



INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

Training Future Public Health Leaders

INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Harris County Public Health (HCPH) offers internship opportunities for students attending HCPH Partnering Institutions* for the Spring, Summer and Fall semesters of the academic year. Unique experiences are available in each of its Divisions and Offices:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Disease Control and Clinical Prevention Environmental Public Health Mosquito Control Nutrition and Chronic Disease Prevention Veterinary Public Health | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Communication, Education & Engagement Operations and Finance Policy & Planning Public Health Preparedness Science, Surveillance, & Technology |
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More details about projects related to each Division/Office may be found on the HCPH website, or by contacting the Volunteer & Intern Program Coordinator directly.

INTERNSHIP ELIGIBILITY

- Interested in public health, health promotion, science, or other health-related discipline. Students in other fields will be considered if they are willing to apply their skills toward accomplishing the mission of HCPH. *For example, a Public Relations major may apply to intern with HCPH's Office of Communication, Education & Engagement*
- Currently enrolled and in good standing in a 2-year, 4-year, or Graduate level program
- **Must** be earning academic credit for the completion of an internship/practicum
- Classified as at least a second year student and have at least a 3.0 overall grade point average, with no grades below a D within the last two semesters
- Able to successfully complete an application, interview, and pass a background check
- Interns must commit to at least 8 – 10 consecutive weeks in the program. Other consecutive three-month periods can be arranged on an individual basis.

INTERNSHIP TIMELINE

Internships fill up quickly, so students are encouraged to apply at least 3 months **prior** to the semester they wish to intern. Recommended application timelines are listed below:

- January – March (Application for Summer Internship)
- April – June (Application for Fall Internship)
- August – October (Application for Spring Internship)

A list of Partnering Institutions with completed Affiliation Agreements may be found on the HCPH website. Students attending a school **without a current Affiliation Agreement on file with HCPH are strongly encouraged to **apply within the first 45 days** of the recommended application period, to allow timely completion of agreements with the student's school.*

Thank you for your interest in interning with Harris County Public Health! If your school is not currently a HCPH Partnering Institution, or if you have further questions, please contact Ashley Minkeu, HCPH Volunteer/Intern Program Coordinator at Ashley.Minkeu@phs.hctx.net or (713) 439-6285 for further details.

To apply, visit: <http://www.hcphtx.org>
(Click Careers and then Volunteer and Internships)

OFFICE OF POLICY & PLANNING

The HCPH Office of Policy and Planning (OPP) coordinates comprehensive assessment, planning, evaluation, and policy development activities across HCPH. OPP relies on the best evidence available to lead and guide comprehensive planning efforts that result in actionable strategies for improving and protecting the health of Harris County residents.

The Office of Policy and Planning offers graduate and undergraduate internships for students pursuing degrees in public health, public administration, health promotion, health education, healthcare administration, political science, or a related field of study.

Eligibility

- At least one year of work experience (including volunteer work)
- Experience working with teams, delivering verbal presentations, and producing formal reports/business writing
- Reliable transportation and a valid driver's license (not required, but highly preferred)
- Be in good academic standing
- Coursework in statistical analysis, data collection, or a related topic is preferred
- Experience working with community members or patients/clients is preferred

Skills/Personal Characteristics

- Proven experience with internet research tools, conducting literature reviews, Windows 7, and Microsoft Office programs (Outlook, Word, Excel, and Power Point)
- Excellent written and verbal communication and interpersonal skills
- Highly motivated, energetic, able to manage time, and work well in a team environment

Location

Office of Policy & Planning internships are located at the HCPH Main Office: Office of Policy & Planning – 7th floor, 2223 West Loop South, Houston, TX 77027

Office of Policy & Planning Preceptors Contact Information:

Albert Cheng
Public Health Analyst
Albert.Cheng@phs.hctx.net
(713) 439-6107
*Policy Internships

Mark Solano, MPPA
Engagement Specialist
Mark.Solano@phs.hctx.net
(713) 439-6240
*Healthy Living Matters Engagement
Internships

