Spring 2020 Public Health Internship Program – PBH 341R

This internship is for undergraduate public health students at UT Austin who are interested in gaining experience in public health through partnerships with public health agencies.

Student interns will have the opportunity to conduct goal-oriented, semester-long research projects for university credit. In addition to valuable data analysis, student interns will gain communication skills by preparing oral presentations about their completed projects. They will present their projects before an audience that includes their fellow interns.

Students will be selected to participate based on merit via a competitive process without regard to race, color, religion, or gender. Completed applications will be reviewed by members of the public health faculty and staff. Students will be selected as interns based on applicable knowledge, skills, and abilities. Students will be matched to internships based on the students’ ranking of interest in the respective projects and the selection committee’s evaluation of the student’s qualifications for the project. For some internships, interviews with the potential mentor may also be required.

Student interns must complete 180 hours of work for the semester (approximately 12 hours/week) to earn 3 hours of academic credit in PBH 341R Public Health Research. They must provide their own transportation to the internship site. Training will be provided in safety, computer security awareness, and in the basic principles of patient's rights to privacy and confidentiality or other topics as required by the host agency.

Application Requirements

- U.S. Citizenship is required for all internships carried out at the Texas Department of State Health Services (TDSHS). This is not a requirement for other internships.
- Enrollment at The University of Texas at Austin seeking a bachelor’s degree in public health.
- Junior or senior standing with at least a 3.0 grade point average (GPA)
- Prerequisite Coursework: Completion of PBH 317, BIO 325, SDS 328M, and PBH 354.
- For infectious disease internships, completion of BIO 326M and BIO 226L is preferred.

Application Process

- Complete the online application form and submit it by the deadline, October 28, 2019.
- Applicants must be able to commit to working 12 hours per week for the semester at the internship site plus additional time working one-on-one with Dr. Felkner

1. Project Title: Tobacco Free Campus Program: Bystander Intervention and Enforcement

Supervisors: Nosse Ovienmhada, UT Wellness Manager and Angela Zieba, Tobacco Free Campus GA.

On April 9, 2012, The University of Texas at Austin became a tobacco-free campus. The University prohibits the use of any tobacco product on campus property, including but not limited to cigarettes,
cigars, water pipes (hookah) and smokeless tobacco. It also prohibits innovations in smoke or tobacco products such as any non-FDA approved electronic nicotine delivery device, e-cigarette or vape pen. The full text of the policy including the definition for tobacco products is available on the University Policies website.

The purpose of this study is to assess tobacco usage and policy compliance at UT Austin.

**Expectations:** The student should have experience using Microsoft Excel, Word and PowerPoint. Additional training will be provided on Qualtrics. Work will be performed at the UT Administration building and on Main Campus between 8:00am and 5:00pm. The student will need to complete a one hour class on Tobacco Free Campus Enforcement and BeVocal.

The student will use a questionnaire on Qualtrics to collect information on tobacco use and enforcement.

**Products:** The student will prepare a written report to be shared with the Tobacco Advisory committee, Peers Against Tobacco (statewide tobacco initiative) and Eliminate Tobacco Use. The student will also prepare a detailed map of hotspot areas and signage on UT Property to present a formal recommendation.

2. **Project Title:** Understanding Mass Care from a Public Health Perspective

**Supervisors:** Ashley Hawes (Ashley.hawes@austintexas.gov), Chris Crookham (Chris.crookham@austintexas.gov), Ben Buotte (Benjamin.buotte@austintexas.gov), Ana Urueta (Ana.urueta@austintexas.gov)

**Project description:** With the ever changing climate it is important for health departments to be prepared to shelter and provide mass care to those they serve. The term mass care refers to a wide range of humanitarian activities that provide life-sustaining support to individuals and families who are temporarily displaced or otherwise impacted by a disaster or emergency that disrupts their ability to provide for their basic needs. Mass care can refer to congregate sheltering, feeding, distribution of emergency supplies, and reunification of children with their parent(s)/legal guardian and adults with their families. The purpose of this project is to assist Austin Public Health in researching and developing a comprehensive mass care annex.

**Expectations & Products:** The student should have experience working with Microsoft Excel, PowerPoint, and Word. Work will be performed at 5202 E. Ben White Blvd, Suite 600 between 8:00a.m and 5:00 p.m. The student will need to complete a one hour class on confidentiality information security procedures.

