Community Projects Examples

The following are examples of community project students/residents have completed to satisfy this required component of a SEARCH rotation. Students/residents should complete a project that attends to the needs of the community where they are completing their rotation. The project may be a hybrid of one or more of the examples below or something beneficial to the community not listed here.

1. Health Education/Health Promotion Activities
   - Health promotion and disease prevention activities such as giving short presentations in schools, senior centers, and churches.
   - Promoting health literacy.
   - Provide “Lunch and Learn” sessions with community groups, such as seniors, new parents, parents with special needs children, etc.
   - Work with community to develop walking or biking trails.
   - Organize a Bicycle Rodeo and Helmet Safety day for kids in the community.
   - Make presentations at places such as youth rehabilitation and training facilities; county juvenile detention centers, etc.
   - Plan and implement some type of community awareness/education event.
   - Working with adolescents and youth to increase physical activity.
   - Conduct research on the health risks of body alteration (tattooing or piercing) and make a presentation to at risk teens in a local school.
   - Facilitate tobacco cessation programs.
   - Writing health articles for the weekly newspaper.
   - Acquisition and evaluation of new health education materials for clinic.
   - Develop health-related brochures for distribution to agencies, patients, etc. Some potential topics include:
     - Lyme Disease
     - Benign Prostate Hypertrophy
     - Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease
     - Sleep Apnea
     - Diabetes
     - Diabetes Management Fact Sheet
     - Hypertension
     - Menopause
     - Osteoporosis
     - Asthma Flow Sheet
     - Effects of High Blood Pressure
     - Oral Health in the Rural Community Clinic
     - Oral Health and the Geriatric Community
     - Smoking Educational Materials
     - Genital Herpes
     - HPV and Cervical Cancer
     - Cervical and Breast Cancer Screening
     - Parental Education
     - Effects of Smoking During Pregnancy
     - Teen Pregnancy and Nutrition
     - Prenatal Depression
2. Health Screening Events
   - Assist with health fairs/health screenings for community members on chronic health concerns, such as diabetes, hypertension, glaucoma, etc.
   - Patient screenings for at-risk populations, such as the elderly, migrant and seasonal farm workers, or low income individuals.
   - Assist with immunization day events.
   - Sports clinics.
   - Childhood Obesity awareness and screening events.
   - Postpartum Home Visits

3. Community Health Needs Assessments
   - Health disparities research projects.
   - Assist with community assessments to determine gaps in health coverage or other unmet needs.
   - Develop a directory of health resources in the community.
   - Identify providers in the community who are professionally trained to assist in providing care for patients seeking mental health care.
   - Community assessments/surveys.
   - Organizing community forum, focus groups, etc.
   - Assessment of health needs within the clinic’s service area population.

4. Health Services Delivery Analyses
   - Research accessibility of services in the community and publicize with a press release.
   - Integration of Services Assessment - two-phase project including assessment of existing service delivery to diabetic Migrant and Seasonal Farm Workers and the design and implementation of an integration system between the TRHS and the Farm Worker Outreach Program.
   - Quality improvement projects.
   - Develop a tracking system for immunization records.

5. Health Insurance/Affordability Education and Research
   - Provide educational sessions on topics such as advanced directives, Medicare pharmacy benefit; qualifying for Medicaid; etc.
   - Development of patient education materials on specific health topics, or on Medicaid, Medicare, and so forth.
   - Research Pay for Performance models.
6. Health Care Training

- Assist with Summer Health Careers Camps.
- Present health career information to school groups/classes – K-12 and undergraduates
- Provide in-service training with daycare providers working with children with special needs.
- Help organize or be a judge at a regional science meet.
- Working with the schools to develop health career information for age appropriate activities.
- Cardiovascular Review for Emergency Medical Technicians – give a presentation to local EMTs that focuses on cardiac physiology overview, pathophysiology, EKG interpretation, basic treatment options, and case examples.
- Developing First-Aid courses.
- Choosing the Right Career
- Write a report documenting your reflections on Community Service