Healthy Living Matters Support (1 position available)

Practicum Time Frame: Summer 2018

Division: Office of Policy & Planning

Practicum Location: Main Office – 2223 West Loop S. Houston, TX

Preceptor: Mark Solano

Preceptor Contact Information: Mark.Solano@phs.hctx.net

Minimum Number of Hours (*per week*): 20

Required Skills & Minimum Education: Currently completing or recently complete Bachelor's program. Understanding of basic Microsoft programming. Able to take notes and attend community meeting outside of the main office. Public speaking skills as well as soft skills necessary for potential cold calling of collaborative partners.

Practicum Description: Provide support to the Healthy Living Matters and Office of Policy & Planning teams via tasks assigned by preceptor. Support development and immersion of policy within HLM priority communities.

Practicum Goals & Learning Objectives: Be able to successfully detail the policy priorities of Healthy Living Matters and the goals of the Office of Policy & Planning. Understand the policy process and the work that must be done in order to carry out the goal of the office.

Practicum Deliverables: Facilitate and assist with progression of the Community Action Plan. Create a strategy guide on best practices of progressing policy and methodology of achievement.

OFFICE OF COMMUNICATION EDUCATION & ENGAGEMENT

The Office of Communication Education and Engagement (OCEE) utilizes a comprehensive approach to inform and empower Harris County residents and enhance community awareness by means of media relations, communication, public information, public awareness campaigns, marketing strategies, risk communication, and coordinating population-based health education and promotion interventions using evidence-based approaches. OCEE supports and advances the goals and overall mission of HCPH by:

- Developing and implementing public information and public awareness methods to achieve key objectives.
- Developing public information tools (e.g. press releases, media advisories, brochures, fliers, web pages, and community forums) designed to meet specific HCPH program objectives or general mission objectives.
- Organizing and conducting press conferences, media interviews, town hall meetings, etc.
- Providing guidance and technical assistance to HCPH staff to effectively communicate health information to the public for the implementation of community awareness projects.
- Providing guidance and direct assistance across the department in planning, implementation and evaluation of population based, health education and promotion interventions
- Partnering with community groups, organizations and coalitions to support community-wide, environmental and system-level change strategies that promote health

Eligibility

- Undergraduate or graduate student in Health Education, Public Health, Graphic Design, Journalism, Communications, or related program
- Must be knowledgeable in Program Evaluation concepts, Implementation of health education programs, and/or Health Education Theory if applying for a health education internship

Prerequisites

- Must be a junior or senior level student
- Must submit portfolio samples to be reviewed before position is granted
- Must complete a “working” interview with OCEE team

Location

Office of Communication Education and Engagement internships are located at the HCPH Main Office: 5th floor, 2223 West Loop South, Houston, TX 77027

Office of Communication Education and Engagement Preceptors Contact Information:

Henry Bradford
Henry.Bradford@phs.hctx.net
(713) 439-6079
*Multimedia Internships

Ashley Minkeu, MPH
Volunteer & Internship Program Coordinator
Ashley.Minkeu@phs.hctx.net
(713) 439-6285
*All other OCEE internships

OFFICE OF PUBLIC HEALTH PREPAREDNESS & RESPONSE

The Office of Public Health Preparedness & Response is responsible for developing and implementing a comprehensive, department-wide approach to public health preparedness and response activities. Activities include:

- Coordinating planning for all-hazards preparedness activities such as the CDC Strategic National Stockpile program, the CDC Cities Readiness Initiative and the TDSHS Public Health Preparedness grant
- Providing scientific and clinical oversight for public health preparedness activities
- Assuring public health response functions in the context of the National Incident Management System
- Preparing for, preventing, responding to and recovering from public health emergencies
- Coordinating competency-based education and training of public health emergency staff; conducting drills and exercises
- Coordinating community resilience outreach, education, and reporting.

