

NORTHWEST PUBLIC HEALTH TRAINING CENTER

2018–2019 Field Placement and Collaborative Project Summaries



Fathiya Abdi

Department of Health Services, University of Washington
University of Washington, School of Public Health

Experiences of Perceived Racial and Ethnic Discrimination and Stress Among Black and African American Graduate Students on a Predominantly White Campus: Results of a Qualitative Interview Study

Fathiya Abdi's study explored the experiences of racial and ethnic discrimination among Black and African American graduate students at a state school and how these experiences relate to chronic stress. Fathiya conducted face-to-face interviews with graduate students who shared their experiences of racial and ethnic discrimination as well as their perceptions of how these experiences contributed to chronic stress. Fathiya's findings support the need for academic institutions to invest in policies that target institutional discrimination and racism, as well as for an increase in social support structures and mental health services specifically for students of color.



Lillian Anderson

College of Public Health and Human Services, Oregon State University
The Oregon State Grange and the National Order of the Patrons of Husbandry

A Scoping Review of the National Grange: A Community Level Resource with the Capacity to Increase the Reach of Public Health Promotion and Prevention for Rural Residents

Lillian Anderson's project aimed to increase the evidence base for the Oregon State Grange, an education and social support organization for farmers in rural areas, as a resource for public health programming. Lillian completed a review of the Grange's activities over the past seven years using internal records, a state-level newsletter, and a national publication. Lillian found the Grange has been active in all five key areas of social determinants of health, as defined by Health People 2020, and has engaged in health promotion activities designed to enhance well-being. Lillian's findings suggest that the Grange is an underutilized partner for public health organizations.



Alessandra Angelino

Department of Global Health, University of Washington
Center for Health Equity and Diversity at Seattle Children's Hospital, Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board

Celebrating Our Magic: Resources for American Indian and Alaska Native Transgender and Two-Spirit Youth, their Relatives, and their Providers

Alessandra Angelino created a toolkit for American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) transgender and Two-Spirit youth, their relatives and their health providers across the United States. The toolkit provided culturally grounded resources for youth exploring their gender identity or choosing to medically transition, support for families, and information for health providers of the unique needs of these youth. To develop the toolkit, Alessandra completed a literature review, worked closely with community stakeholders, and interviewed topic-specific experts. Alessandra hopes the toolkit will help address gaps in resources available for AI/AN transgender and Two-Spirit youth, their relatives, and their healthcare providers.

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Margaret Babayan

Department of Health Services, University of Washington
Nickelsville, Seattle Housing and Resource Effort (SHARE)

Advocates Matter in Duration of Homelessness and Quality of Life

Margaret Babayan's project examined the relationship between social supports for individuals experiencing homelessness, the duration of homelessness, and self-reported quality of life outcomes. Margaret worked with a team of volunteers to conduct interviews with individuals currently experiencing homelessness at the SHARE and Nickelsville tiny house villages and formal encampments in King County, Wash. Margaret found promising evidence of the association between having strong informal social supports, a shorter duration of homelessness, and a higher reported quality of life. Margaret is working to draft a manuscript to submit for publication and hopes to find a graduate student to continue or expand upon her work.



Emma Biegacki

Department of Health Services, University of Washington
Bailey Boushay House

Evaluating Racial Health Disparities in HIV Care to Inform Provider Training in Anti-Racist Community Health Practice

Emma Biegacki's project focused on furthering the Bailey-Boushay House (BBH), a Seattle-based HIV/AIDS care organization, racial health equity work. The project included three phases: a literature review, a study of community perceptions of racial bias in the organization's policies and practices, and the development of an assessment toolkit for racial equity. The toolkit included eight evaluation measures focused on examining racial equity in outpatient discharge, client disciplinary actions, and programmatic engagement. Based on the pilot of the toolkit and the qualitative study of community perceptions, Emma identified areas for improvement in the organization's efforts to address racial health equity around their individualized care, organizational change, and intersectionality.



Rosheen Birdie

Department of Health Services, University of Washington
Washington State Department of Health

Readiness Assessment of Evidence-Based Public Health Practice at Washington State Department of Health

Rosheen Birdie conducted a readiness assessment for the Washington State Department of Health to determine how prepared they are to implement a standardized six-step cycle for better using evidence in their work. To assess the agency's readiness, Rosheen completed a literature review, a landscape assessment, and developed a readiness questionnaire. The questionnaire will be used across the agency to develop recommendations for individual departments as they prepare to implement the cycle. Rosheen is hoping to publish the findings through the University of Washington School of Public Health and National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine.

