Field Placement: CHLA/USC Community Diabetes Initiatives  
Location: Los Angeles, CA  
Preceptor: Valerie Ruelas  
Student Name: Mona Au Young  
Year: 2007

The Children’s Hospital of Los Angeles (CHLA) and University of Southern California (USC) Community Diabetes Initiatives includes several different projects which have different funding sources. The staff members under CHLA/USC work on various projects within CHLA’s Division of Research on Children, Youth, and Families within the Division of Endocrinology, covering the population of LA County. For the Community Diabetes Initiatives, there is a particular concentration on East and South LA and the diversity within those communities. My preceptor was primarily the only person in the office involved with the Community Diabetes Initiatives, but collaborated often with two other office staff members. More often, collaboration happened with staff members from clinics serving East and South LA. Since I was the only intern assigned to each of these projects, I found that it afforded me more freedom and more responsibility in completing these projects.

For this internship, there was a focus on the following four projects. First was the implementation of the Kids N Fitness program in East Los Angeles, which was a 6-week nutrition and physical activity program for primarily Spanish-speaking families in East LA. Second was the regular survey of the East LA and the new Watts Farmers Market customers to gauge interests and concerns of the customers as well as their eating and shopping habits. Third, the LA Collaborative had been planning a policy paper on a soda or fast food tax to generate revenue for obesity prevention programs, which have not been historically well-funded even as the problem of obesity intensifies. Fourth, some grant money had been secured to begin a promotores program for diabetic patients in South LA, but it needed to be planned out.

All of these projects focused on the communities of East and South LA, covering different aspects of the growing problem of obesity: nutrition knowledge, access to healthy foods, physical activity levels, diabetes management, and how to generate revenue to fund/maintain programs. The Kids N Fitness program had more participants decrease their BMI than increase and there was also an overall general maintenance of weight. The surveys of the East LA and Watts Farmers Market helped to inform the directions of both markets as they are still growing. The policy paper on revenue generation for obesity prevention programs has been nearly completed for its presentation at the next LA Collaborative regional meeting in September. Finally, the promotores program for South LA diabetes patients will begin in September as a collaboration among CHLA staff, the Humphrey Clinic, and Esperanza Community Housing Corporation.
Abstract

Located in Hollywood, the Division of Adolescent Medicine of Children Hospital Los Angeles focuses its work on populations heavily concentrated in Hollywood, California. These are (runaway) homeless youth, HIV positive youth, drug abusers, transgendered youth and youth at-risk. This Division provides comprehensive and integrated medical and psychological care while promoting personal empowerment within the context of healthy relationships, families and communities. To achieve its goals, the Division partners with numerous local and state organizations.

Under the supervision of the Associate Director of the Division, Arlene Schneir, MPH, I was involved in several projects. While participating in the Hollywood Homeless Youth Partnership’s agencies meetings, I learned how to identify principles and practices for successful program development and collaborative planning targeting Hollywood’s homeless youth. Working on the planning committee for the Center for Young Women’s Health and the DCFS Caregivers’ Curriculum, I collaborated with physicians, program managers and clinical staff to develop new programs and service component at the Division of Adolescent Medicine. For the Coalition for a Safe and Healthy Hollywood in partnership with the Los Angeles Police Department I assisted in the design, development and implementation of a substance abuse prevention event for high school aged youth, The Ticket. I also learned how to adapt and package an evidenced based intervention for homeless youth, Adult Identity Mentoring. Furthermore, I also performed numerous literature reviews and analyzed quantitative and qualitative data from needs assessments.

Helene Chokron Garneau
Children Hospital Los Angeles
Division of Adolescent Medicine
Preceptor: Arlene Schneir
September 11th, 2009
From June 2009 to August 2009 I fulfilled my internship requirement at Childrens Hospital Los Angeles (CHLA). CHLA is a leader in pediatric care and adolescent care, and on the forefront of research. Associated with the University of Southern California, CHLA is also a training hospital.

