



Organization Name:

Chiricahua Community Health Centers, Inc.
Jonathan Melk, M.D.
Chief Executive Officer/Chief Medical Officer
1205 F Avenue Douglas AZ 85607
(520)-227-9167
cchci.org

Organization Background:

CCHCI was established in 1996 as the only community health, migrant health, and public housing health center in Cochise County, Arizona. Located in southeast Arizona, the County shares 100 miles of the US-Mexico border, with the town of Douglas as the largest border crossing.

Internship Project Title

Qualitative Study: Understanding the Discrepancies in the Results of Adverse Childhood Experience in Douglas, Arizona

Project Description:

Background of Research:

With the goal of focusing on the parent's level of stress and their understanding of appropriate child development, pediatricians implemented a program named First Three in November 2018 at CCHCI in Douglas, Arizona. The program restructures the well child care visit to teach an innovative curriculum on brain development, at times even in the patient's home. After one year of program implementation, a research team was created to evaluate different aspects of the First Three program.

Parent-child dyads who receive well child care from CCHCI facilities are being evaluated on levels of stress, parenting satisfaction, positive parenting behavior (i.e. reading, communication, play, discipline), child cognitive development and physical health levels. This information is being collected in screening tests that include demographic questionnaires, Edinburgh (maternal depression), MCHAT (autism), ASQ (child development), ACE/PCE questionnaire (Adverse Childhood Experiences), Parental Behavior Checklist, Parent Stress Index, and the Physical Health Questionnaire. These screening tests are already being collected during regular well child check visits.

Details of the program evaluation:

The purpose of this research study is to understand the discrepancy in the results from our screening tests in Douglas and national averages. After one year of evaluation, the research team has noted that results from the Parent Stress Index, ACE/PCE, Edinburgh

and ASQ do not match those from the rest of the country. For example, parents in Douglas seem to have significantly fewer adverse experiences in their childhood compared to the rest of the nation. Yet we know from speaking with families directly that this is not truly the case in Douglas.

Our hypothesis for this discrepancy in survey data is that parents are not answering the surveys truthfully. As a research team, we are unsure as to why this hypothesis may be true and we are hoping to explore other hypotheses and the reasons behind this discrepancy.

This research study will help ensure that data collected from the community is truthful and culturally-appropriate to best facilitate and implement local evidence-based practices. Marginalized communities are often underrepresented in academic literature and we want to ensure that our screening tests are appropriate for this community. We also want to understand the barriers to these existing screening tests. Further, there may be an opportunity to help shape future administration of screening tests to get more clinically useful and truthful results.

Data from this project will contribute to the development of well child care visits at the local level, potentially making a significant impact on the current and future health of children in and around Douglas.

Specific Duties/Responsibilities:

1. Look into our ACE/PCE scores from the last year and compare it to the current literature
2. Design and implement a qualitative study to understand why parents are not answering truthfully to the ACE/PCE questionnaire. This includes coming up with hypotheses as to why clinic surveys are not capturing the true data.
3. Utilize complete literature review to ensure existing knowledge is incorporated.
4. Come up with ideas for methodology on how to encourage parents to answer truthfully to the ACE/PCE questionnaire.
5. Participate in regular phone or video meetings with CCHCI team, as requested.
6. Utilize local resources and CCHCI employees to ensure accuracy, thoroughness, and completeness of data input.
7. Present the hypothesis and proposed studies to the research team and research department for approval and guidance.

Internship project keywords (check all that apply). These keywords help students search for internships in our database based on their areas of interest:

- | | |
|---|---|
| ☒ Health Disparities | ☐ Substance Abuse |
| ☐ Public Health Preparedness | ☐ Mental Health |
| ☒ Collaborations with Community | ☒ Access to care |
| ☐ Collaborations with University | ☐ Nutrition |
| ☒ Community health service | ☐ Reproductive/Sexual Health |
| ☐ Physical Activity | ☐ Environmental Health |

- ☒ Maternal/Infant Health
- ☐ Tobacco Use
- ☐ Injury/Violence Prevention
- ☐ Immunization
- ☐ Infectious Disease
- ☐ Oral Health

- ☒ Evaluation
- ☐ Policy Development
- ☒ Program Planning
- ☐ Data Analysis
- ☐ Other Click or tap here to enter text.

When: *When do you want the work done? Check all that apply.*

- ☐ Fall Semester
- ☐ Spring Semester
- ☐ Summer Term

☒ I want this listing to remain active indefinitely and we will accept applications from students for any upcoming semester.

- ☐ This listing is only for a specific semester/term: _____
- ☐ Two-semester internship experience preferred

Where:

Organization Mailing Address: *1205 F Avenue Douglas AZ 85607*

Address where Student will work (if different from above): *Remote*

☒ Check here if the student may have the option to work remotely from a site not listed above for all or part of this project.

Student Characteristics:

- Bilingual in Spanish and English (required)
- Previous research experience (preferred)
- Completed HIPAA training
- Interested in early childhood development
- Interested in rural and border health
- Have patience, culturally competency, and independence
- Have analytical thinking skills

Level of Expertise Needed: *Do you wish to request an MPH program intern or an undergraduate public health program intern?*

Undergraduate: The internship for undergraduates should provide an experience that allows students to incorporate classroom learning into public health practice.

Graduate: Applied experiences for graduate students should require application of advanced knowledge and skills to the solution of health problems and the production of at least two agency-based deliverables.

Both experiences prepare students for future employment.

☐ MPH

☐ Undergraduate

☒ Either

Supervision

You will be part of a research team led by Dr. Jeffrey Holzberg. Direct oversight will be by Rosemary Acosta Wright. Other research team members include Simon Nicolia, Jose Luna Cordero, and other members of the outreach team.

Jeffrey Holzberg MD MSc FAAP is a community pediatrician, early childhood advocate, and co-founder of First Three at Chiricahua Community Health Centers, Inc. (CCHCI) in Douglas, Arizona. In the last year, he has presented on neuroplasticity, early childhood development and First Three at conferences, to physicians, clinic staff and community groups. He is primary investigator on an early childhood study at CCHCI. Jeffrey has a Doctorate of Medicine and Masters of Science in Clinical Research. He is passionate about community programs that stretch the potential of health clinics to meet families at their doorstep.

Rosemary Acosta Wright MPH joined Chiricahua Community Health Centers Inc. in August 2019 in the newly created role of Program and Research Coordinator and is responsible for coordinating and evaluating different programs related to early childhood development in a rural clinic in Douglas, Arizona. Before joining Chiricahua Community Health Centers Inc., Rosemary was a Peace Corps volunteer in the Dominican Republic, helping to reduce the risk of infant and maternal mortality with the Ministry of Public Health.

Compensation/Benefits

No stipend will be given. However, depending on student interest, they could be included in future presentations and publications related to the project.

Application Contact Information

Interns should send an email to Rosemary Acosta Wright (racostawright@cchci.org) with:

1. CV or resume
2. One paragraph cover letter about why you are interested in this position
3. Hours available
4. Additional comments