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Patanjali de la Rocha

School of Social Work, University of Washington
Health Alliance International

Birth Beyond Bars: The Prison Doula Movement in Unceded Coast Salish Territories

Patanjali de la Rocha designed and implemented a 6-week pilot program for incarcerated pregnant and postpartum womxn, as well as womxn participating in the Residential Parenting Program at a Washington correctional facility. The pilot, led by two incarcerated individuals trained as peer-facilitators, included yoga, perinatal health education, and a support group. To inform the development of the program, Patanjali conducted a needs assessment of perinatal health services at the facility and of community stakeholder capacity to support new programming. Patanjali hopes to develop a full-spectrum doula training with community stakeholders, which can be used as a model for incarcerated populations across the country.



Kylerose Delaney

Department of Health Services, University of Washington
Washington State Department of Health

The Diamond Project: A Quality Improvement Model for Adopting a Shared Service Model in the Washington Vaccine for Children Program

Kylerose Delaney evaluated the Washington State Department of Health's Diamond Project, a successful quality improvement project aimed at standardizing the quality of service in the Washington State Vaccine for Children Program, so that it could be used as a model for shared service delivery in other states. The aims of the project was to identify and outline the key quality improvement and Lean Six Sigma methods that lent to the success of the Diamond Project. Kylerose is currently developing a research brief for publication in the Journal of Public Health Management and Practice.



Donna Fischer

Department of Health Sciences, University of Alaska
Tutan Recovery Services

A Cultural Needs Assessment for Alaska Natives in the Alaska Correctional System and Reentry

Donna Fischer helped design and conduct a qualitative study on the role that culture, or loss of culture, plays in incarceration and recidivism for Alaska Natives. Donna recruited 25 Alaska Native individuals who had been released from the Alaska Correctional System in the past five years to participate in her survey. Based on the results, Donna that participants felt their culture was important to them but that while incarcerated they were unable to practice cultural activities. Donna hopes to use the findings from the study to advocate for the incorporation of Alaska Native culture in to the correction system and in reentry programs.

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Priyanka Gautom

Department of Health Services, University of Washington
King County Enhanced911

Text-to-911: Testing CPR Instructions for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Population in King County, Washington

Priyanka Gautom conducted a pilot simulation of text-to-911 technology to evaluate the barriers and facilitators for deaf and hard of hearing populations using the technology in King County, Wash. Participants tested CPR instructions delivered over text message using technology similar to that used in 911 call centers and were surveyed on their current modes of communication with emergency services, comfort levels with texting and CPR, and their experience receiving instructions via text message. The results helped identify ways the county can optimize the delivery of CPR instructions via text so that individuals who are deaf and hard of hearing can better access services.



Katrina Goering

Department of Health Services, University of Washington
La Casa Hogar

Nuestra Comunidad: A Qualitative Study Exploring Safety and the Social Cost of Naturalization in the Yakima Valley

Katrina Goering completed a study in Yakima Valley, Wash., comparing the safety of and social cost for lawful permanent residents versus naturalized citizen participants in the La Casa Hogar's citizenship program. Katrina found that naturalized citizens expressed greater levels of psychological safety and lower costs in the Yakima Valley when compared to lawful permanent residents. Recommendations from the study included that La Casa Hogar keep their existing citizenship program, prioritize mental health in all of their programming, and that future research with Latinx immigrant communities use a family-centered framework.



Laura Harrington

Department of Health Services & School of Social Work, University of Washington
Harborview Center for Sexual Assault and Traumatic Stress

Athletes as Leaders 2.0: Expanding the Reach of an Athletics-based Violence Prevention Curriculum

Laura Harrington developed an expanded version of an existing program, Athletes as Leaders (AAL), originally created by the Harborview Center for Sexual Assault and Traumatic Stress in partnership with student athletes at Garfield High School. The program originally aimed to empower female-identifying high school athletes to actively change social and community norms around sexual violence and relationships. Laura sought to expand the scope of the program by making it gender-inclusive and providing more advanced discussion opportunities for teams who have a high level of understanding of the topics included in the curriculum. Laura plans to pilot the expanded curriculum with a group of youth leaders.

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Marissa Jackson

Department of Health Services, University of Washington
UW Medicine Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology

Understanding Family Systems of Menopause Knowledge Among African American Women with Endometrial Cancer

Marissa Jackson completed a secondary analysis of interviews with African American women who had been diagnosed with endometrial cancer to describe how knowledge, attitudes, and beliefs about menopause are shaped by family knowledge and to identify opportunities to improve menopause-related resources for African American women. Marissa found that knowledge shared through families was insufficient and led to women misinterpreting early endometrial cancer symptoms. Marissa hopes her findings will be used to support the creation of thorough and accurate resources for African American women that allow families to better understand normal and abnormal symptoms of menopause.



Ashley Jones

College of Public Health and Human Sciences, Oregon State University
Deschutes County Health Services

Central Oregon Syringe Exchange and Harm Reduction Volunteer Program Expansion

Ashley Jones' created a foundation for a volunteer onboarding and training protocol for the Deschutes County Health Services syringe exchange program (SEP), the only syringe exchange and harm reduction program in Central Oregon. Through a literature review, key informant interviews, and community observation, Ashley successfully designed and implemented an online volunteer application form, streamlined the county volunteer onboarding process, and created a complete volunteer manual. The county is actively recruiting possible candidates for the SEP Volunteer Corps, using Ashley's training protocol, and hopes to eventually expand the program into more rural areas of Oregon.