Eligibility

- Undergraduate or graduate student majoring in a Public Health related program
- Must be highly organized, available to intern 15-20 hours per week, and must have reliable transportation
- The Intern should be adaptable, flexible and open to different paces of work. Some tasks are quieter and involve a great deal of reading, research and/or writing. At other times, if the OPHPR office is preparing for a special event, such as an exercise, training, drill or actual Public Health emergency incident, the pace may be greatly intensified.
- The intern may occasionally be asked to be flexible with work hours, working later into the evening, on a weekend day or a day that's not a normal work day.

Location

Office of Public Health Preparedness and Response internships are located at the HCPH Main Office: 7th floor, 2223 West Loop South, Houston, TX 77027

Office of Public Health Preparedness and Response Preceptors Contact Information:

Jennifer Kiger, MPH
Chief, OPHPR
Jennifer.Kiger@phs.hctx.net
(713) 439-6216

Danielle Calhoun, MPH
Preparedness Training Coordinator
Danielle.Calhoun@phs.hctx.net
(713) 439-6296

ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEALTH DIVISION

The Environmental Public Health (EPH) Division of Harris County Public Health works to protect public health by ensuring the integrity of the food supply, clean drinking water, neighborhood cleanliness, and hazard-free workplaces. These objectives are accomplished through the following activities:

- Securing compliance with State rules on food safety and public drinking water through surveillance, monitoring and inspections
- Permitting retail food establishments
- Responding to citizen complaints on food, water supply and abating neighborhood nuisances (e.g., abandoned and unsafe buildings) through owner notification and demolition
- Reducing lead poisoning through screening children for elevated blood lead levels, case managing children with lead poisoning, and removing lead-based paint from qualifying homes

The Division also has a Built Environment and Health Impact Assessment Unit focused on looking at how policy and the built environment impact the health of the community.

The Environmental Public Health Division offers graduate and undergraduate internships for students pursuing degrees in public health, environmental health, public administration, health promotion, health education, healthcare administration, political science, or related field of study.

Eligibility

- At least one year of work experience (including volunteer work)
- Experience working with teams, delivering verbal presentations, and producing formal reports
- Reliable transportation and a valid driver's license
- Be in good academic standing
- Have a strong interest in health inequities
- Coursework in community health, policy, statistical analysis, data collection, or a related topic is preferred
- Experience working with community members or patients/clients is preferred

Location

Environmental Public Health Division internships are located at 101 South Richey, Suite G, Pasadena, Texas 77506. Parking is free.

Environmental Public Health Division Preceptors Contact Information:

Marilyn Christian, R.S.
Manager - Environmental Health Programs
Marilyn.Christian@phs.hctx.net
(713) 274-6415
*Food Safety/Water Safety/NNA

Parul Pillai, MPH
Program Manager, Built Environment Unit
Parul.Pillai@phs.hctx.net
(713) 274-6409
*Built Environment Unit Internships

Safe Crossings Project

Project Overview:

The Safe Crossings project aims to improve pedestrian and bicyclist safety by identifying improvements to streets and intersections that pose a significant risk for increased injury. The Built Environment Unit at Harris County Public Health is looking to concentrate the Safe Crossings project efforts to the City of Galena Park and East Aldine District, both areas that are characterized by low to moderate income and minority populations that would benefit from improvements to the built environment.

The project will utilize data from previous environmental assessments in East Aldine, pedestrian and bicycle crash data from the Texas Department of Transportation, and population demographic and socioeconomic data. Using GIS, the data will be mapped to identify areas of high crash incidence and poor environment for pedestrians and cyclists overlaid with population data to ensure identified priorities are done so in an equitable fashion.

Goal Statement:

To work with public health professionals and gain knowledge and experience as an intern for the Built Environment Unit that will utilize and enhance the intern's current studies and further skill development in public health research and GIS.

