Iowa Department of Public Health

Briefly describe the specific project in which the paired practica team will be involved and how the project relates to health transformation.

The Iowa Department of Public Health, Bureau of Family Health (BFH) is seeking a student intern team to conduct an assessment of local MCH agencies’ knowledge, capacity, and professional development needs relative to health care reform and the ACA. The student intern team will use the “State Title V Roles in Health Reforms including ACA: A Title V State Access to Care Assessment Tool” to collect. This tool was developed by the National MCH Workforce Development Center. BFH staff and stakeholders will customize the Assessment Tool reflect state specific information. The Assessment Tool was developed to assess the changing needs of states related to health care reform and the need to align Title V Block Grant funds and other funding sources with federal priorities. In addition to collecting data via the Assessment Tool, the interns will conduct key informant interviews with MCH project directors and relevant stakeholders. The students will analyze the results and submit a final report of findings to the Title V director, Title V needs assessment leadership team and grant coordinators. The intern team will also develop a plan for conducting a study of Iowa’s MCH workforce. The workforce study’s purpose is to assess local MCH grantees current staff capacity to carry out newly identified services relative to health care reform. In addition the BFH is interested in obtaining a state-level view of the MCH workforce including trends in staff retention, graduation rates in MCH related fields, and educational/professional development needs. The plan would include a recommended strategy to collect the data, potential survey questions, supplemental data sources, and other recommendations for completing the workforce study. If time allows, the intern team will pilot the survey.

List three to five overall project objectives and then describe how you see a paired practica team contributing to achievement of these objectives.

- Provide orientation/education on the Title V Access to Care Assessment Tool to local MCH grantees via webinar.
- Implement the Assessment Tool with 24 local MCH grantees, based on the recommendations of Iowa’s MCH Workforce Development Team.
- Conduct four to five key informant interviews based on the results of the Assessment Tool.
- Develop a report of the findings of the Assessment Tool and key informant interviews, including recommendations of action steps to move Iowa’s Title V system forward in health care reform activities.
- Develop a plan to conduct an MCH workforce study, including survey topics/questions, data sources and other recommendations

Provide a brief description of the specific activities in which the paired practica team will be engaged to carry out the project.

Undergraduate Student Activities

- Assist with the development of the online survey of the Assessment Tool
- Take notes during key informant interviews
- Assist with coding data from key informant interviews, under the direction of the graduate student intern
- Format final report based on key themes
- Research potential data sources for the workforce study
- Create drafts of presentations
**Undergraduate Skills**
- Familiarity with current and emerging MCH and health care reform issues
- Excellent MS Office (Word, Excel, PowerPoint) skills
- Excellent attention to detail
- Ability to work independently
- Strong organization skills
- Effective oral and written communication skills
- Ability to work with an interdisciplinary team

**Graduate Student Activities**
- Provide leadership for conducting the Assessment Tool survey
- Develop surveys
- Conduct orientation/education on the Assessment Tool via webinar
- Analyze results of the survey and key informant interviews and develop key themes, within the context of health care reform
- Develop final report based on key themes and recommendations
- Present findings to Iowa’s MCH Workforce Development Team and other Title V stakeholders

**Graduate Student Skills**
- Understanding of how to translate public health data into actionable information
- Familiarity with current and emerging MCH and health care reform issues
- Exposure to statistical software, such as SAS; willingness to learn SAS as needed
- Familiarity with qualitative analysis skills
- Excellent MS Office (Word, Excel, PowerPoint) skills
- Experience in conducting qualitative analysis
- Ability to work independently
- Strong organizational skills
- Effective oral and written communication skills
- Ability to work with an interdisciplinary team
- Ability to direct the work of the undergraduate student

Describe the deliverables expected from the “paired practica” team by the end of the summer (even if the project will be ongoing).
- Assessment Tool Survey conducted with all 24 local MCH grantees
- Four to five key informant interviews conducted
- Survey and key informant interview analysis and report development
- Workforce study plan developed