1. **Mass care**
   - Identify health departments that have mass care plans and/or specific plans related to shelters and community reception centers. Request contact information for personnel within health departments for follow up, if needed.
   a. General Shelters (Hurricane, storm, etc)
i. Plans for set up and activation (Retrieve copy even if redacted)
ii. Training/Job Action Sheets for staff
iii. Environmental health inspection forms
iv. Disease surveillance/infection prevention forms
v. Cot to Cot or other Surveys for shelter residents
vi. Have they done an exercise? (Copy of any documents they can share including EEGs, MSLs, AARs)

b. Community Reception Centers
i. Plans for set up and activation (retrieve copy even if redacted)
ii. Layouts of Community Reception Centers
iii. Have they done an exercise? (Copy of any documents they can share including EEGs, MSLs, AARs)
iv. Surveys/forms for visitors to CRC
v. Information forms given to visitors of CRC
vi. Training/Job Action Sheets for staff

• Participate in internal Austin Public Health stakeholder meetings to understand experiences and lessons learned from previous mass care responses
• Utilize research information to draft a Mass Care Annex
• Work with Preparedness staff to develop ways to convert Points of Distribution to Community Reception Centers
• Conduct inventory of potential facilities that meet certain requirements for mass care including typing of the facilities
• At end of internship, create a presentation on information gathered including best practice information.
• If time, develop premise for Tabletop exercise related to Mass Care.

3. Project Title: Internship Administration and Quality Improvement Project

Supervisors: Wendy Andreades, MBA, Coordinator, Internships and other Educational Experiences
Email: Wendy Andreades@dshs.texas.gov

*Project description:

The purpose of this internship is to advance the development of an automated reporting platform and process for agency-wide reporting of internships and other DSHS educational experiences. The intern will assist the Coordinator in the continued development and implementation of an automated reporting tool and process by working within excel to create data sheets for approximately 15 academic institutions and relevant information according to a prescribed format. Intern will deploy advanced look up techniques to populate data sheets that will be uploaded into the reporting platform on the SharePoint drive. Intern will assist with enhancement of the reporting structure and data models, and development of reports for agency-wide internships and other educational experiences.

Expectations:

Develop data sheets in excel (based on a prescribed data model) that catalogues institutions of higher education, component institutions, academic programs, and other information specific to each
institutions. Completed data sheets will be uploaded to an automated reporting platform for agency-wide educational experiences. • Expand the information in data tables that are linked to drop down menus in the reporting tool to facilitate data collection, analysis and reporting. • Compile and clean data, and develop annual reports from data previously collected. • Assist in tracking DSHS employment for intern alumni.

Products: Intern deliverables may include, but are not limited to: • Data sheets for 15 or more academic institutions (universities). • Graphic representation of the organizational structure of the six higher education systems in Texas. • Annual reports from data previously collected

4. Project Title: Newborn Hearing Care Coordination Pilot Project
   Supervisors: Eugenia Dunham, MPH, MS, Manager Newborn Screening Support Group

^*Project Description: The Texas Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (TEHDI) care coordination pilot project, as part of the Newborn Screening (NBS) Unit, will provide active engagement in both services and monitoring by providing follow-up coordination of newborns and infants who do not pass the newborn hearing screen.

Expectations:
- Review the patient record to identify barriers to care coordination that can be corrected at the birthing facility.
- Review the patient record to determine what care coordination is needed and identify barriers the family may encounter to receiving care.
- Contact the primary care provider (PCP) to recommend best practices and educate provider as needed.
- Contact birthing facility providers, EI, and audiology providers as needed to reinforce appropriate follow-up steps.
- Contact parents as needed to educate around resources.
- Determine what processes are most effective in decreasing Loss to follow-up/Loss-to documentation (LTF/LTD) and prepare a mid-term report.
- Establish/identify quality improvement measures for care coordination
- Attend all Blue Ribbon seminars, tours and meetings
- Develop and give a presentation at the end of the semester (Blue Ribbon requirement)

Products:
- Mid-term report
- Quality improvement measures identified
- End of year project report documenting lessons learned
- PowerPoint presentation utilizing data and information gathered and documented on the project reports (Blue Ribbon Requirement)

5. Project Title: EMS/Trauma Systems –Overview Project (2 students)
Supervisors: Indra Hernandez, CPM, CTCM, Grants and Funding Specialist

^*Project Description: The structure of this internship allows students to build towards their educational work experience by allowing students to take on program roles within the EMS/Trauma Systems Section and gain significant knowledge that can be applied towards their future endeavors. Through carefully planned and monitored work, the interns will develop valuable skills and contribute to the mission of the EMS/Trauma Systems Section at DSHS.

The EMS/Trauma Systems – Overview Project will provide students with opportunities to:
• Assist with the ongoing development of the emergency health care system in Texas;
• Participate with rules and standards development for pre-hospital and hospital care systems;
• Provide the framework for the coordination of system partnerships to ensure effective care for the injured;
• Facilitate participation of internal and external stakeholders of EMS/Trauma Systems; and
• Understand the changes in the healthcare environment and specific trends in relation to emergency healthcare at the state government level.