Objectives:

1. Conduct public health research through applied use of GIS and statistical analysis:
 - a. Map pedestrian, bicycle, and vehicle crash data in unincorporated Harris County
 - i. Conduct statistical analysis to determine intersections with highest crash rates that pose a significant safety issue for pedestrians
 - b. Map surrounding destinations (schools, retail, parks, etc) and population demographic data to determine potential areas of higher pedestrian traffic.
2. Describe the health outcomes from using active transportation and the safety implications of the built environment in facilitating or preventing walkable and bikeable spaces:
 - a. Conduct literature review of health pathways and outcomes of active transportation, including but not limited to air quality exposure and physical activity
 - b. Research evidence-based interventions at intersections and along roadways to improve pedestrian and bicyclist safety.
3. Communicate research findings and recommendations:
 - a. Prepare a written report and presentation of background, methodology, findings, and lessons learned
 - b. Prepare and present project poster at the conclusion of internship

Additional activities:

- Meet with BE-Unit Preceptor & Project Lead Weekly
- Attend scheduled Built Environment Unit and project-related meetings
- May assist with community engagement activities

Preceptor Info: Aimee Schultze, PH: 713-274-6328, Aimee.schultze@phs.hctx.net

Minimum number of hours (per week): 20

Required Skills:

- Basic knowledge of mapping software ArcGIS.
- Ability to conduct literature searches and other background research as necessary
- Ability to communicate clearly and effectively, both orally and in writing

Minimum Education:

Bachelor's Degree required. Preference for those currently working on a Masters of Public Health.

Other: Transportation will be required to our offices in Pasadena.

****The Environmental Public Health Division also facilitates GIS Internships. ****

DISEASE CONTROL & CLINICAL PREVENTION DIVISION

The Disease Control and Clinical Prevention (DCCP) division provides clinical and population-based preventive health services as well as population-focused disease control activities. The division operates four (4) preventive health clinics located throughout Harris County.

Health Services include:

- Immunizations for children and adults
- Family planning
- Dental services for children
- Tuberculosis (TB) related services
- HIV counseling, testing and education

Disease Control activities include:

- School-based dental education
- Health screening for refugees
- Tuberculosis (TB), disease investigation and treatment

The DCCP division offers internship opportunities for graduate and undergraduate students pursuing degrees in public health, psychology, public administration, health promotion, health education, healthcare administration, business administration, sociology, public affairs, biology, or a related field of study.

Location

Disease Control & Clinical Prevention Division internships are located at the HCPH Main Office: Disease Control & Clinical Prevention – 6th floor, 2223 West Loop South, Houston, TX 77027 & within the HCPH clinics located throughout Harris County.

Disease Control & Clinical Prevention Division Preceptors Contact Information:

Tamisha Piper, MPAS-PA-C
Refugee Program Manager
Tamisha.Piper@phs.hctx.net
(713) 274-2588
*Refugee Program Internships

Merci Cruz
Tuberculosis Elimination Program
Merci.Cruz@phs.hctx.net
(713) 439-6214
*TB Program Internships

Adele Semaan, MPH, CSSGB
Manager, Clinical Quality Management
Adele.Semaan@phs.hctx.net
(713) 439-6389
*Clinical Quality Assurance Internships

Sarah Milligan, MPH, CIC
Epidemiologist
Sarah.Milligan@phs.hctx.net
(713) 439-6177

NUTRITION & CHRONIC DISEASE PREVENTION DIVISION

Chronic diseases such as diabetes, heart disease, obesity, mental illness, etc. account for the majority of preventable healthcare costs in our system and they are the leading causes of death in the United States. In September 2014, HCPH created the new Nutrition and Chronic Disease Prevention Division be aimed at aligning better nutrition, physical, and behavioral health including a new focus on “addiction” (such as to tobacco, alcohol, substances, etc.).

The NCDP division houses 12 Women Infants and Children’s program locations and the HCPH Chronic Disease Prevention Unit.

