Sample Practicum Opportunity Description

Name of Agency/Organization:
Maryland Colorectal Cancer Control Program
Prevention and Health Promotion Administration
Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

Purpose/Mission of Agency/Organization:
The Maryland Colorectal Cancer Control Program (CRCCP) works to increase high quality CRC screening in Maryland residents 50 years and older to 80% by 2014. The Program objectives focus on reducing disparities in CRC burden, screening and access to care as well as promoting the United States Preventive Health Services Task Force colorectal cancer screening recommendations. The program conducts population based systems approaches to increase CRC screening through engaging Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs), local health departments, the Maryland Medicaid program, and other state and local level partners.

Practicum Title: The Affordable Care Act and Cancer Screening: Implications for Maryland’s Colorectal Cancer Screening Programs

Brief Practicum Description & Proposed Approach (include primary responsibilities of student):
The Affordable Care Act (ACA) requires private insurers to cover without co-pays “A” and “B” recommendations of the United States Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF), which includes some colorectal cancer screening tests. ACA implementation across Maryland is expected to reduce the estimated 700,000 uninsured Maryland residents by half (source: Maryland Health Care Reform Coordinating Council) through Medicaid expansion and allow residents to access and afford timely cancer screenings. Many of the newly insured Maryland residents are current patients of the Center for Cancer Prevention CRCCP. It is likely that those patients will turn to their local health department for help enrolling in and navigating the health system. To date, there are no ACA Maryland specific briefs, fact sheets, or presentations that address how the ACA implementation and Medicaid expansion may affect local cancer screening programs and their role as a resource for the newly insured. The intern will review and study applicable policies and regulations to develop these important communication materials.

Practicum Goals:
This project will:

- Identify applicable ACA/Medicaid expansion policies and regulations that pertain to colorectal cancer screening.
- Study how these regulations and policies may impact local CRCCP screening efforts.
• Develop fact sheets to explain how the ACA Maryland will affect colorectal cancer screening costs and processes (both for patients and local cancer screening programs)
• If time permits, presentations to local CRCCP screening programs that discuss how ACA/Medicaid expansion may impact their programs.

Examples of work the intern could accomplish during the placement:

The intern will:

• Become familiar with the CRCCP program
• Utilize available federal, state and local resources to analyze applicable elements of ACA and Medicaid expansion that relate to colorectal cancer screening
• Work with State and local level staff to understand the audience specific questions, needs and program variance (via phone, email, online and/or in person interviews)
• Develop at least one policy brief about the impact of colorectal cancer screenings with the ACA Maryland, including results of policy analysis
• Formulate program recommendations for local health departments and local cancer screening programs
• If time permits, develop presentations from the policy briefs as needed. Opportunity to present findings based on the comfort and skill of the student.

Skills needed by the student to complete the practicum:

The intern will have:

• Completed at least one introductory course in health policy or health advocacy (300.645.01 MAKING CHANGE THROUGH POLICY or a similar course will suffice, graduate-level course preferred).
• Strong research and writing skills
• Strong written and oral communication skills
• An interest in cancer screening policies and implementation of the Affordable Care Act.

Number of students requested for this practicum: 1

Anticipated time commitment needed for one student (hours per week): 6 hours per week

Expected START DATE for practicum: October 28, 2013

Expected END DATE for practicum: March 14, 2013

Organization URL: www.dhmh.maryland.gov

Application Procedure: Submit a resume/CV and cover letter to Jane Smith at jsmith@jhsph.edu. If selected for an interview, you will be notified by October 1, 2013.
Deadline to submit application materials: September 15, 2013