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Tri-County Health Department (TCHD) MPH Practicum Announcement

Name of Project/Practicum Experience: Child Healthy Weight Kits for School Clinics

General Focus: Obesity Prevention

TCHD Division: Nutrition

TCHD Office Location of project/practicum experience: Administration/Local schools

Note: All practicums are unpaid, unless otherwise noted.

Type of Project/Practicum (check all that apply):

Epidemiology/ Biostatistics (projects involving study design, survey development and implementation, data analysis, surveillance of diseases, etc)

Community/Behavioral Health (projects assessing community health needs and health disparities, health education, health communication and promotion, community health policy issues, planning and evaluation of public health programs/policies/interventions, etc)

Environmental/Occupation Health (projects involving environmental risk assessments, control of environmental and occupational hazards, understanding regulatory issues and policies related to environmental/occupational health, etc)

Health Care Systems, Management, Finance and Policy (projects assessing access to health care or utilization of health care, assessment of policy/legal issues related to public health practice or healthcare, etc)

Emergency Preparedness (writing/updating plans and protocols related to emergency preparedness, building databases/systems/presentations and/or assisting with exercises that further TCHD preparedness, etc)

Public Health Informatics (application of information and technology to public health practice, research, and learning)

General Public Health/Other (please specify _____)

Project/Practicum timeline and student hours

Approximate timeframe for project/practicum completion: By Dec 2011 (flexible)

Number of hours per week that student will be expected to work on project/practicum: 10

Estimate total number of student hours this project/practicum will require: 240 (6 months)



Project/Practicum Description: The goals of this project are to increase the visibility of TCHD and contribute to sound nutrition messaging in schools. The objectives are:

Objective #1:

By end of month 1, complete a literature review to identify model projects involving collaboration between school-based health centers and health departments.

Objective #2:

By end of month 2, needs assessment will be completed involving a minimum of two schools in each TCHD county, including staff at the four school-based health clinics who received a kit in 2010.

Objective #3:

By end of month 3, a minimum of four revisions/updates will be made to the current Child Healthy Weight kit based on information gained from the needs assessment to tailor the kit for use in school-based health clinics.

Objective #4:

By end of month 4, provide Child Healthy Weight kits modified for schools to a minimum of two school-based health clinics in each TCHD county, including offering a revised kit to the four school-based health clinics who received a kit in 2010.

Objective #5:

By end of month 6, 1) develop a school-based health clinic project evaluation survey, 2) distribute with an 80% completion rate, and 3) create final report and present to TCHD staff.

This project would serve to expand a TCHD program that received a NACCHO model practice award. In the original physician kit project, TCHD partnered with physicians in an effort to decrease childhood obesity and increase physician awareness of nutrition services. A needs assessment resulted in the development of childhood overweight physician kits which contained hanging files with physician requested information. Six-month follow-up survey results showed that staff at eleven of the 21 offices accessed the kits at least daily for patient education. By using this successful model practice as a guide to expand this project into school-based health clinics, TCHD has an opportunity to build community partnerships and become a resource for local schools.

This project directly impacts several public health issues by building community collaborations and decreasing childhood obesity. According to the 2009 Child Health Survey (ages 1 to 14 years), 10.5% of Colorado children are classified as overweight (BMI 85th – 95th %) and 14.7% are classified as obese (BMI > 95th %). Decreasing childhood obesity sets the stage for a healthier population in the future.



Student job duties:

1. Visit a minimum of six schools to conduct a needs assessment.
2. Determine/create materials needed to meet the needs of area schools.
3. Create new version of the Child Healthy Weight kit and distribute to a minimum of six school-based health clinics.
4. Develop and distribute a school-based health clinic pilot project evaluation survey.
5. Coordinate evaluation survey analysis and present results to TCHD staff.

Skills required for student to work on this project/practicum (check all that apply):

- X Basic computer skills (email/internet, typing, etc)
- X Researching information (searching for and summarizing research articles, evidence-based model practices, etc)
- X Writing Skills (creating reports, summaries, presentations, etc)
- X Presentation Skills
- X Interviewing/ Client-Relations Skills (talking to clients regularly, administering questionnaires, etc)
- Foreign Language Skills. If checked, specify language(s)
- Clinical skills (i.e. giving vaccinations, drawing blood, anthropometrics (height, weight), etc). If checked, specify
- Data or geographic analysis/statistical skills. If checked, specify what types of software packages the student should have experience with (i.e. SAS, GIS, SPSS, etc)
- X Other software competence. If checked, specify type of software (i.e. Microsoft Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Access, etc) - Microsoft Word and PowerPoint
- Other skills (Please specify)