The Nutrition and Chronic Disease Prevention Division offers graduate and undergraduate internships for students pursuing degrees in public health, health education, health promotion, epidemiology, or a related field of study. **Students wishing to volunteer in community-based health education projects are also encouraged to apply.**

Eligibility

- At least one year of work experience (including volunteer work)
- Experience working with teams, delivering verbal presentations, and producing formal reports/business writing
- Reliable transportation and a valid driver’s license (not required, but highly preferred)
- Be in good academic standing
- Bilingual interns wishing to facilitate health education sessions are encouraged to apply

Skills/Personal Characteristics

- Proven experience with internet research tools, Windows 7, and Microsoft Office programs (Outlook, Word, Excel, and Power Point)
- Excellent written and verbal communication and interpersonal skills
- Highly motivated, energetic, able to manage time, and work well in a team environment

Location

Nutrition & Chronic Disease Prevention Division internships are located at the HCPH Main Office:
2223 West Loop South – 5th floor, Houston, TX 77027

Nutrition & Chronic Disease Prevention Division Preceptors Contact Information:

LaPorcha Carter, MPH
Chronic Disease Prevention Unit Manager
Laporcha.Carter@phs.hctx.net
(713) 439-6259
*Chronic Disease Program

Frances Nguyen, MPH
Healthy Living Matters Project Coordinator
Frances.m.Nguyen@phs.hctx.net
(713) 739.6063
*Childhood Obesity Prevention Internships

Evaluation of a County-wide Childhood Obesity Collaborative

Practicum Time Frame: Summer 2018

Division/Office: Nutrition & Chronic Disease Prevention Division

Practicum Location: 2223 West Loop South, Houston, Texas 77027

Preceptor Name & Contact Information:

Frances Nguyen

Frances.m.Nguyen@phtx.net

713.739.6063

Minimum Number of Hours (*per week*): 18-20

Required Skills & Minimum Education:

BA/ BS required. Working on MPH preferred.

Some evaluation experience required (whether in-class or professional experience). Ability to communicate in a professional manner. Familiarity with collaboratives/ policy change a plus.

Practicum Description:

Healthy Living Matters (HLM), a childhood obesity prevention collaborative, will be helping with the evaluation of the collaborative's efforts around policy and environmental change. This will include, but is not limited to, contributing to evaluations measures and contacting partners about evaluation measures. Additionally, the practicum may involve planning and coordinating HLM meetings and any advocacy efforts for the 2019 legislative session.

Practicum Goals & Learning Objectives (*What is the project aiming to accomplish?*):

- Student will learn how to apply evaluation skills to real-life public health setting
- Student will gain an understanding of public health collaborative building and sustainability
- Student will gain experience working in a public health department setting

Practicum Deliverables:

- Completed evaluation matrix

MOSQUITO & VECTOR CONTROL DIVISION

The Mosquito Control Division protects the health and well-being of county residents through surveillance, control, education, research, and technology to prevent and control mosquito-borne diseases, including St. Louis encephalitis (SLE) and West Nile Virus (WNV) encephalitis. Activities include:

- Monitoring the Culex mosquito population, the primary transmitter of SLE and WNV
- Laboratory analysis of mosquito samples to detect SLE and WNV
- Monitoring and testing of live and dead birds for SLE and WNV
- Conducting ground and aerial spraying activities in areas with confirmed SLE and WNV
- Providing education, training and information to citizens, schools, community groups and the media regarding SLE, WNV and mosquito control
- Conducting research to incorporate data into operational activities
- Utilizing the Geographical Information System (GIS) to track and monitor mosquito-borne diseases

The Mosquito Control Division offers graduate and undergraduate internships for students pursuing degrees in public health education, entomology, health promotion, laboratory science, GIS Certificates, or a related field of study.

Location

Mosquito & Vector Control Division internships are located at the Mosquito & Vector Control Division headquarters: 3330 Old Spanish Trail, Bldg. D., Houston, TX 77021.

Given the diverse range of opportunities within the Mosquito & Vector Control Division, required eligibility and skills vary greatly based on the internship requirement.