Expectations:
Review and revise existing resource guides and informational content through websites and resource documents. • Collect, compile, and assist with reporting data and relevant information for the development of projects in the program. • Establish/identify quality improvement measures for the program. • Contribute to the development of program policies, procedures, and objectives • Develop and execute procedures for programs established in EMS/Trauma Systems Section at DSHS, using DSHS guidelines.

Products: Final report of the new system development for the program, including identification of quality improvement measures. • Program-specific educational and informational material. • Revised policies and procedures including recommendations for the program.

6. EMS/Trauma Systems – Medical Advisory Board Project
Supervisor: Indra Hernandez, CPM, CTCM, Grants and Funding Specialist

^*Project Description: The purpose of this internship is to advance the development and integrate a seamless online system for the Medical Advisory Board (MAB) Program under the Office of EMS/Trauma Systems (OEMS/TS). The MAB Program at DSHS provides opinions on the ability of a license holder to operate a motor vehicle safely or to exercise sound judgement on the proper use and storage of a handgun based on the requests submitted by the Department of Public Safety (DPS) of the State of Texas.

The assigned intern(s) will work under the supervision of the OEMS/TS Section and the MAB to develop and evaluate the program. The intern will assist with the implementation of the online system using the Globalscape Enhanced File Transfer (EFT) and other resources; and help develop guidelines for the OEMS/TS to be utilized by staff and the physicians of the MAB. Must be able to maintain confidentially of all information related to the areas of responsibility. This position would help support the MAB by assisting with the preparation of the MAB case files, data base maintenance, and case close out documentation. Supports the MAB program through customer service to those referred to the MAB, data base
updates and file maintenance, communication with internal and external stakeholders.

Expectations:
- Become familiar with the functionality of Globalscape and transmit of patient protected information in a secure manner.
- Establish/identify quality improvement measures for the program.
- Develop a system using this program to transfer patient and case files from applicants to the board for review.
- Develop and give a presentation to staff on the new system developed protocols, procedures and technology.

Products:
- Final report of policies and procedures for the Medical Advisory Board (MAB) Program, including any quality improvement measures that have been identified.
- PowerPoint presentation for training purposes pertaining to the use of Globalscape.
- Reports analyzing the intake of the program’s workload and completion

7. Project Title: HPV test self-collection or HPV vaccination

Supervisor: Kate Nolan, Clinical Quality Manager, Dell Medical School | The University of Texas at Austin

Project Description: Details to follow

8. Project Title: CATCH K-12 Whole Child Health Education Internship

Supervisors (please include email address): A senior member of the CATCH Global Foundation team, depending on the exact topic and responsibilities agreed:
- Brooks Ballard, VP Communications & Technology
- Marcella Bianco, CATCH My Breath Youth Vaping Prevention Program Director
- Joey Walker, CATCH PE & Nutrition Program Director

Project description: We will work with the student to tailor an internship which matches their skills and interests with our goals. Sample projects may include:
- Updating CATCH My Breath curriculum to reflect regulatory changes
- Adding social and emotional learning (SEL) prompts and tie-ins to CATCH nutrition lessons
- Gathering outcome data on a particular project, performing analysis and creating a report
- Updating CATCH website with latest information and initiatives
- Creating and communicating 3 new community case studies on CATCH and CATCH My Breath implementations

Expectations:

What CATCH expects of you:
- At least 6 hours per week in the office (can be split across 2 days)
- Attend biweekly all-hands meeting to understand range of company activities & strategies
- Positive, professional demeanor
- Good teamwork – asking for help, synthesizing feedback, clearly communicating status
- “External” orientation to community and child needs
What you can expect of CATCH:
- Professional respect – you will be treated as a full member of the team and share in a mix of strategic and tactical activities like everyone else
- Access to leaders – all interns work directly with a CATCH team leader and have face-time with all local personnel including CEO
- Opportunities for Advancement – many of our interns have gone on to become part-time employees while students, or full-time employees after graduation
- Honesty and integrity – ethics and transparency are paramount
- Fun – we strive to keep the workplace happy and have regular team meals and other gatherings

Products: TBD

9. **Project Title: Evaluating missed opportunities for perinatal HIV and congenital syphilis prevention in Texas**

**Supervisors:** Margaret Vaaler and Kacey Russell, Epidemiology and Supplemental Projects Group, TB/HIV/STD Epidemiology and Surveillance Branch, Texas Department of State Health Services

**Project description:** Despite current recommendations for the prevention of perinatal HIV and congenital syphilis in Texas, missed opportunities for prevention continue to occur. The TB/HIV/STD Epidemiology and Surveillance Branch at the Texas Department of State Health Services seeks to better understand and to identify missed opportunities for treatment and prevention with an overall goal to improve service systems and community resources for women, infants and families.

