

**Brittany Brakenhoff**  
**206 S. 13<sup>th</sup> St. Suite 1000**  
**Phone: 614-592-9124**  
**Email: [Brittany.brakenhoff@unl.edu](mailto:Brittany.brakenhoff@unl.edu)**

### **Education**

- Ph.D, Human Development and Family Sciences, specialization in Couple and Family Therapy, Ohio State University, May 2018
- M.S., Human Development and Family Science, Ohio State University, December 2012
- B.S., Major: Family Science, Minors: Psychology and Sociology, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, High Distinction, May 2011

### **Current Position**

- Research Assistant Professor, University of Nebraska-Lincoln Center on Children Families and the Law, December 2021 - present

### **Grants and Contracts**

Chambers, J. & **Brakenhoff, B.** Nebraska Youth Homeless System Improvement, Department of Housing and Urban Development, \$1,300,937, November 2024 to May 2027.

Chambers, J. & **Brakenhoff B.** Parents Supporting Parents Evaluation and Implementation Consultation. Wisconsin Department of Children and Families, December 2021-December 2024.

Chambers, J. & **Brakenhoff B.** Iowa Parent Partner Research. Iowa Department of Human Services., December 2021-December 2025.

Chambers, J. & **Brakenhoff, B.** HOME American Rescue Plan Allocation Assistance, Nebraska Department of Economic Development, July 2022-June 2023.

**Brakenhoff, B.** Understanding HIV risk behaviors of homeless youth. NIDA, #R36DA041530, \$54,000. August 2016 to August 2018.

### **Clinical Experience**

**Intern, Nationwide Children's Hospital Child Development Center, September 2015-January 2016, May 2016-August 2016**

- Conducted diagnostic intake appointments with children birth-18 to screen for developmental disabilities and/or autism.

**Student Therapist, Ohio State University STAR house, March 2013 – May 2014**

- Provided individual and couple therapy to homeless youth.
- Facilitated weekly group therapy for homeless youth.

**Student Therapist, Ohio State University Couple and Family Therapy Clinic, June 2012 – May 2018**

- Provided individual, couple, and family therapy to clients in a community setting.

**Mentor, St. Monica's Behavioral Health for Women, September 2009 to August 2011**

- Provided direct services at inpatient substance use treatment programs designed for women with children in their care.

**Peer Educator, Husker Choices, University of Nebraska-Lincoln 2008-2011**

- Provided peer education on safe alcohol use and harm reduction.

**Teaching Experience**

**Instructor, *Parenting*, The Ohio State University, Department of Human Sciences, Autumn 2021**

**Instructor, *Family Stress*, The Ohio State University, Department of Human Sciences, Spring 2015 and Spring 2021.**

**Guest Lecturer, *Research Methods in Human Ecology*, Ohio State University, Department of Human Sciences, Spring 2016, Spring 2019, Fall 2019.**

**Guest Lecturer, *Introduction to Couple and Family Therapy*, Ohio State University, Department of Human Sciences, Fall 2016, 2017**

**Peer-Reviewed Publications**

**Sznajder-Murray, B. & Slesnick, N. (2010).** "Don't Leave Me Hanging": Homeless Mother's Perception of Service Providers. *Journal of Social Service Research*

Slesnick, N., Guo, X., **Brakenhoff, B.**, Feng, X. (2013). Two-year predictors of runaway and homeless episodes following shelter services among substance abusing adolescents. *Journal Adolescence*, 36, 787 – 795.

Slesnick, N., Feng, X., **Brakenhoff, B.**, Brigham, G. (2014). Parenting Under the Influence: The Effects of Opioids, Alcohol and Cocaine on Mother-Child Interaction Addictive Behaviors. *Addictive Behaviors*, 39, 897-900. (Impact Factor 2.02)

**Brakenhoff, B.**, Jang, B., Slesnick, N., & Snyder, A. (2015). Longitudinal Predictors of Homelessness: Findings from the National Longitudinal Survey of Youth-97. *Journal of Youth Studies*, (In press, Impact Factor .77)

Slesnick, N., Guo, X., **Brakenhoff, B.**, Bantchevska, D. (2015). A Comparison of Three Interventions for Substance Use Disordered Street-Living Youth: Results of a Randomized Clinical Trial. *Journal of Substance Abuse Treatment*, (In press, Impact Factor 1.867).

**Brakenhoff, B. & Slesnick, N. (2015).** "The whole family suffered, so the whole family needs to recover:" Thematic analysis of substance abusing mothers and their children family therapy sessions. *Journal of Social Service Research*, 41, 216-232.

Slesnick, N., Zhang, J., & **Brakenhoff, B.** (2016). Homeless youths' caretakers: The mediating role of childhood abuse on street victimization and housing stability. *Social Work*, 61, 147-154.

Carmona, J. Slesnick, N., Guo, X., Murnan, A., & **Brakenhoff, B.** (In press). Outreach engagement with substance using homeless youth. *Community Mental Health Journal*.