Please contact the HCPH Volunteer & Intern Program Coordinator for more information:

Ashley Minkeu, MPH
Volunteer & Intern Program Coordinator
Ashley.Minkeu@phs.hctx.net or VIPC@phs.hctx.net
(713) 439-6285

Technical Operations Branch Volunteer/Intern Job Descriptions

Area Profile Section

Under the supervision of the Area Profile Supervisor, the Area Profile Volunteer/Intern serves as a primary point of contact for the collection and compilation of information related to disease risk within each operational area based on biological, operational and sociological parameters.

Thus, the individual will assist in the collaboration and coordination of data collection related to area profiling such as:

- Biological data which includes epidemiological, entomological, and ornithological information.
- Operational data which includes treatment frequency, insecticide usage, and resistance data.
- Sociological data which includes the identification of community stakeholders and demographics.
- Environmental data which includes temperature and precipitation.
- Assists with the integration of area profile information on GIS based mapping software with the assistance from the GIS Specialist.
- Conduct Sites Surveys and obtains permission from public and private parties.
- Conduct surveillance for mosquito-borne diseases and pest populations from various field habitats.
- Prepares laboratory material for daily surveillance activities.
- Performs mosquito larval/pupal surveys and mosquito landing rate counts as necessary.
- Assists in the collection of dead birds for WNV testing.
- Performs other duties as assigned:
- Responsibilities include other duties as assigned, including responding to an emergency event.

Avian Surveillance Section

Avian Field Assistant

Assists with the live trapping of birds. Tasks involve helping set up and take down mist nets and recording data, with the potential to learn how to handle, band and draw blood from wild birds. Birds are released unharmed. Trapping takes place in the early morning, starting at 5:30-6:30am depending on the time of year and finishes at approximately 11:00am. This position may be combined with Avian Office Assistant for those interested in both positions.

Responsibilities include other duties as assigned, including responding to an emergency event

Avian Office Assistant

Assists with daily office duties and projects in the Avian Section. Tasks involve preparing and inventorying lab supplies, repairing mist nets and data entry. There is the potential to learn RAMP and VecTesting of dead birds. **This position is only available in the afternoon, though may be combined with Avian Field Assistant for those interested in trapping.**

Responsibilities include other duties as assigned, including responding to an emergency event.

Geographical Information System / Information Technology Section

Assists the Technical Operations Analyst with daily GIS duties

- Operates GIS Software for the purposes of:
- Research and development of GIS projects relating to Branch operations..
- Acquisition and compilation of GIS project data relating to Branch operations
- Printing/plotting and distribution of hardcopy and digital maps, charts, graphs and reports as needed.
- Ensures timely production of maps needed for mosquito-borne disease surveillance, treatment planning, and special projects.
- Provides graphic analysis of surveillance/control results to utilize as a decision making tool for the Director and senior management.
- Provides regular GIS graphic updates of WNV/SLE surveillance and treatment activities to internal and external stakeholders.

This will expose the Volunteer/Intern to ESRI GIS software, various Database software, various mapping and analysis techniques, and provides an overview of mosquito control as it relates to public health.

Vector (Mosquito) Surveillance Section

Field Surveillance Duties

- Conduct surveys for new trap sites or to replace existing trap sites and obtain permission for use from private and public entities.
- Trap newly surveyed sites for collection potential
- Preparing all trapping material for daily trapping operations
- Test new mosquito traps when available.
- Sets and retrieve mosquito traps from various field habitats
- Identify mosquitoes from other insects during field surveys and collection
- Collects mosquito specimens from the field using different trap types
- Completes daily logs on vehicle use (maintenance checks, mileage)
- Repair and Maintain trapping equipment in good condition
- Assists other MC sections as required

Laboratory Duties

- Prepares lab material for pooling- (place Label on vials, prepare processing boxes -taping, stripping)
- Processes mosquito samples collected from various trap types and habitats
- Upkeep of Lab equipment and freezers
- Stocks trapping media solution
- Secures CDC trapping supply of dry ice (CO₂).
- Assist in Data entry for mosquito surveillance section
- Other Duties as assigned (Responsibilities include other duties as assigned, including responding to an emergency event)

