



2023-2024

Student Field Placements and Collaborative Projects

Student hands-on projects in public health organizations around the region.



Northwest Center
FOR PUBLIC HEALTH PRACTICE



Riley Appelgren

Oregon Health and Science University

Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP) Access in Oregon

Partner: Oregon AIDS Education and Training Center

Riley worked with the Oregon AIDS Education and Training Center to identify areas in Oregon with an unmet need for preventative HIV medication access to support the goal of ending the HIV epidemic. This work will inform them where they can work to improve access to preventative HIV medications at emergency rooms and pharmacies across the state.



Elena Arakaki

University of Washington

Community Engagement for Little Saigon Landmark Vietnamese Cultural and Economic Center

Partner: Friends of Little Saigon

Elena engaged community members through a variety of methods such as an online survey, interviews, an interactive feedback board, and a community meeting to inform the programming, architectural designs, and aesthetics of the Vietnamese Cultural and Economic Center in Seattle, Washington. By engaging community members early in the planning phase, this project can positively impact the social determinants of health and needs of the community.



Adhieu Arok-Adah

Boise State University

The Effects of Trauma on the Mental Health of South Sudanese Young Adults and their Coping Mechanisms

Partner: One Refugee

Adhieu explored the role of generational trauma on the mental health of South Sudanese young adults in the US and their strategies for coping. Adhieu completed the project by conducting a qualitative study of 14 participants. The findings from the study can be used to develop culturally appropriate mental health interventions for this population.



Hayley Berger

University of Washington

Evaluating a Cancer Community Health Education Resource Bank

Partner: Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center Office of Community Engagement

Hayley worked to understand the research and outreach methods used to analyze top priorities for health education materials. Hayley completed a literature review, a survey for community partners, and conducted four interviews to understand the perceptions of the materials and the barriers and facilitators to the program's outreach and education efforts.



Kendra Canton

University of Washington

Provider Visioning for Tubman Center for Health & Freedom Community Design

Partner: Tubman Center for Health & Freedom

Kendra worked with the Tubman Center for Health and Freedom to help providers design a healthcare model that supports their work. Kendra summarized the current state of challenges among providers in Washington State and identified the needs and working conditions among BIPOC providers and healers in the Puget Sound region. This work will help support the implementation of the new community health center to meet the health needs of BIPOC communities in Seattle.



Jessica Carmel

Oregon State University

Celebrating Every Body: A Comprehensive Exploration of Weight Acceptance Literature and Creation of Media for Lane County Communities

Partner: Lane County Public Health

Jessica's project investigated body image expectations through a comprehensive literature review on weight acceptance within Lane County, Oregon. The project also included the development of various health media to highlight prevention programs to promote children's well-being. The goal of this work is to educate and support the community by emphasizing the support of weight acceptance programs and interventions for youth.



Tenney Davis

University of Washington

Developmental Evaluation of the Enhancement Strategy Learning Collaborative

Partner: Public Health - Seattle & King County's School-Based Partnership Program

Tenney used a developmental evaluation lens to evaluate the Enhancement Learning Collaborative aims to build a deeper understanding of their activities, their mechanisms of impact, and the changes to participants' projects and the Learning Collaborative. Tenney's project demonstrated that sharing project specifics amongst members leads to peer-learning and more culturally appropriate ways to engage in this work.



Steven Fiala

Oregon Health & Science University – Portland State University School of Public Health

Governmental Public Health's Capacity for Community Collaboration in Oregon

Partner: Oregon Health Authority Public Health Division

Steven completed five focus groups and three key informant interviews to explore factors of cross-sector alignment that hinder or facilitate collaboration among state and local governmental public health and community partners to advance health equity. The findings from this project offer suggestions to modify roles in health equity and to institutionalize Oregon's public health modernization manual and framework.



Mariana Guerrero

Oregon State University

Developing a Comprehensive Healthcare Billing Guide for an Integrated Culturally Affirming Perinatal Home-Visiting Initiative

Partner: Washington County Health and Human Services

Mariana's project worked to develop a billing guide for doula services by completing a review of existing billing practices and policies and initiating a landscape analysis of doula policies, programs, and practices across the United States. The project can help support the integration of doulas into the healthcare system which increases the awareness and usage of doula services.



Chloe Hatfield

University of Washington

Culturally Specific Retailer Participation in SNAP Produce Match – Understanding Facilitators and Barriers

Partner: Washington State Department of Health

Chloe analyzed the participation barriers and facilitators among culturally specific retailers in Snohomish, King, and Pierce counties in the SNAP Produce Match program through the Washington State Department of Health. Chloe completed this work through semi-structured interviews, a round-table discussion, and surveys to retailers. The results of this project can be used to connect and build trust with culturally specific retailers.



Leah Mortimer

University of Washington

Understanding and Identifying Policy Solutions to Address the Imbalance Between Criminal Justice Spending and Health and Human Services Spending

Partner: Public Health - Seattle & King County

Leah worked with the policy team at Public Health - Seattle & King County to conduct research and strategize potential policy interventions to divert funding from the criminal legal system to the health and human services in King County, Washington. Leah completed a literature review and presentations to inform on the current spending policy landscape and potential policy suggestions for diversion. The results from Leah's work will be used to inform future policy recommendations and areas of focus.