- Slesnick, N., Feng, X., Guo, X., **Brakenhoff, B.** et al. (2016). A Test of Outreach and Drop-in Linkage versus Shelter-Linkage for Connecting Homeless Youth to Services. *Prevention Science*, 17, 450-460.
- Slesnick, N., Zhang, J., **Brakenhoff, B.** (2017). Personal control and service connection as paths to improved mental health and housing among homeless youth *Children and youth services review*, 73, 121-127.
- Brakenhoff, B.** Wu, Q., & Slesnick, N. (2018), Substance Using Mothers Experiencing Suicidal Thoughts: Impact of Parenting Behaviors on Child Behavior Problems. *Journal of Child and Family Studies*, 27(2), 629-638.
- Brakenhoff, B.**, Martin, J., Slesnick, N., Holowacz, E., Chavez, L., Yilmazer, T., & Kelleher, K. (2022). "I just needed someone to believe in me." A qualitative analysis of youths' experiencing homelessness perspectives on a housing first intervention. *Children and Youth Services Review*.
- Slesnick, N., **Brakenhoff, B.**, Bunger, A., Chavez, L., Cuthbertson, C., Famelia, R., ... & Zhang, J. (2023). Lessons learned from housing first, rapid rehousing trials with youth experiencing homelessness. *Addiction Science & Clinical Practice*, 18(1), 58.
- Chavez, L. J., **Brakenhoff, B.**, Jones, L., Bunger, A., Kelleher, K., & Slesnick, N. (2025). Qualitative experiences with a suicide prevention intervention: voices from advocates and youth experiencing homelessness. *Journal of Prevention & Intervention in the Community*, 1-13.

### **Book Chapters**

- Brakenhoff, B.**, Murnan, A., & Slesnick, N. (2017). Homelessness and mental illness. In A. Wenzel (Ed.), *Encyclopedia of Abnormal and Clinical Psychology*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.
- Brakenhoff, B.** & Slesnick, N. (2018). Substance Use and Mental Health Intervention for Youth who are Homeless: Community Reinforcement Approach and Motivational Enhancement Therapy. In S.Kidd. et al. *Mental Health & Addictions Interventions for Youth Experiencing Homelessness: Practical Strategies for Front-line Providers*. Canada: Canadian Observatory on Homelessness.
- Slesnick, N., & **Brakenhoff, B.** (2020). *Family-based treatment for runaway and homeless youth*. The Handbook of Systemic Family Therapy.
- Brakenhoff, B.**, Martin, J., & Slesnick, N. (2023). Homelessness and Mental Health among Youth: A research perspective. In H. Friedman (Ed.) *Encyclopedia of Mental Health* (3<sup>rd</sup> edition). Academic Press. <https://doi.org/10.1016/B978-0-323-91497-0.00150-8>

### **Conference Presentations**

- Sznajder-Murray, B.**, Hollist, C. & Springer, P. (2010). Understanding the Help-Seeking Behavior of Women with Alcohol Use Disorders. *National Council on Family Relationships 72<sup>nd</sup> Annual Conference*. Minneapolis, MN.
- Sznajder-Murray, B.** & Slesnick, N. (2010). "Don't Leave Me Hanging": Homeless Mother's Perceptions of Service Providers. *Ohio State Summer Research Opportunities Symposium*.
- Brakenhoff, B.** & Slesnick, N. (2012). Thematic Analysis of Substance-Abusing Mothers and

- their Children's Family Therapy Sessions. *National Council on Family Relationships 74<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference*. Phoenix, AZ.
- Brakenhoff, B.,** Slesnick, N., Guo, X., & Feng, X. (2013). Two year predictors of runaway and homeless episodes following shelter services among substance abusing adolescents. *American Psychological Association Annual Convention*. Honolulu, HI.
- Slesnick, N., & **Brakenhoff, B.** (2015). Working with service disconnected homeless youth: Engaging, retaining and linking. *Society for Social Work and Research*, New Orleans, LA.
- Brakenhoff, B.,** Slesnick, N., Wu, Q. (2017). Substance-using mothers experiencing suicidal thoughts: Impact of parenting behaviors on child behavior problems. *The College on Problems of Drug Dependence*. Montreal, QC.
- Brakenhoff, B.** (2022). Intervening with youth experiencing homelessness. *Nebraska-Iowa Homeless Symposiums*. Des Moines, IA.
- Brakenhoff, B.** (2023). Using Data to Track and Demonstrate Iowa Parent Partner Success. *Iowa Parent Partner Symposium*. Des Moines, IA.
- Brakenhoff, B.** (2023). Beyond Trauma-Informed Care: Using Trauma Research to Challenge Bias. *National Alliance to End Homelessness Conference*. Washington, D.C.
- Brakenhoff, B.,** Gresley, C., Gebhardt, A., & Cruz, S. Youth Homeless System Improvement, *Nebraska Juvenile Justice Annual Conference*, Kearney, NE.

#### Service to Community

- Ohio Alliance to End Sexual Violence, Survivor Advisory Council Member\
- BraveBe Child Advocacy Event Speaker