Virology Laboratory Section

Under the supervision of the Virologist, the MC Volunteer Field Lab Tech/Virology Lab Assistant provides general support services in the laboratory as well as performing basic technical tasks in preparation of laboratory samples for arbovirus testing. This includes: grinding and processing mosquito pools for testing; labeling of ELISA test plates and tissue culture flasks; assists with testing of mosquito samples by: ELISA, RAMP, Tissue Culture, and VectorTest; preparation of avian sera samples for testing by ELISA IgM antibody capture assay for detection of current SLE and West Nile viral antibodies; Data entry of all test results.

The volunteer/intern is also assigned to perform general laboratory tasks such as: Media/reagent preparation, pH determination, centrifugation, pipetting, filtration, and incubation; Cleansing and autoclave/sterilization of laboratory glassware and misc. lab ware. Conducts and maintains inventory of lab supplies. Daily temperature checks of incubators, refrigerators, and freezers. Clean and disinfect biohazard safety cabinets and work areas. Clean and disinfect mosquito homogenizers, and centrifuges. Package bio-hazardous waste materials for disposal. Responsibilities include other duties as assigned, including responding to an emergency event.

Field Operations Branch Volunteer/Intern Job Descriptions

Internship opportunities exist within Field Operations in which the student can experience practical experiences that may be of interest to a future vector control professional. Examples include learning to raise and collect vector mosquitoes for testing as well as participate in a team related environment while conducting the tests themselves. The intern will also experience what is involved in conducting a public inspections in a broad-based educational setting that varies throughout Harris County.

Safety Program

Relations allows for a comprehensive scope of the entire system its component and conditions, the relationships between them and the human interacting with them. For those individuals coming in to MC as volunteer or intern, they may assist with the following safety duties:

- Ensure all injured employees report their injury to their employee's supervisor and to Human Resources.
- Ensure follow-up and investigation takes place for all injuries- with urgency.
- Ensure employee's participation for cholinesterase test is accomplished at successful rate including seasonal and permanents. In this is a process HR and Disease Control & Clinical Health Division have a role for employment and filing requirement respectively.
- Ensure delineation of injuries, first-aid and near miss events and provide the appropriate medical care are reported at all times.
- Monitor and log employees chemical handling activities on the field before and during spray season following their threshold established.
- Survey pre and post ULV treatment operation based on the regulatory compliance NPDES requirements during mosquito control season.
- Ensure all employees TxDL are in compliance with MC policy and procedures when operate Harris County vehicles.

- Ensure that the support of relevant information with agencies inside or outside of HC is shared including e-mails and trainings that impact positively the safety culture and safety of the employees.

Alternative Mosquito Control & Applied Research (AMCAR)

Alternative Mosquito Control & Applied Research (AMCAR) can provide several opportunities of interest to an individual pursuing a career in public health and/or arthropod-borne disease.

Duties include collection of *Aedes* and *Culex* eggs, rearing these species within insectaries for field and laboratory testing, assisting with field-based research trap collections, processing those collections within the laboratory, and performing insecticide bioassays under laboratory and field conditions.

Education/Training Program (1 position available)

The practicum student will work directly with the Education/Training Coordinator to coordinate, schedule, and facilitate learning activities for students and community members on mosquitoes and the diseases they transmit. The student will develop a plan and learning materials/activities, coordinate with community organizations, schedule in-house staff to deliver mosquito control awareness messages, and collect participant data following the activities.

- Develop learning materials/activities for Mosquito Control Awareness Week.
- Identify in-house staff to deliver mosquito control awareness messages.
- Coordinate and schedule local schools and county libraries to participate.
- Prepare an article for In Touch-In Tune HCPH Employee Newsletter and the Texas Mosquito Control Association Newsletter.

