



WWAMI AHEC SCHOLARS Social Determinants of Health Project II Instructions

The goal of this project is to understand how different health professionals serve their communities outside of the clinic. Completing this project, culminating in a PowerPoint presentation or a final poster satisfies the Community/Experiential/Clinical component for one year for each team member. The following outlines the stepwise process to complete this project during shelter in place or other social distancing restrictions due to the COVID 19 pandemic.

Step One: Identify your team

This is designed to be an interprofessional group project. Please connect with at least one other AHEC Scholar. It must be an AHEC Scholar from another discipline to meet the interprofessional requirement. Your AHEC Center representative can help you form your team of two to five students. You must let your AHEC Center know who is involved in the project from the outset.

Step Two: Identify one or more health professionals who have a role in addressing a health disparity outside of their clinical responsibilities.

Next, identify at least one health professional that has a volunteer/advocacy role for rural and/or underserved populations outside of their clinical duties. There are a wide variety of roles that would fit this description. The key is that this role is directly or indirectly working to address a health disparity for rural and/or underserved population. Examples could include being on the board of a non-profit, volunteering at a food bank, being an active member of a state or regional association working to address a health disparity issue. You may want to identify a list of topics that your group is most interested to know how health professionals are engaging in this topic outside of clinic before working to identify the health professional(s) to interview.

Step Three: Arrange a conference call or video conference.

Arrange an online meeting or call with the professional you have identified. In most cases you can find an email contact listed on their website. Explain in your email that you are a health professional student at X university/college and part of the AHEC Scholars interprofessional health professional program that focuses on learning about working in rural and/or underserved communities. Many providers are active outside of their clinics and are advocates for these communities and patients. You explain that you would like to arrange a 30-minute interview to learn more about how they are working outside of clinic to address the health issue your group has identified. Here is a sample note:



Example email:

Dr. Ms. Smith,

I'm a Master's in Public Health student from the University of Washington. In addition to my regular classes, I'm also in the WWAMI AHEC Scholars Certificate Program. As part of this program I am learning about how healthcare professionals support underserved populations to improve their health and wellbeing.

I'm writing to see if you would be interested in a phone or video conference interview. The purpose of the interview would be to learn more about how you use your skills outside of clinic to advocate for healthy communities. Specifically, I would like to know about any activities that either directly or indirectly address (Your Health Topic).

If you are interested in meeting, please send me a convenient time. I anticipate the interview would likely last about a half an hour.

Thank you in advance for considering this request!

Sincerely,

*Name
MPH Candidate University of Washington
Email
Phone*

Step Four: The interview

Begin the interview by recapping who you are and purpose of this interview (see step three). Ask the person if you may take notes during the interview. Before proceeding, also ask the interviewee if it is also ok to use what you learn from this conversation to inform an academic poster. Be sure to ask how they would like to be identified (if at all) in your research. (Remember to ask whether they are speaking as an individual or as a representative of a specific organization.)



Potential Questions to ask

1. Can you tell me about your training as a healthcare professional?
2. What community members do you serve?
3. We are particularly interested in (insert healthcare topic you chose for your group). Do you directly or indirectly work to address (your topic) among the people you serve?
4. How do you advocate for your community on issues related to (your topic)?
5. What skills and insights do you bring to this (advocacy?) role
6. What do you personally get from your involvement in advocacy?
7. What advice do you have for how future healthcare professionals can advocate for changes that promote health in their communities?
8. Why is it important for healthcare professionals to speak out on issues affecting their patients and communities?

Be sure to thank your interviewee and offer to send them the slide of your poster once that has been completed.

Step FIVE: Check in with your affiliated AHEC Center Director to update them on your group project. Have a conversation answering the following questions:

1. Which health professions are represented on your team?
2. How did you identify a local health professional to interview?
3. Tell me about what you learned from the interview
4. What is your message to your health professions peers about the importance of advocacy?

Step SIX: Independent Online Research and Group Poster

Each member of the team should write a one to two-page summary (with citations) detailing the role of their profession in advocacy on their chosen topic. How have professionals in your field been engaged with this issue in the past? How can you incorporate advocacy into your practice? Are there aspects of your training or professional practice that make advocacy more or less challenging?

Together, the team will develop a PowerPoint presentation or a poster summarizing their interview and research. The PowerPoint or poster should include:

- a. Issue and background, including how different health professions are involved
 - b. A profile of the person your team interviewed, their work, and their advice for getting involved
 - c. One type of advocacy students can engage with right now (e.g. writing letter to the editor, meeting with a representative, joining professional organizations aimed at this work, etc.)
- d. Reflections on lessons learned from this experience/identifying both highlights and challenges to consider as they engage in this type of work