Courtney Roark

Department of Health Services, University of Washington
Northwest Abortion Access Fund

Building Northwest Abortion Access Fund's Capacity to Support Trans, Non-Binary, & Gender Non-Conforming Clients

Courtney Roark completed a study that aimed to identify barriers and facilitators for trans, non-binary, and gender non-conforming (TGNC) individuals accessing abortions, as well as to outline how the Northwest Abortion Access Fund can better facilitate competent and affirming abortion care for TGNC individuals. Based on the study's findings, Courtney provided the agency with recommendations for important changes to their policies and processes, such as explicitly communicating the value of providing gender-affirming support to their staff and supporters. Courtney presented preliminary findings at the University of Washington's 1st Annual Interprofessional LGBTQ+ Health Conference in spring 2019.

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Aly Robinson

Department of Health Services, University of Washington
Whatcom County Health Department

East Whatcom Food Landscape Assessment: A Comprehensive Snapshot of Food Access in East County

Aly Robinson conducted an assessment of food security and food access for East Whatcom County residents. The assessment aimed to determine where residents are accessing food, and their perceptions of food access and affordability in their region. Aly hopes the findings from the assessment will be used to inform future community planning efforts to improve the food landscape in the region as well as to empower the local community to become involved in food policy.



Solongo Sainkhu

Department of Health Services, University of Washington
Northwest Center for Public Health Practice

The Evaluation of Training Gaps among Public Health Professionals in Washington State

Solongo Sainkhu completed a cross-sectional analysis of an online survey of public health employees to identify training gaps in public health competencies and strategic skills among local, tribal, and state public health employees in Washington. The project also aimed to identify how training gaps differed among staff with varying demographic and work characteristics. Solongo hopes the findings from the analysis will be used to inform future training and program development for the regional public health workforce.



Kathryn Taylor

Department of Health Services, University of Washington
City of Bellevue, Office of Emergency Management

Improving Emergency Communications with Limited English Proficient (LEP) Chinese- and Russian-Speaking Communities in Bellevue, Washington

Kathryn Taylor completed a qualitative study on the best methods for sharing emergency and disaster information among limited English proficient Chinese- and Russian-speaking residents. The goal of the study was to discover new methods for communication that could ultimately help address health disparities for racial and ethnic minorities before, during, and after emergencies. Her results highlighted the importance of health departments creating relationships with trusted partners that can serve as liaisons for groups with limited English proficiency, especially in circumstances where language-specific emergency communications are not possible.

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César Higgins Tejera

School of Public Health, Oregon Health & Science University and Portland State University
Oregon Office on Disability and Health

Estimating Measures of Interaction in the Additive Scale to Assess Suicide Risk among Sexual Minority and Disabled Youth

César Higgins Tejera conducted a analysis of data from the Oregon Healthy Teen Survey assess whether youth who identify as disabled and as a sexual minority are at a multiplicative risk of suicide attempts, and to explore whether suicide risk in this population differs by gender status. Cesar found strong evidence that suicide risk amongst teens who identify as disabled and as a sexual minority can be more than additive, when compared to youth who identify as straight and non-disabled. César presented the results from the study at the Society for Epidemiologic Research and will potentially be presenting at the American Association Annual Meeting.



Kori VanDerGeest

Department of Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences, University of Washington
El Proyecto Bienestar and Northwest Communities Education Center

Nitrate Well Water Testing in Agricultural Communities: Improving Environmental Health Communication with Health Behavior Theory

Kori VanDerGeest designed and developed educational materials to promote well stewardship and testing amongst Latinx communities in the Lower Yakima Valley, Wash. To identify the best communication strategies and methods, Kori conducted focus groups with members from the community in Spanish and English. The responses informed two visual factsheets with messages that focus on the potential issues with well water, invoke a duty to protect families, and provide actionable information.



Zoe Watson

School of Public Health, Oregon Health and Sciences University/Portland State University
Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board

Commercial Tobacco Prevention strategies in Oregon's American Indian/Alaska Native Communities

Zoe Watson surveyed a range of tribal public health and health care providers to understand the perceived effectiveness of tobacco cessation strategies and policies in the nine federally recognized tribes of Oregon, with a particular focus on the Quit Line cessation model. Findings included that providers faced challenges tracking indicators such as cessation outcomes, and that culture played an important role in prevention of commercial tobacco use amongst American Indian and Alaska Natives (AI/AN). Zoe hopes the findings will help inform future trainings for community health workers specifically focused on AI/AN tobacco cessation models and that efforts will be made to improve the Quit Line model.

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