Resource Management Program (1 position available)

The practicum student will work with the Administrative Support Staff to provide receptionist and telephone support to the mosquito control division and administrative support to the Director of the HCPH Mosquito Control Division.

- Greet Visitors at the front office.
- Answers phone calls requesting information and services regarding mosquito control.
- Enters citizen request information into the Service Request/Inspection database.
- Photocopies materials, files correspondence and transmits faxes for the Division Director and the Administrative Section.
- Additional general administrative tasks, as needed.



VETERINARY PUBLIC HEALTH DIVISION

The HCPH Veterinary Public Health Division protects the health and safety of the residents and pets of unincorporated Harris County by doing the following:

- monitoring the health and welfare of animals
- identifying current and emerging zoonotic diseases
- responding to zoonotic disease outbreaks
- investigating cases of animals biting people
- quarantining biting animals
- preparing for and responding to animal issues during natural disasters
- enforcing Harris County Animal Regulations
- educating Harris County citizens about zoonotic diseases
- creating a community of responsible pet owners, and
- picking up and sheltering stray, lost, owner surrendered, and abandoned animals

The Veterinary Public Health Division offers internship opportunities to Public Health and Veterinary technician students at our partnering schools, and volunteer opportunities to all community members who have a passion and interest for the health and welfare of animals.

Location

Veterinary Public Health internships and many volunteer opportunities are located at the VPH animal shelter location: 612 Canino Road, Houston, Texas 77076.

Harris County Animal Overpopulation Crisis and Health Equity

Practicum Time Frame: Summer 2018

Preceptor Name: Bonnie Chu, DVM

Preceptor Contact Information:

bonnie.chu@phs.hctx.net
832-927-1106 Work

Minimum Number of Hours (per Week): 24

Required Skills & Minimum Education: Basic epidemiology and biostatistics knowledge is required, basic ability to input and analyze data using epidemiology software required (ex. STATA), basic GIS knowledge preferred but not required, good communication skill required, fluency in Spanish is highly preferred but not required



Practicum Description:

The Health of Houston Survey 2010 showed that the most frequent neighborhood concern was not crime, but instead it was the presence of stray dogs and cats. Almost 40% of the households in the Houston area are affected. For those involved in the animal shelter and welfare area, this finding is not that surprising. The animal overpopulation crisis is astounding in the 4th largest city in the U.S. and shows no signs of stopping any time soon. What is surprising is the lack of data in the area that considers the root causes of the animal and stray population.

This practicum will consider what factors contribute to the animal and stray overpopulation in Harris County while uncovering the areas most afflicted with this problem. With the health equity lens, the intern(s) will uncover how social determinants of health, such as education, culture, neighborhood conditions, access to low-cost veterinary services contribute to this growing issue. The intern(s) will lead this practicum by creating and implementing this project with the guidance of their preceptor.

Practicum Goals & Learning Objectives:

- Experience firsthand how Harris County Veterinary Public Health operates. (Week 1)
- Perform literature and shelter data review to gain background information on the animal overpopulation crisis on a local and national level. Discuss findings and possible solutions. Discuss what data is available and which are lacking. (Week 1 & 2)
- Create a method (survey, field-work, etc.) to gather information. Implement this method and use that data and other available data to answer the following questions: (Week 2-8)
 - 1) Why do people surrender their pet to the animal shelter? Why do people not spay/neuter their pets? Why was their pet loose and roaming the streets? What does responsible pet ownership mean to people? How big is the stray problem where they live (perception versus reality)?
 - 2) What resources can we or others provide that would deter this from happening? (food, transportation, low-cost vet services, better fencing around house, education, free services, better laws, nothing)
- How does health disparities and culture correlate/contribute to these findings?
- Overlay maps/data and find correlations between dog stray population and social determinants of health such as: 1) education level 2) poverty 3) neighborhood/environmental conditions, etc.
- Create poster/abstract/conclusions for end of practicum (Week 8)

Practicum Deliverables:

- Survey/study for data gathering
- Data findings (map/table, etc.)
- Intern Poster/Abstract