The last CHPSW Research Faculty meeting raised the importance of building collaborations for funding and the importance of getting the research from CHPSW recognized by the larger community. The suggestion for establishing 3 Research Interest Groups (RIG) emerged from this meeting, as detailed below. For further information, attend an upcoming Dean’s research meeting, or keep an eye out for updates on the CHPSW Research Faculty listserv.

Community Behavioral Health Research Interest Group (CBH-RIG)
Headed by: Mark Salzer, PhD
The mission of the Community Behavioral Health Research Interest Group (CBH-RIG) is to bring together individuals who are interested in conducting community-based, public sector behavioral health research that enhances opportunities for individuals with substance use and/or mental health issues (inclusive of those with other co-occurring issues) to live to their upmost capabilities in the community. Research topics will include the delivery and effectiveness of behavioral health and rehabilitation services, workforce issues (e.g., staff attitudes and beliefs, training, supervising, etc.), advocacy research, and organizational, service utilization, cost, and policy issues. The CBH-RIG will be collaborative, strengths-based, and goal-oriented, including setting yearly publication and grant-writing goals for the collective. Meeting days and times, as well as frequency, will be determined at the first meeting. Those interested in community behavioral health research, but don’t want to commit to anything yet (or ever), and those who only believe they could be co-investigators or co-authors at most, are welcome to attend.

Minority Health and Aging Research Interest Group (MHA-RIG)
Headed by: Adam Davey, PhD
The Minority Health and Aging Research Interest Group (MHA-RIG) invites participation from individuals who are interested in conducting interdisciplinary research into issues designed to improve the health status and understanding of health and aging of minority-identified individuals across the life-span. Although the health status of all U.S. racial and ethnic groups has improved considerably over the past century, disparities in many major health indicators between white and non-white groups are growing. Further, overall group comparisons can mask important differences in the health status of ethnic subgroups. We welcome all individuals who are interested in one or more of the emphasis areas of this group. Moving forward, initial meetings will serve to identify key areas of overlapping interest, shared goals, and likely opportunities for collaboration and proposal development.

Minimizing Health Disparities Across the Lifespan Research Interest Group (MHD-RIG)
Headed by: Michael Brown, PhD
The goal of the Minimizing Health Disparities across the Lifespan Research Interest Group (MHD-RIG) is to identify investigators that have a common interest in health disparities research. By bringing investigators together, that otherwise might not come together, we hope to identify synergies among investigators that will lead to new inter- and multi-disciplinary study ideas that will lead to the generation of preliminary data for new grant proposals. We think that if we can have investigators working in concert, on a focused research question, the result will be greater than the sum of the parts.