

PRACTICUM EXPERIENCE DESCRIPTION

Title: March of Dimes Texas Maternal and Child Health Program

Posting Date: 2/5/2021

Time Frame of Opportunity: Summer 2021, Fall 2021, or Spring 2022

Hosting Organization: March of Dimes Texas Markets & Additional Markets Nationwide as needed

Location: At home

Preceptor: Heather Butscher, LMSW

Director of Maternal & Child Health – Houston Market

Contact Information: Heather Butscher

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713-964-5423

Hours: 10-20 hours per week

Description: The March of Dimes internship focuses on working with collaborative maternal and child health group that work toward lowering preterm birth rates and incidences of maternal mortality in Texas through collective impact. Topics addressed include the implementation of initiatives around lessening barriers to access to maternal care, birth spacing education, accessibility of immediate postpartum LARCs, and raising awareness around and implementing programs addressing birth equity. The focus would be one of several major markets in Texas including the Greater Houston Area/South Texas, Austin/San Antonio, Dallas/Ft Worth, Lubbock/West Texas, or the Bryan/College Station area. The project includes, meeting throughout the placement with MCH partners to outline potential ways to address the topics listed above along with other topics as they arise. Every other year during when the Texas Legislature is in session, students assist in Advocacy Day activities including prepping volunteers for Advocacy Day, scheduling legislative visits, and attending Advocacy Day in Austin. This year due to COVID, students will assist in the virtual implementation of Advocacy through support in coordination of our Advocacy Champions for Texas campaign (ACTS).

The purpose of the March of Dimes practicum experience is to expose and engage students in collaborative work to improve birth outcomes for all mothers and babies in Texas. Students are engaged in the collective impact process with both public and private partners including hospital systems, State, county, and city health departments, health clinics, social services agencies, additional University systems, and corporate business partners.

Expectations: Participate in monthly meetings and discussions with local and statewide maternal and child health committees (made up of local hospitals, clinics, and social service agencies).

Work with the MCH Director between meetings to identify trends, successes, and barriers to the above mentioned initiatives that will help drive policy and systems changes to address these issues.

Take part in Mission events as they arise such as meetings with individual community partners, the overviews of the Implicit Bias Training and Supportive Pregnancy Care programs, regular

internal meetings with local, statewide, and National MOD staff in order to support planning and coordination of MOD Mission work.

Products:

- (1) Pull and provide data from DSHS, PRAMS, Peristats, to help drive policy and target areas for work around current maternal and child health issues
- (2) Create outreach and educational programs that enhance public knowledge
- (3) Collaborate with MCH partners such as area hospitals, clinics, social service agencies, Medicaid Managed Care Organizations, and State and local public health entities to identify and address these trends in postpartum and inter-pregnancy care
- (4) Identify key stakeholders in MCH policy at the local and State levels
- (5) Provide support to MCH Directors across Texas or other Markets to help staff and MOD volunteers address maternal mortality and birth equity issues