



The Summer Service-Learning Assistantship Program offers students an opportunity to work in a wide variety of community service positions throughout the Commonwealth.

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A Program of Commonwealth Medicine

Commonwealth Medicine



COMMUNITY SERVICE POSITIONS

1. Age and Day Care Center of Worcester Area, Inc., Worcester, MA

The Age Center, located at 799 West Boylston St., Worcester, is a private, non-profit, human service agency dedicated to meeting the changing needs of elders and their families in the Greater Worcester area. The Age Center has nine programs that help enhance the individual dignity, independence, and well-being of elders. The phone is 508-852-3205, and the fax is 508-856-0375.

Position: Our Social Day Care (non-medical) program provides support and supervision and socialization in a structured setting to elders. Interns assist participants with one-to-one activities, escorting, assisting with mealtime and group activities. The telephone number is 508-852-3205, and the fax is 508-854-3218.

Schedule: The Day Care is open Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

2. AIDS Project Worcester, Worcester, MA

APW is the primary AIDS Service Organization in Central Massachusetts serving 68 towns and cities (including all of Worcester County). Founded in 1987, APW is committed to combating the epidemic of AIDS in Worcester County through service, education, advocacy and outreach; and through a cooperative, mutually supportive effort between professional staff and a strong volunteer component. APW serves people of all cultures affected by AIDS/HIV-related disorders, as well as those at risk of infection. Services are offered from offices in Worcester, Southbridge, and Leominster.

Position: Client Services Intern/Triage Team provides support, education, a source of referrals, advocacy, and assistance to persons living with HIV/AIDS and their families (broadly defined); helps them to access services, maximize individual choice and independence, coordinate service delivery, increase continuity of care and assist in mobilizing and sustaining support (friends, family, professionals, volunteers, and peers); provides consumers with an understanding of medical terminology in lay terms and stays current on HIV/AIDS drugs and treatments.

Schedule: Negotiable. June, July and/or August, up to 8 weeks.

3. EcoTarium, Worcester, MA

The EcoTarium is a center for environmental exploration located on 60 acres of woodlands and wetlands in Worcester, MA. The museum features interactive exhibits dedicated to New England and global environments, indoor and outdoor wildlife habitats, and a planetarium.

Position: Youth Program Assistant –Work in cooperation with the Youth Coordinators in assisting with the development and implementation of the TASC Program for youth ages 15-19. Responsibilities include: assisting with teen training and evaluation, facilitating teen supervision and team-building activities, organizing community-based activities, participating in field trips and organizing fundraising, participating in program planning and assisting with program statistics.

Special Considerations: Ability to work with inner-city teens. Good organizational skills. Leadership. Desire to teach and learn. Science background helpful but not necessary. Bilingual preferred, but not necessary.

Schedule: Beginning mid-June and lasting up to 8 weeks. Hours are either Sunday - Thursday or Tuesday - Saturday from 10:00 am – 5:00 pm.

4. Elder Services of Worcester Area, Inc.

Elder Services of Worcester Area is a private, not-for-profit corporation whose mission is to provide frail elders with community based services that will enable them to live independently with dignity and comfort in their own homes, preventing or postponing the need for institutional care. Professionally qualified Case Managers assist clients in identifying, accepting and securing needed services either directly, by purchase, or by referral to other community agencies. Other direct services include Information & Referral, Protective Services, and Crisis Intervention Services.

Position: Assistant to Case Manager: Assist a case manager in maintaining a caseload. Conduct in-home assessments, identify and follow-up on client related issues. Develop assessment, advocacy, and documentation skills. Other activities may include escorting and assisting elders with medical appointments for those experiencing difficulty managing medical issues and development of educational materials regarding common medical conditions for elders and staff.

Special Considerations: A car is necessary. Mileage reimbursement provided by ESWA.

Schedule: Agency hours: 8:00 – 5:00 Monday-Friday

5. Family Health Center, Worcester, MA

Family Health is a private, non-profit community health center. Our mission is to provide health care and social services to an underserved population regardless of ability to pay. We utilize a Family Practice model to offer accessible, quality primary care, which is culturally sensitive to the needs of the community.

Position: The medical student will perform the role of Medical Assistant. The role consists of providing clinical service to patients by performing basic tasks needed for patient care. The tasks include preparing patients for the appropriate medical visit such as OB, Pediatric, Adolescent, Geriatric, Newborn, Post-partum. Other tasks include vital signs, EKG, NST, Peak Flow, Pulse Ox, finger stick, blood sugar. Opportunities exist to rotate through several of the departments and possibly to work on special projects. Bilingual applicants appreciated, but not mandatory.

