mak pose in front of the APHA poster.

TEAM HIGHLIGHTS

Zach took on a new position at UIHC. He is currently working as a behavioral health coordinator at the UI Addiction and Recovery Collaborative, where he has made beneficial connections for the project.

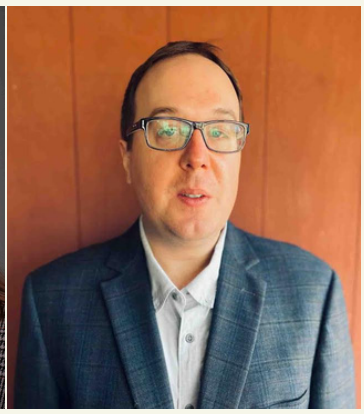
Joshua G. was critical in supporting the research team, particularly in searching for funding opportunities and providing CAB insight at research meetings.

Ken will begin an AA degree program in human services at Kirkwood in spring 2025 as he works toward a career path in peer support.

October welcomed four new PIPER collaborators: **Annie Colwell, Christopher Veeh, Dabney Hofammann, and Laura Ownby.**



Annie Colwell



Christopher Veeh

Annie and Laura are second-year students at the Ulowa College of Law and will provide support to the PIPER research team.

Chris, co-author of the original grant, rejoins the project to support grant writing efforts as we pursue additional project funding. Chris spent much of his career working to improve incarceration and reentry experiences and is eager to support PIPER's progress.

Dabney, an Iowa City-based counselor, will offer support to CAB members after upcoming panel sessions.

Thanks to Annie, Chris, Dabney, and Laura for bringing their expertise and energy to the PIPER Project!

NOVEMBER GOALS

Now that we have completed our first panel discussion, we are refocusing our efforts on the interviews. We still aim to conduct 12 interviews by the end of 2024 so we will prioritize recruitment efforts in November. If you know someone who might be eligible, please share our recruitment flyer or Amber's phone number directly with them.

Amber, Chris, Ebonee, and Mak will lead grant writing efforts as we secure additional funding. The Russell Sage Foundation and PCORI are our most promising options. The grant writing team will strategize application timelines in early November.

The CAB expressed interest in hosting a webinar panel. Amber and Mak will work together to market and host the webinar in early 2025. To achieve a broader audience and impact we may choose to collaborate with a national partner. We will propose a few options at our November board meeting.

UPCOMING IMPORTANT DATES

Nov 15: Hybrid advisory board meeting
College of Public Health, C217
5:30 - 7:30 pm

Nov 6, 13, 20: Weekly research meetings**
Zoom
11:30 - 12:30 pm
**Completely optional for board members, but you are always welcome!

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