**Expectations:** The student will be responsible for identifying similar analysis conducted through a literature review. They will use SAS to conduct analysis of surveillance data to evaluate engagement in prenatal care, treatment, testing and the likelihood of perinatal HIV transmission and congenital syphilis in Texas. The student will be responsible for drafting an abstract that outlines significant findings from the analysis. The student will also conduct medical chart reviews of mother-infant pairs to identify any gaps in treatment and participate in the FIMR HIV and congenital syphilis (FIMRSH) case selection. The student will need to complete security and confidentiality training. The student will receive training and guidance in the use of statistical software (SAS) and data collection methods for perinatal surveillance and FIMR HIV and congenital Syphilis (FIMRSH).

**Products:** The student will produce data analysis to contribute to facts sheets for perinatal HIV and congenital syphilis and case selection for FIMRSH reviews.

**Project Title:** Correlation between social media activity and an increase in vaccine hesitancy with parents of children and adolescents in the State of Texas

**Supervisors (please include email address):**
Darrick Nicholas
Manager, Public Information, Education and Training
Immunization Unit, Dept. of State Health Services
E: darrick.nicholas@dshs.texas.gov
Project description:
The goals of the DSHS Immunization Unit are to eliminate the spread of vaccine preventable diseases by increasing vaccine coverage for Texans, raise awareness of the diseases that vaccines prevent, and educate the public about vaccine safety. We do this through administration of the Texas Immunization Registry (ImmTrac2), which provides access to immunization records, establishment of school immunization rules, and administration of the Texas Vaccines for Children and Adult Safety Net programs, which provide low-cost vaccines to eligible children and adults.

The purpose of this project is to determine how, if at all, social media activity has negatively influenced vaccine rates in children and adolescents. Ideally, the research will focus on the calendar years 2016 to 2018.

Expectations:
The student should have an interest in both research (qualitative and quantitative) and public engagement/education. Work will be performed within the DSHS Central Office, located on 1100 W 49th St. from 9 am to 4 pm. We are willingly to work with the students concerning specific dates. The student will be responsible for collecting data as well as reporting findings via periodical de-briefs with DSHS staff.

Products: The student will prepare a written report (and possible presentation slides) to be shared with DSHS management.

Expectations: Using critical thinking skills, the intern will be able to identify possible ways to improve online communication for target audiences. The ideal intern would have experience with website content management, design programs (Adobe Creative Suite) and an eye for detail.

1. Project Title: Infection Prevention

Supervisors: Lynda Watkins
St. David’s Hospital

Project description: Infection prevention is fundamental to quality patient care. The student will assist certified infection preventionists in preventing health care-associated infections through collecting and analyzing data and providing patient and provider education. The student may also assist in researching current topics and updating procedure manuals.

Expectations: The student should have experience using Microsoft Excel and Word. The student must be knowledgeable regarding microbiological and immunological factors in infectious disease.

Products: The student will prepare deliverables based on the specific assignments the student receives. These deliverables will be shared with the infection prevention leadership.

Data and Reporting Internship

version date 10/14/19 Project Schoolhouse is an international nonprofit that focuses on education, clean water and sanitation in rural Nicaraguan communities. With an emphasis
on community-building and local volunteer participation, Project Schoolhouse partners with recipient communities to build new schools, provide clean water, improve sanitation, and help students continue their educations.

We are currently seeking an intern at our Austin office to support our Executive Director with compiling, summarizing and reporting on data gathered through in-the-field surveys related to health, water and education access. This internship offers the opportunity to gain solid, professional experience while supporting a local non-profit that is truly changing lives.

What you will learn:
• Best practices related to impact metric survey data accumulation and reporting
• Database software entry
• How to summarize data into compelling charts and graphs to show trends and impact metrics
• An overview of the global WASH industry landscape
• How to manage deadlines and work collaboratively

What you will do:
• Enter data survey results into existing database software
• Research best practices related to clean water access survey and reporting methodologies
• Research gender-specific impact of water insecurity
• Research strategies to prove the health impact of clean water access in remote areas without health clinics
• Build reports, graphs and charts to show the impact of clean water access
• Inform development of future survey questionnaires as we strive to continually improve

The Ideal Candidate will be:
• currently enrolled in global health educational programs
• passionate about global health and equal educational opportunities
• available for a minimum of 5 and up to 12 hours weekly
• available for the full semester
• demonstrate ability to write compelling content
• Spanish language proficiency is advantageous but not required

*Requires additional application forms and interview. For additional details go to: https://dshs.texas.gov/academicaffairs/internopp.shtm

^Department of State Health Services Blue Ribbon