Region 10: Northwest Public Health Training Center

Field Placements and Collaborative Project Proposals

**Student Name:**
Project Name or Short Title:
Short Summary: 2-3 sentences that summarize the project
One-paragraph executive summary or abstract

# 1. Background on Health Issue
1-2 paragraphs on the public health issue. Use the prompts below to provide more detail. If you use data, direct quotes, or summarize information from another source, please provide proper citation or attribution.

What is the public health problem?
- What are the main causes or correlates to this problem? Using a social-ecological model, which determinant(s) or levels of influence does this connect to?
- What interventions might help?
- What are some challenges to and resources for implementing an intervention?

# 2. Statement of Purpose:
In 1-2 paragraphs, briefly summarize your proposed project. Detail your specific aims and any immediate and long-term goals.

>    **Example:**
>    *For this project I will increase the availability of qualitative research of workers' experiences before, during, and after exposure to harmful chemical vapors. This research will inform organizations working to advocate for workers through the removal of barriers to health care access, and promoting use of protective air respirators to further prevent occupational illness from vapor exposure.*
>
>    *Immediate goals*
>    - *Conduct literature reviews of the health effects of vapor exposure, successful prevention methods to vapor exposure, and a review of systems in place to support workers experiencing chemical exposure*
>    - *Conduct 10 in-person interviews with workers who have become ill from vapor exposure*
>    - *Conduct phone or in-person interviews with medical personnel and public health experts who have worked closely on worker health status*
>    - *Analyze qualitative research data*
>    - *Finalize and deliver a report of findings to clients*
>
>    *Long-term goals*
>    - *Publish report of findings to contribute to an academic body of knowledge surrounding health issues disproportionately affecting workers at the site and their specific barriers to health access.*
>    - *Create a pilot toolkit or guide for clients to help workers navigate the complex system of care after vapor exposure*

- *Support public health policy around cleanup efforts and improved working conditions for workers*

# 3. Project Plan

A project plan should include methods, a timeline of tasks, key deliverables, and key personnel.

**Example:**

*Methods*

*We will conduct a formative assessment to inform the design and implementation of an overdose reversal program in Ocean View, Washington. Through this process we will attempt to answer the following questions:*

*1) What are the characteristics of the opioid using population in Ocean View County?*

*2) What are the best methods to distribute naloxone and disseminate information about how to prevent, recognize, and reverse overdose to emergency medical service providers, law enforcement officers, and opioid users and their friends and families?*

*3) Where are the optimal locations to implement naloxone distribution and/or hold educational sessions in Ocean View County, and what entities are willing to serve as naloxone distributors?*

*4) What strategies should be employed to maximize buy-in from relevant stakeholders when implementing the program?*

*Data Collection*

*The assessment will involve three data collection components:*

**County profile**

*We will create a county profile summarizing all available quantitative data describing Ocean View County's opioid using population, such as demographics, rates of opioid use by method (prescription vs. heroin), rates of overdose by method, geographic distribution of opioid users, common locations of use, use of existing harm reduction services nearby, and any other relevant existing data.*

**Survey and interviews with people who use opioids**

*We will collect data from intravenous drug users (IVDU) who use opioids who reside in Ocean View County. These participants will be recruited through the syringe exchange program (SEP), which serves individuals from Ocean View. The student researchers will travel to the SEP to conduct interviews with around 10 participants, and SEP staff will administer a brief survey to 40-50 additional participants. These participants will receive a $10 dollar gift card for their participation.*

**Key informant interviews**

*We will conduct 10 key informant interviews with key program implementers including law enforcement leadership, EMS leadership, health care and social service providers, local public health leadership, and other relevant stakeholders identified by our community partner. We will attempt to speak with providers who prescribe opioids in order to assess how the program can best serve prescription opioid users. These interviews will be conducted over the phone by the student researchers. We will not provide compensation for participants.*

*Ethics*

*We will develop a thorough informed consent protocol and seek approval from the University of Washington Institutional Review Board prior to data collection. We recognize that opioid users may be considered a*

*vulnerable population and will carefully consider the appropriate steps that should be taken to protect confidentiality and prevent harm to this population.*

*Data Analysis*
*Interviews will be audiorecorded and transcribed by student researchers. Transcripts will be coded for emergent themes in Dedoose qualitative analysis software. The student researchers will collaborate to develop codes, and may test inter-rater reliability during a pilot coding period. Key findings from the survey and interviews will be summarized for the report.*

*Key Personnel*
1.
2.
3.

| Primary Activity | Date | Hours | Notes |
|---|---|---|---|
| Conduct literature review | June | 10 | |
| Design questions & research processes | June/July | 6 | |
| Test questions & process | July | 5 | |
| Compile participant list | July | 4 | |
| Schedule interviews | July | 3 | |
| Conduct interviews | August – Sept | 12 | 12 interviews; 3 overnight visits (4 interviews each visit) |
| Travel to sites | August - Sept | 18 | |
| Compile notes / transcribe | Sept - October | 20 | |
| Analyze qualitative data | October - Nov | 20 | |
| Prepare draft report | December | 20 | |
| Prepare toolkit model | January - Feb | 10 | |
| Finalize report | March - April | 20 | |
| Check-in meetings (advisor) | Monthly | 1 | |
| Check-in meetings (client) | Monthly | 1 | |
| **Total Hours** | | **150** | |