Schedule: Hours of operation: 8:30 – 5:00 pm, Monday-Friday; some evenings possible (if student desires).

6. Great Brook Valley Health Center, Worcester, MA

GBVHC is a comprehensive community health center serving a multi-cultural community with a wide variety of health issues. We have over 100,000 clinical visits each year for medical, dental, and mental health. We have 280 employees and use UMass Memorial

Hospitals for our admissions. We also have a wide variety of health education and outreach services. Eighty-six percent (86%) of our clients are minority and they come from throughout Worcester County. Sixty-one percent (61%) are uninsured. Eighty-two percent (82%) of our staff speak a language other than English and eight percent (8%) speak at least two other languages. Clients seek care from us because we provide high quality services in a cost effective and culturally competent manner.

Position: The medical student performs the role of Medical Assistant. The role consists of providing clinical service to patients by performing basic tasks needed for patient care. Tasks include preparing patients for the appropriate medical visit such as OB, Pediatric, Adolescent, Geriatric, Newborn, Post-partum. Other tasks include taking vital signs, EKG, NST, Peak Flow, Pulse Ox, finger stick, blood sugar. Special health promotion and disease prevention opportunities also exist. Bilingual applicants strongly encouraged.

Schedule: Hours of operation: 8:30 – 5:00 pm, Monday-Friday (no week-ends or holiday hours)

7. Pernet Family Health Services, Worcester, MA

Pernet Family Health targets social isolation, lack of resources to meet basic needs, housing instability, risk of abuse and neglect, exposure to violence, risk of developmental delay and school failure, and barriers to access to community services. The summer intern position will function as staff support across the agency programs of Home Nursing Care, Family Support Service, Early Intervention Program, Family Life Program, and Emergency Services.

Position: Duties include home visitation including maternal and infant assessment; health education with clients and families, especially in areas of growth and development and parenting skills; information, referral, and collaboration with other agency programs around client-centered needs; support to and consultation with other support staff, including students and volunteers; active participation in meetings, maintenance of documentation and record keeping and practice as part of multidisciplinary team; perform other duties assigned by program/agency.

Schedule: Flexible, with some evenings needed if outings are scheduled.

8. Seven Hills Family Services, Worcester, MA

Seven Hills is committed to helping children and adults with disabilities achieve autonomy, discover community, and exercise choice in their lives. The agency currently sponsors job training, family support and respite, rehabilitation services, and many other community supports.

Position: We are currently working to recruit camp aids and mentors to work to include children with varying disabilities in “typical” summer camps. Seven Hills will provide specific training for individuals willing to take part in the program.

Special Considerations: Aides may need to travel to camps in Sutton, Boylston and other towns not on the bus route. Experience with special needs people is preferable.

Schedule: End of June to middle of August. We generally have 6-week positions available.

9. South County Pediatrics

South County Pediatrics is a small town pediatric practice located in Webster and serving the rural communities of Dudley MA, Charlton MA and Thompson CT. We practice community-oriented pediatrics, with an emphasis on providing service for children through adolescence and providing Medical Homes for children with special health care needs. We care for all children in our communities, regardless of ability to pay.

Position: Our community assistantship has three major components:

- 1) Clinical service: Our summer assistant will assist our staff in the provision of care to children. This will include about 1-2 days per week of office-based activities, through which the assistant will develop an appreciation of the ways in which a practice works.
- 2) Practice project: The assistant will develop and execute an office based TQI project, under the supervision of the medical director, focused on some aspect of pediatrics of interest.
- 3) Community project: We are working with several community-based agencies to provide on-site services for our patients. The assistant will work with the office staff to advance collaboration opportunities with agencies wishing to co-locate in our office.

Schedule: We are looking for a full time student. Our office hours are Monday through Friday, 9-5. There may be occasional community activities of interest in the evening and weekends. The student needs own transportation.

10. Martha's Vineyard Health Programs

The island of Martha's Vineyard, located approximately three miles off the Southeastern coast of Massachusetts, consists of approximately 100 square miles. Its year round population of 15,000 expands during the summer months to approximately 105,000. Approximately 20% of the year-round residents lack health insurance; a growing number require interpreter services. In 1999, the county government established the Vineyard Health Care Access Program, an initiative aimed at helping an estimated 1,000 people get needed health care. In the summer of 2004, the state's first rural health clinic for low-income and uninsured people opened on the Island.

Position: A student who is placed on the island for the summer will work with administrators and providers at the Access Office and at the Rural Health Clinic on a variety of tasks, including conducting satisfaction surveys with patients and providers, assessing ongoing gaps in services, and documenting progress related to implementation of a new reduced fee plan. Housing will be provided.