I spent my internship working in the Division of Adolescent Medicine (DAM), and was overseen by Susan Rabinovitz, the director of the division. DAM provides comprehensive and integrated medical, psychological, and overall wellbeing care. Additionally they have numerous programs within the division that work with different populations in the community and, are involved in advocacy and research.

As a division with numerous programs and areas of focus, I was fortunate to have been able to get involved in different projects. I worked with The Coalition for a Safe and Healthy Hollywood and assisted in hosting an event for Hollywood youth, by facilitating a youth planning committee. I did qualitative data analysis from interviews and focus groups with youth accessing homeless services in the Hollywood area. This data was used for a report submitted to The California Endowment. Additionally, I worked with a committee adapting an intervention, originally designed for young African American and Latino youth, to set goals and make positive decisions. We began to adapt the intervention for homeless youth in the Hollywood areas. I spent some time working with the Hollywood Homeless Youth Partnership and developed a capacity building plan for them. In the latter half of my internship I began working with a committee of women who are looking forward to implementing a women’s centered care model within the division.

My experiences were broad and spanned across different areas of interest, but I feel that this gave me insight into the way that the field and practice of Public Health can be diverse. In addition I witnessed firsthand the importance of community partnerships and collaborating. On every task and project that I worked on, it was a collaboration of different agencies or people from different specializations.

Piper Grant
Dr. Upchurch
August 22, 2009
Executive Summary/Abstract

Children with epilepsy living require close, consistent care to control seizures and monitor medication side effect. In rural communities, however, access to pediatric care is limited by driving distances, transportation costs, and long wait times for appointments. Families are often forced to travel hundreds of miles to access specialty care for their child with epilepsy, incurring substantial costs and limiting their ability to maintain steady employment. Services are desperately needed in rural communities that make care more accessible for families with a child with epilepsy in order to ensure the opportunity for the child to live a happy, productive life.

The University of California’s University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities at Childrens Hospital Los Angeles (USC UCEDD at CHLA) is one of 67 national centers to advance policy and care for individuals with developmental disabilities. The USC UCEDD focuses on family-centered, culturally competent systems of care for children with developmental disabilities and their families. Project Access: Improving Care for Children/Youth with Epilepsy is housed within the USC UCEDD and is a national effort funded by the Maternal and Child Health Bureau, Health Resources and Services Administration of the federal government. The USC UCEDD at Childrens Hospital was one of the major projects funded under the initiative. My preceptor, Cary Kreutzer, is the lead investigator on the project.

On the project, one major goal was to distribute resources on epilepsy to families living in rural communities. In order to provide resources to families and encourage early identification and treatment of epilepsy in rural children, I worked on a project to disseminate training manuals on epilepsy to rural school nurses. I also created materials to assist in working with the media in rural communities to advertise the availability of a resource guide for parents on services for children with epilepsy.

Policy was a second focus of my field studies at the USC UCEDD. I focused on promoting policy to improve access to care for children with epilepsy. I revised a policy document summarizing recommendations from key leaders in the areas of children’s health care and pediatric neurology from a conference called the California State Forum on Epilepsy. The document outlines key problematic areas of children’s health care in California and summarizes policy changes that could better support improved access to care for children with epilepsy. Additionally, I created policy briefs summarizing health care access barriers for rural children in California, Alaska, Wyoming, and Nevada using needs assessment data and state child health statistics. The template I created for the policy brief was adopted by the Epilepsy Foundation of America for use at both the national and state level.

Student Name: Samantha Hunt
Preceptor: Cary Kreutzer, MPH, RD
Date: June 17 – August 28 2009
Abstract

Between July and September 2011, I had the privilege of completing my fieldwork practicum at Children’s Hospital Los Angeles in the Center for Cancer and Blood Diseases. I worked for HOPE, a program that offers multiple resources to children with cancer and blood diseases and their families. I worked specifically in the HOPE Resource Center (HRC) in the outpatient clinic. My advisor was Susan Gantan, the outpatient Health Education Coordinator, and I also worked closely with Jackie Gilberto, the inpatient Health Education Coordinator. During my time at Children’s Hospital, I completed four main projects.

