



Region IV Public Health Training Center Substance Misuse Field Placements



Louisville Metro Public Health & Wellness

Louisville, KY (Summer 2018)

Student: Laura Katie Bennett (Western Kentucky University)

Assisted with a Syringe Exchange Program by developing data collection tools; provided front line services to people who use drugs; and participated in the development and delivery of community education programs.

Columbus Co. Health Department

Whiteville, NC (Summer 2016)

Student: Christina Pacheco (East Carolina State University)

Assisted with a community health assessment, implementation of Chronic Disease and Diabetes Self-Management Classes, and implementation/evaluation of a substance abuse prevention campaign.

“During my field placement I learned that change takes trust, understanding, and being vulnerable.”



Alabama Department of Public Health

Montgomery, AL (Summer 2015)

Students: Danny Moylan (University of Alabama, Birmingham) and **Tarre Stanley** (Florida A&M University)

Collaborated with Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) workgroup to identify practices that improve patient access to care, mental health and substance abuse resources.

Columbus Co. Health Department

Whiteville, NC (Summer 2017)

Students: Daniel Buck (East Carolina University) and **Lillie Malpass** (East Carolina University)

Assisted with a community health assessment, implementation of Chronic Disease and Diabetes Self-Management Classes, and implementation/evaluation of a substance abuse prevention campaign.

“This internship has strengthened my love for the field of public health and has assured me that I have chosen the right career path.”



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“My field placement has definitely had an impact on my future career decisions. I’ve always been interested in Substance Use Disorder (SUD), however, I am more determined than ever to continue to engage this topic area. Specifically, I feel that much of my future career will continue to be related to the opioid epidemic and helping those who are vulnerable to or already have an opioid use disorder.”

Georgia Department of Public Health
Opioid Project – Atlanta, GA (Summer 2018)
Students: Katherine Cooper and Monica Fadanelli
(Emory University)
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Hannah Cooper (Emory University)

Supported the development of a statewide strategic plan for responding to the opioid and prescription drug overdose epidemic; assisted a multi-sector Steering Committee and working groups in data collection and synthesis of stakeholder input.



PRESCRIPTION DRUG MONITORING PROGRAM (PDMP) WORK GROUP RECOMMENDATIONS



Georgia Department of Public Health - Opioid Project – In summer 2019, 2 students will continue the strategic plan recommendations for the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program.

Tennessee Department of Health - Nashville, TN (Summer 2015)
Student: Timothy Nielsen (Emory University)

Conducted qualitative data collection and analysis for neonatal abstinence syndrome (NAS) in Tennessee and recommended primary prevention interventions to share with diverse stakeholders.



“The biggest takeaway from my internship, was the effect that a community has on an individual’s health. A major challenge for me was digging into the topic of substance abuse, an area in which I have little personal or professional experience. One of the more striking moments of the summer was speaking with a substance abuse counselor who somberly explained how a community will rally around a member with a physical illness, but will scatter from a member suffering from a mental illness like addiction.”

“Over the course of the internship I learned three important lessons about the practice of public health:

1. A health department should be nonpartisan, but does not exist outside of politics.
2. Primary prevention should be a guiding principle in health policy.
3. Community engagement is key to improving health.”



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Sullivan Co. Regional Health Department

Blountville, TN (Summer 2017)

Student: Emily Alford (East Tennessee State University)

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Nathan Hale (ETSU)

Examined the impact of the opioid epidemic in Sullivan County, focusing specifically on how local public health departments can engage the issue. There was a specific focus on Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome (NAS) babies.



Northeast TN Regional Health Office

Johnson City, TN (Summer 2017)

Student: Katie Cannon (East Tennessee State University)

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Nathan Hale (ETSU)

Examined the impact of the opioid epidemic in Northeast Tennessee, focusing specifically on how local public health departments can engage the issue. There was a specific focus on Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome (NAS) babies.

“I feel certain that upon graduation I would like to work in local public health practice, preferably in central Appalachia. This experience has further instilled my passion for working in rural populations.”

Medical Advocacy and Outreach

Montgomery, AL (Summer 2018)

Student: Amber Raggio (Univ. of Alabama, Birmingham)

Performed a needs assessment focused on outreach and support for active and former injection drug users; Produced recommendations for interventions to be implemented by the Community Education team and agency staff.

“This has been one of the most rewarding experiences I have had thus far ... I have been exposed to a diverse population of people with public health concerns that I once was unaware even existed. Social determinants and risk factors that I once knew so little about have become real to me on a personal level. I have a deeper understanding for how public health organizations, such as MAO, are able to truly make a difference in the community and how the work they do is able to impact so many lives.”