11. Boston Area Health Education Center (BAHEC), Boston, MA

The Boston Area Health Education Center (BAHEC), a program hosted by the Boston Public Health Commission, is dedicated to increasing the pool of health professionals in

medically underserved and underrepresented communities of Boston through innovative programming for youth and adults. The Youth to Health Careers (Y2HC) Program consists of an in-school curriculum, an extensive after-school program and a seven week Summer Enrichment Program. The rich combination of coursework, mentoring and practical experiences creates a pathway for young people towards educational opportunities in health related fields, while working to eliminate the many barriers youth face today. The Medical Interpreter Program provides training to adults to meet the demand for bilingual and bicultural interpreters in the health care setting.

Position: Students work closely with BAHEC staff in the design of youth-centered curriculums such as a Youth Medical Interpreter Training Program and assist in program planning through organizing field trips, lunchtime health speaker series, and health career symposiums.

Schedule: TBD. BAHEC is open in June, Monday through Friday, 9:00AM-5:00PM and in July, Monday through Friday 8:00AM-5:00PM.

12. Health Care for All, Boston, MA

Health Care For All is dedicated to making quality, affordable health care accessible to everyone, regardless of income, social or economic status. We seek to empower Massachusetts consumers to know more about our health care system and to become involved in changing it. We are especially concerned about the most vulnerable members of society -- the uninsured, low-income elders, children, people with disabilities and immigrants. Our work combines policy analysis, information referral, personal and legal advocacy, community organizing and public education.

Position: The student will learn about and will help advocate for a range of health and medical care policy initiatives in Massachusetts.

Past Placements: These sites have hosted students in previous years and specific programs can be customized with them if you are interested.

Abby's House, Worcester, MA

This is a multi-service organization serving the needs of homeless and battered women with or without children. This internship is for the night shelter ONLY; two nights a week for six to eight weeks from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 a.m. the following morning.

Central Massachusetts Area Health Education Center, Worcester, MA

Central Massachusetts AHEC, Inc. (CMAHEC) is a recognized leader in addressing issues relative to health disparities, workforce development, cultural and linguistic and access. CMAHEC collaborates and participates with community, academic and governmental partners, especially with regard to its Outreach Worker Training Institute, Latino Mental Health, and End-of-Life Projects. In addition to contributing to any of the organization's current projects, students have an opportunity to become fully versed in the role and functions of outreach workers.

Brightwood Health Center, Springfield, MA

This is a full service community health center in urban Springfield, MA serving mostly a Puerto Rican population. Students will contribute to on-going work of the health center.

Franklin County Community Health Center

Located along the northern border of the state in Turners Falls, the Franklin County Community Health Center provides comprehensive primary care to a mostly low-income and uninsured population. During the summer months, the health center cares for members of a migrant stream of farm workers that travel through the north central part of the state.

Henry Lee Willis Community Center, Inc., Worcester, MA

Incorporated in 1991, the organization was founded to address the social and economic needs of minority populations. We continue to work in the community in association with other partners, as we address the critical needs of the disadvantaged. The Willis Center operates social service programs at many sites in Worcester as well as programs in Leominster, Leicester and Hudson

North Quabbin Community Coalition

The mission of the North Quabbin Community Coalition (NQCC) is to serve as a "community wide alliance committed to improving the quality of life for all those living and working in the North Quabbin region." The North Quabbin region consists of nine rather rural towns (Athol, Orange, Petersham, Warwick, Wendell, Royalston, New Salem, Erving, and Phillipston) with some of the most economically depressed populations in the state of Massachusetts. The NQCC works with the North Quabbin community as a whole to identify and address priorities within the community, to provide advocacy and response to various community issues, and to disseminate information with respect to the community's resources. The NQCC is a non-profit organization governed by a board of directors elected by members of the coalition.

Worcester Public Inebriate Program (PIP Shelter), Worcester, MA

Homeless shelter for substance abusers. Through the nursing/advocacy office, the student would assist with intake and assessment functions, as well as provide counseling and advocacy with program clients.

Worcester Youth Center, Worcester, MA

A teen center that is educational, recreational, and social. Focus at the center is on improving health and wellness of a difficult-to-serve population through programs addressing youth empowerment, violence prevention, employment, increased access to health services, disease and substance abuse prevention, social services and primary care.

Youth Opportunities Upheld, Inc. Worcester, MA

Y.O.U., Inc. is the largest human service agency specializing in serving children and families in Central Massachusetts. It is a trendsetter in the field and has a broad selection of programs ranging from inpatient psychiatric assessment services to outpatient mental health care. The agency oversees over 50 diverse programs and is a training facility for M.D.'s, Ph.D.'s and M.S.W.'s.