



**2022-2023**

# Student Field Placements and Collaborative Projects

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



**Northwest Center**  
FOR PUBLIC HEALTH PRACTICE



## **Olivia Butkowski**

University of Washington

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### *Huskies for Housing: An Experiential Exhibit and Online Resource for the UW Community on the Homelessness Crisis in Seattle*

**Partners: University of Washington Husky Seed Fund**

Olivia collaborated with organizers and those with lived experience to create an art and educational installation titled Look at Me Through My Eyes. The installation was used to increase understanding of homelessness in Seattle and to foster a sense of community among students and local unhoused neighbors.



## **Rachel Culp**

Oregon State University

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### *Disability Equity Center Community Listening Sessions*

**Partners: Disability Equity Center**

Rachel conducted two community listening sessions with disabled community members in the Mid-Willamette valley to identify areas of need, inform future programming decisions, and improve current program offerings. Rachel compiled a list of recommendations to best support the disability community and shared these results at a public presentation.



## **Valerie Edwards**

Oregon State University

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### *Development and Utilization of Communications to Promote Trauma-Informed Care Across Oregon*

**Partners: Trauma Informed Oregon**

Valerie worked with Trauma Informed Oregon to utilize communications techniques to promote the uptake of trauma-informed care practices across the state. Through this work, Trauma Informed Oregon has new communication techniques to offer statewide resource distribution and sustain relationship building.



## Taylor Erickson

University of Washington

### *Examining the Primary Care Experiences of Refugee Communities in King County: Recommendations for EthnoMed's Primary Care Provider Toolkit*

**Partners: EthnoMed**

Taylor led fifteen key-informant interviews with leaders of Afghan, Ukrainian, and Iraqi refugee communities in King County to develop recommendations for EthnoMed's updated Primary Care Provider Toolkit. By integrating community voices into this updated version, EthnoMed can develop a more culturally appropriate and patient-centered resource that will better inform primary care practices for providers that serve refugee communities.



## Megan Fisher

University of Washington

### *An Exploration of a WIC Staffing Model that Allows Intermediate Nutrition Risk Appointments to be Completed by Bachelor-Level Nutritionists*

**Partners: Washington State Department of Health**

Megan led qualitative interviews with WIC staff members to analyze the feasibility of changing their staffing model to allow intermediate nutrition risk appointments to be performed by a bachelor-level nutritionist versus a registered dietitian. This is important because of the WIC staffing shortages, particularly in rural areas, and WIC participant access to quality nutrition services from culturally appropriate providers.



## Bridget Garland

University of Washington

### *Understanding Mental Health Services Among Asians with Limited English Proficiency*

**Partners: Chinese Information and Service Center**

Bridget led ten qualitative interviews to understand the landscape and perceptions of current mental health services, policies, and practices, and to describe factors affecting mental health access and utilization for Asians with limited English proficiency. Through these interviews, Bridget developed recommendations to increase communication and engagement to create effective and sustainable mental wellness programs for those who do not speak English in King County.



## Delaney Glass

University of Washington

### *Sowt al-Shabab al-'Arabi (Voice of Arab Youth): Empowering Iraqi/ Arab Youth Physical and Mental Health Needs in Seattle Metro*

**Partners: The Iraqi/Arab Health Board of Seattle**

Delaney conducted a rapid literature review, interviews with board members and volunteers, and conducted three PhotoVoice sessions to understand the unique physical and mental health needs of Arab young people living in the Seattle metro area. In the PhotoVoice component, participants used photos they took to share their own stories and thoughts around community and health. Delaney's project also uncovered the strengths and challenges that the Iraqi/Arab Health Board has to implement a youth health promotion program.



## Sara Jones

University of Washington

### *GIS in Health Equity: LGBTQ+ Partnership Mapping*

**Partners: Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department**

Sara conducted a literature review and led a mixed methods study to create a living Geographic Information Systems (GIS) to explore the relationships of LGBTQ+ serving organizations in Pierce County. The results from this project highlighted the need to be more inclusive in data collection, programming, and presentation materials of the LGBTQ+ community.



## Jessica Luong

University of Washington

### *Identifying Barriers and Opportunities to Improve Fresh Bucks Enrollment and Usage*

**Partners: City of Seattle, Office of Sustainability and Environment**

Jessica conducted eleven interviews to learn about the barriers and opportunities to improve enrollment and usage of Fresh Bucks, a program that helps Seattle residents afford fruits and vegetables. Jessica's project used an emerging qualitative method known as Rapid Assessment Procedures to analyze the interviews and leveraged relationships between the City of Seattle and community-based organizations to inform program improvement.





## Kyle Peterson

Boise State University

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### *Community Perceptions of Youth Mental Health*

**Partners: Communities for Youth**

Kyle led seventeen focus groups across Idaho to uncover insights into the perceptions of youth mental health in several communities. These results from the focus groups will provide a pathway to continue the conversation around youth mental health and develop next steps to addressing the needs around the state.