My first project was to create a needs assessment for the HRC to determine gaps in knowledge and resources that patients and families were experiencing, as well as what kinds of resources being given, and to whom they were given. I created a survey for people to complete, as well as a resource documentation form to be completed by the inpatient and outpatient educators. I used the results from these forms to create a database for the HRC, which will be used for future funding purposes and projects.

The second project I completed was a set of PSAs to be used on a television in the outpatient clinic waiting room. The purpose of this was to get more information to patients and families, and to publicize the HOPE program better. I analyzed feedback from the database I created to determine various topics for the PSAs. The final topics included Hope Resource Center information, HOPE program Information, Hand washing, Flu Restrictions, Parent Support, and Teen Impact program information. I piloted these PSAs to families before implementing them, and asked for their feedback.

The third project concerned the HOPE website portal, SearchHOPE.org. I researched two new topics for the website, survivorship and parent support. I compiled a list for each topic for both hematology and oncology, and then categorized them according to reading level and technical level. I also wrote short, informative descriptions for the sites that had not been previously used on the portal.

My fourth and last project was to participate in the provision of HRC health education services both in the inpatient and outpatient settings. I guided families to resources in the HRC, and attended meetings on family centered care and patient/family education. I also created a quiz for the new diagnosis classes given to parents with children newly diagnosed with cancer. I observed new diagnosis classes in the inpatient side, and created this quiz based on the curriculum. I also attended multidisciplinary rounds weekly to learn more about newly admitted patients.

This internship was an invaluable experience in health education, program planning and evaluation, and general knowledge of how a hospital works. I was lucky enough to have a preceptor who loved to teach and was very supportive, and I learned a great deal about childhood cancer and blood disease, and how to better help families in need.

Penny Essakow
Advisor: Susan Gantan, MPH
September 16, 2011
Abstract

From June 2010 to October 2010, I worked part-time hours to complete my internship at Children’s Hospital Los Angeles, Division of Adolescent Medicine (DAM). DAM focuses its efforts on at-risk adolescent populations, primarily in Hollywood. DAM programs target homeless youth, transgendered youth, youth with substance abuse problems, and other youth at risk for physical and mental health problems. DAM employs a wide range of professionals, including medical doctors, psychologists, social workers, and public health professionals, to provide comprehensive and integrated medical and psychological care. DAM also partners with multiple local and state organizations to provide prevention programming and to promote physical, mental, and social well-being among individuals and communities.

Under the supervision of the Associate Director of DAM, Arlene Schneir, MPH, I was involved in several projects and had the opportunity to collaborate with many people within the Division and in the larger community. For the Coalition for a Safe and Healthy Hollywood, in partnership with the Los Angeles Police Department and Los Angeles Unified School District, I played an integral part in the organizing and implementation of a substance abuse prevention conference for middle school and high school-aged youth – The Ticket: Youth in Action Conference. I, along with my colleague Lindsey Thompson, was responsible for recruiting youth for the Hollywood Street Team, a youth subcommittee organized to plan for the conference. Between July and October, I met with the youth 11 times to assist them in making decisions and planning for the conference, while educating them about substance and alcohol use and abuse. I also collaborated with members of DAM’s Center for Young Women’s Health Committee to develop a curriculum for health care providers regarding health issues of young women attracted to women. Additionally, I worked as part of a team to develop a focus group guide and recruit young women attracted to women for focus groups, and will facilitate focus groups after the completion of my internship. Furthermore, I performed multiple literature reviews and analyzed quantitative data from a large homeless youth needs assessment dataset.

My internship at CHLA provided me with an opportunity to collaborate with people from many fields and different organizations. I had the opportunity to work on many different projects that included curriculum design, youth substance abuse education, event planning, recruitment, and focus group design and facilitation. I feel this internship gave me a realistic look at what a career in public health will look like – intense, collaborative, multi-faceted, and important.

Anne Sutkowi
Children Hospital Los Angeles
Division of Adolescent Medicine
Preceptor: Arlene Schneir
October 23rd, 2010