**WWAMI AHEC SCHOLARS**

**Social Determinants of Health Project**

**Individual Instructions**

The goal of this project is to allow you to explore how your community is addressing a community health concern, and contrast perspectives across several health professions. Completing this project and presenting at a poster session satisfies the Community/Experiential/Clinical component for one year. Through a stepwise process you will learn about a health challenge in your community and find out what is being done to address that issue by a local community group or organization. Next you research the topic to think about how this group or organization could take further steps to improve community health. You will then interview a professional in your healthcare field, as well as professionals from two other healthcare fields to examine how interprofessional care plays a role in addressing the health challenge in the community. Lastly, you will create an academic poster with a summation of your research and present it at a poster session.

**Step One:** **Identify a community group or organization**

Identify a community group or organization that is interested in improving health for underserved populations. Here are some examples:

Food banks

Homeless shelters

County Public Health Offices

Community Health Centers

Hospitals

Public schools

Grassroots community groups

YMCA or similar organizations

Senior centers

Churches or religious organizations

Area Health Education Centers

**Step Two: Arrange a Meeting**

Arrange a meeting with someone from that group or organization to explore what health issue they are working to address. In most cases you can find their email or phone number from their public website. Explain in your email or phone call that you are a health professional student at X University and that you would like to arrange a 30 minute interview to learn more about their group or organization and how they address health concerns in the community. Here is a sample note:

**Example email:**

*Dr. Ms. Smith,*

*I’m a Master’s in Public Health student from the University of Washington. I’m writing to see if you would be interested in an in-person interview. The purpose of the interview would be to learn more about your organization and the health issues you are trying to address through your activities. Further, with your permission, I plan to integrate the information I receive during the interview into an academic poster that highlights a local health topic.*

*If you have the time to speak with me, please send me a convenient time and where you would like to meet. I anticipate the interview would likely last about a half an hour.*

*Thank you in advance for considering this request!*

*Sincerely,*

*John Hughes*

*MPH Candidate University of Washington*

**Step Three: The Interview**

At the interview, explain that you are a WWAMI AHEC Scholar, which means that you taking additional steps during your training to learn more about how to care for underserved populations. Ask the community partner if you may take notes during the interview. Please explain to the interviewee that the interview will be integrated into a poster that describes a community health issue, highlights the work this organization is doing and considers additional ways to address this health issue (if there was more time and resources available). Before proceeding, please ask the interviewee if they are ok using the information for a poster presentation and if they have any questions before you begin.

**Questions to ask**

1. Can you tell me about your mission?

2. What health issues do your programs or the services you offer ~~to you offer~~ address?

3. Are there any underserved populations that access your program or services?

4. What type of impact have you seen through your programs or services?

5. What are some of the challenges your organization faces?

6. If you had more resources or time what are some ways you would expand your program or the services you offer?

**Be sure to thank your interviewee and offer to send them the slide of your poster once that has been completed.**

**Step Four: Research**

Choose one health issue you identified in your community interview: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

A. Use the following resources to help better understand the health issue your community group or organization is working to address:

Census data: <https://factfinder.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/index.xhtml>

County health rankings: <http://www.countyhealthrankings.org/>

Record local or county data that you found that describes this health issue here:

|  |
| --- |
|  |

B. Use Google Scholar and other academic search engines to look for examples of programs that could potentially be modeled in the community where you live **to address the health concern you discussed** in your interview. Find at least two papers.

**Paper one:**

What was the intervention/program?

What were the results of the intervention/program? From your perspective, did it have a positive impact in the community?

Could it work in your community?

**Paper two:**

What was the intervention/program?

What were the results of the intervention/program? From your perspective, did it have a positive impact in the community?

Could it work in your community?

**Step Five: Interprofessional Interviews**

During this step, the goal is to learn and reflect on some of the different perspectives that professionals across various disciplines might have **on the community health issue you have chosen**. For example, if you are a student nurse who chose food insecurity as your issue, you could interview a school nurse on their perspective, an Occupational Therapist at a facility serving seniors, and a social worker or case manager at Catholic Community Services or SeaMar or Unity Care on their perspectives.

Another example: if you chose alcohol-related concerns as your topic as a SUDP student, you might interview a Physician, Dietician, and Substance Use Disorder Professional on how they see the impacts of this concern in their profession and their thoughts on addressing the concern.

Arrange interviews with a professional in your field of study and professionals from two other healthcare fields **whose work intersects with the health concern you are researching**. At the interviews, explain that you are a WWAMI AHEC Scholar, which means that you taking additional steps during your training to learn more about how to care for underserved populations with an emphasis on interprofessional care. Share the community health concern you are researching. Ask the interviewee if you may take notes during the interview and if they have any questions before you begin. Please explain to the interviewee that the interview will be integrated into a poster that describes a community health issue and highlights how professionals in this field may have an impact on the health issue; confirm they are agreeable to the information being used in your poster presentation.

**Questions to ask**

1. Can you tell me about your organization’s mission?

2. What health issues does your program or the services you offer address?

3. Are there any underserved populations that access your program or services?

4. What type of impact have you seen on (this community health concern) through your program or services?

5. In your professional opinion, what are effective strategies to address (this community health concern)?

6. Does your existing work require collaboration with other healthcare professionals? If so, which other professions?

7. If you had more resources or time what are some ways you would expand your program or services?

**Be sure to thank your interviewee and offer to send them the slide of your poster once that has been completed.**

**Step Six: Conclusions**

Please answer the following questions on your interviews and the research you have done on this topic.

What is one intervention that could be done to further address the health issue you identified?

Please overview the components of the intervention.

What would be one goal of the program?

What organization(s) might carry this out?

What resources might be needed?

What would be some challenges to the intervention?

**Step Seven: The Poster**

If you plan to present your work at a healthcare conference poster session to develop your resume/C.V. and distinguish yourself academically, you will need to develop an academic poster. Poster session counts as 10 CEC hours. (If you choose not to, or cannot, participate in a poster session, then you will need to make up these last 10 CEC hours with other service learning or volunteer work).

**Poster Title:**

**Name, School, Program, and WWAMI AHEC Scholars**

**Background:** In 3-5 bullets, describe your community, the health issue you are exploring, the community organization you spoke with, and the professionals you interviewed.

**Literature Review:** in 3-5 bullets list key points of the papers you read on the subject

**Community Health Intervention Design:** In 3-4 bullet points give an overview of the intervention you considered

**Conclusions:** In 3-4 bullets discuss possible outcomes, challenges and resources needed.