

Please join #AltAc's meet and greet with its next rock star: Dr. Jodie Dewey

Embedding Research in Practice as a Multidisciplinary Scholar

After seeing the inequities in the system along with how practitioner decision-making shapes how people engage with programs, Dr. Dewey pursued her graduate degree believing community and lived-experience-driven research held the key to improving programs. She brings this vision to her current position at the Lighthouse Institute, the research arm of a large private healthcare system. Using research and community collaboration, Dr. Dewey participates in several health-related research projects. Join Dr. Dewey as she discusses how she makes an immediate impact on practice through research.

Keywords: Behavioral Health Research, Evaluation and Program Research, Embedded Researcher, Practitioner Collaborations

Biography

Dr. Jodie Dewey received her Ph.D. from Loyola University in sociology, with a focus on criminal justice and medical sociology.

I am a trained qualitative researcher with over 20 years of experience interviewing unique populations across criminal, legal, and health institutions. I have expertise in gender and racial equity and utilize a community-driven and critical feminist approach toward system improvement. From 2000–2021, I held several academic positions including as a tenured Professor of Sociology. As an interim department chair and director of the criminal justice program (2016–2021), I developed and taught courses on sociological methods and theory, gender and sexual diversity, healthcare, and criminal justice, including corrections and policing. Over the past thirty years, I have worked, volunteered, and researched probation, police, and prison environments. For example, while employed as a probation officer (2000–2003), I engaged in several community-led projects and assisted our department's research team to study the effectiveness of the sex-offender program. As part of my master's thesis (2003), I worked on a project with the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority (ICJIA) in which we studied the reintegration challenges of Chicago residents returning from Illinois prisons. Former volunteer work also included managing youth from the Illinois Department of Corrections (IDOC) and Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) in a housing program in the Chicago suburbs, as well as working with the Chicago Recovery Alliance distributing clean needles and naloxone to opioid substance users on the west side of Chicago. Based on these experiences and my commitment to improving criminal justice practices, I led a research project in which I studied police training across several Midwest police academies. Through this research I was then invited to provide feedback on training scenarios, refine course curricula, and develop a new course on LGBTQI allyship and police practices. In 2021, I made a career shift from academia to a Research Scientist position at Chestnut Health Systems where I conduct applied behavioral health research. This career shift has offered me the opportunity to delve deeper into my interests at the intersection of criminal justice and health.