## Samuel Plascencia Diaz

University of Washington

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### *Estimating the Need for Pike Market Food Bank Home Deliveries in Downtown Seattle*

**Partners: Pike Market Senior Center & Food Bank**

Samuel used a data set and previous needs assessment findings to estimate the need for free grocery home deliveries in Downtown Seattle to better assist individuals experiencing food insecurity. Samuel's project can serve as a blueprint for other food relief organizations to find the potential unmet need for home deliveries in their service area.



## Taylor Riley

University of Washington

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### *Evaluating a Community-based Doula Program in King County, Washington*

**Partners: Open Arms Perinatal Services**

Taylor completed a quantitative programmatic data analysis to evaluate the implementation of Open Arms Perinatal Services' community-based doula program and its related health outcomes. This work is critical to addressing the maternal health crisis and racialized disparities in the United States, of which, doulas have been identified as a potential solution.



## Sydney Rogalla

University of Washington

### *Increasing Consumer Education, Knowledge, and Access to the Balance Billing Protection Act*

**Partners: Washington State Office of the Insurance Commissioner**

Sydney completed a literature review and six interviews with advocates to understand the facilitators and barriers to consumer understanding of the existing Balance Billing Protection Act. As a result, Sydney created an issue brief detailing how low health insurance literacy is the biggest barrier to utilizing health insurance policies, that will be distributed prior to the next legislative cycle.



## Brooke Satre

University of Washington

### *Mapping Sexual Health Services: A Strengths-Based Approach to Identifying Sexual Health Services in Pierce County, Washington*

**Partners: Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department**

Brooke created a searchable directory of local agencies depicting existing partnerships and opportunities for new relationships to create a more consistent and inclusive network of community voices involved in the health department's decisions. Brooke focused on agencies providing sexual and reproductive health services in the county as well as the current strengths and demands for these services.



## Anevay Skenandore

University of Washington

### *Indigenous Social Determinants of Health: Evaluating Training for Tribal Nations and Indigenous Communities*

**Partners: Seven Directions**

Anevay completed a literature review of Indigenous Social Determinants of Health frameworks and evaluation methods, developed an evaluation tool that centered Indigenous evaluation methods, and developed, implemented, and analyzed a feedback form of the pilot evaluation of this work. Anevay demonstrated the importance of applying Indigenous research methodologies to public health projects and using Indigenous evaluation methods.



## Felicidad Smith

University of Washington

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### *FV Rx Technology Solutions: Understanding the Barriers to Integrating Fruit and Vegetable Prescriptions into an Electronic Solution*

**Partners: Washington State Department of Health**

Felicidad conducted thirteen interviews to explore the anticipated barriers and needs among participants in the Washington State Fruit and Vegetable Prescription program in a transition to electronic redemption, which can enhance program participation. Felicidad developed a list of recommendations for this transition to ensure that it is equitable and that feedback from those impacted by this change is incorporated into the process.



## Elena Soyer

University of Washington

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### *Landscape Analysis of Telehealth Policies in Region 10 States*

**Partners: United States Health and Human Services Region 10 Office**

Elena completed a landscape analysis of telehealth policies in Region 10 states by reviewing existing policies and conducting ten semi-structured interviews. Telehealth changed through the COVID-19 pandemic and this work helps the development of resources, partnership, and policies with state organizations going forward.



## Anielka Triguero

University of Washington

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### *Black Infant Health: Strength-Based Needs Assessment to Inform a Black Birth Awareness Campaign*

**Partners: Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department**

Anielka completed a qualitative study of the Black Infant Health program to learn about participants' overall experiences, the most beneficial elements, and the areas that can be improved. Anielka compiled a list of recommendations to improve the program's services and ensure success in mitigating or reducing racial disparities in health outcomes for Black parents and infants.



## Lina Truong

University of Washington

*Facilitators and Barriers to Integrating Behavioral Health and Primary Care to Increase Mental Health Utilization and Access in the Asian American & Native Hawaiian Pacific Islander Community*

**Partners: Pacific Hospital Preservation and Development Authority**

Lina conducted six interviews with healthcare providers and administrators to understand the barriers and facilitators to integrating behavioral health and primary care for the Asian American community. Speaking to both providers and administrators allowed Lina to capture a more holistic understanding of the clinical and systematic changes needed to integrate care.



## Olga Vitruk

University of Washington

*Culturally Appropriate Mental Health Services for Ukrainian Refugees in the US and Seattle*

**Partners: EthnoMed**

Olga created a Ukrainian Mental Health Profile for EthnoMed's website to assist providers in the delivery of relevant, respectful, and effective care. Olga developed this resource through the completion of a literature review and interviews with both providers and community members. This tool will also raise awareness among the public and for providers working with refugees across the world.



## Esther Wee

University of Alaska Anchorage

*Improving Tobacco and Smoke-Free Policies across Alaska using ADAPT*

**Partners: Alaska Department of Health, Division of Public Health Department of Health**

Esther updated the Alaska Database for Policies on Tobacco to conduct a tobacco policy evaluation across the state. This database helps the state to direct resources and funds toward proven tobacco prevention and control policy interventions and other efforts by advocates working on policy change.



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.

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