

Brittany Brakenhoff
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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 (3rd 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 72nd 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 74th 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