Sarah Randall

University of Washington

Formative Evaluation of the Collaborative on Extreme Heat Events: Creating and Sustaining an Effective Multi-Region Response Network

Partner: Collaborative on Extreme Heat Events

Sarah conducted a formative evaluation to explore the structure and resources needed to expand and sustain the multi-region Collaborative on Extreme Heat Events that was formed in 2023. Sarah completed a literature review and conducted eleven semi-structured interviews to develop a strategic roadmap and other recommendations to support funding, communications, and infrastructure operations.



Sammi Robinson

Lake Washington Institute of Technology

Fall Prevention Program for Suquamish Tribe

Partner: Suquamish Tribe, Community Health Department

Sammi worked on a fall prevention program within the Suquamish community to collect information about existing programs, identify needs, and review related programs that can be adapted for this community. Sammi conducted a literature review and informal interviews with staff and Elders about fall prevention methods. The results from this project led to the implementation of a multifaceted community program to reduce the risk of falls among the Suquamish Elders.



Ray Rodriguez

University of Washington

Participatory Research in Compounding Intersectional Experiences

Partner: ARCH: Center for Anti-Racism and Community Health

Ray conceptualized, designed, and conducted a community-based participatory research study on those with compounding intersectional experiences. The results from this study can inform cross-sector designs, data collection processes, and methods that help researchers account for more nuance in intersectional work. Ray completed a list of recommendations available online to continue to build community and awareness to advocate for a focus on experience over demographic categories in research.



River Salyer

University of Washington

Youth Participatory Design of a Sexual Violence Prevention Intervention

Partner: Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction

River worked with a group of primarily middle school students from a school in Jefferson County, Washington, to develop innovative sexual violence prevention interventions. The project culminated in a photovoice project, and a list of concerns and intervention recommendations developed by the youth. This project used a Youth Action Research model, where youth are collaborators with adults in both research and interventions on topics that impact their lives.



Shaan-Isabelle Shridhar

University of Washington

Developing a Framework for Asset-Based Mapping of Mental Health and Wellness Service Delivery Systems for Refugees in Washington State

Partner: Washington State Department of Health

Shaan-Isabelle developed a community assessment tool for mapping mental health and emotional wellness resources, needs, and priorities for refugees in Washington State. Shaan-Isabelle piloted this tool in Spokane County to identify existing resources and opportunities for strategic investment. A literature review and eighteen interviews were conducted to identify proposed investment priorities to address the needs of this growing population.



Callie Simmons

University of Alaska – Anchorage

Sitka Community Food Assessment

Partner: Transition Sitka

Callie conducted a community wide survey, interviews, and focus groups to repeat the Sitka Community Food Assessment that was last completed in 2013. The updated assessment highlighted strengths in the food system and areas for improvement. Through this work, the voices of the community were captured and can be used to improve the food system for this community.



Eathen Smith

Oregon State University

Understanding Popular Mental Health Conditions: A Comprehensive Data Analysis

Partner: Germane and Wise

Eathen conducted a comprehensive literature review on the collaborative care model, which integrates mental health services into primary care settings. Eathen also conducted data analysis from seven clinics to analyze demographics, follow-up frequency, and changes in mental health systems. This work identified barriers to treatment, areas for improvement, and policy advocacy needs.



Dimple Vaidya

University of Washington

Enhancing Infection Control Outreach Effectiveness in Various Healthcare Facilities in Washington State

Partner: Washington State Department of Health

Dimple conducted data analysis from healthcare facilities in Washington State to prevent healthcare-associated infections. The project looked at Infection Control Assessment and Response outreach activities developed by the CDC to assess and enhance infection prevention practices at healthcare facilities across the state. The recommendations from this project can lead to improvements in engagement and infection prevention efforts.



Daniel Viveros

University of Washington

Drug User Advocacy – Service Recommendations and Evaluation for Accountability

Partner: Research with Expert Advisors on Drug Use

Daniel's project worked to guide metric and indicator development for the Overdose Response Confronting Health Inequity and Diversity Study by identifying aspects of the EMS interactions that are most important to the Seattle drug use community. Daniel conducted four listening sessions with 44 total participants to help guide the design and engagement process of the upcoming study to better meet the needs of the drug use community.

These projects are supported by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) under grant number UB6HP31690. This information or content and conclusions are those of the author(s) and should not be construed as the official position or policy of, nor should any endorsements be inferred by HRSA, HHS, or the U.S. Government. For more information, please visit [HRSA.gov](https://www.hrsa.gov).

The Northwest Center for Public Health Practice is housed within the University of Washington School of Public Health. It is one of ten regional Public Health Training Centers funded by the Health Resources and Services Administration.

Northwest Center
FOR PUBLIC HEALTH PRACTICE

Northwest Center for Public Health Practice
3980 15th Ave NE, Seattle, WA 98105
206.685.1130 | www.nwcphp.org

