Name of Organization/Agency:
Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services

Purpose or Mission of Organization/Agency:
The mission of the Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services is to promote
and ensure the health and safety of the residents of Montgomery County and to build individual and
family strength and self-sufficiency.

Practicum Title:
Healthy Montgomery Metrics – Population Health Data Assessment and Evaluation Support

Brief Practicum Description & Proposed Approach:
Healthy Montgomery is Montgomery County’s community health improvement process. It is an
ongoing effort that brings together a broad range of individuals representing County government
agencies, the five community hospitals, minority health programs/initiatives, advocacy groups,
academic institutions and the health insurance community to develop action plans to improve the
health and well-being of all Montgomery County residents, especially groups most at risk for poor
health. Healthy Montgomery is currently preparing to conduct its second community health needs
assessment, a collaborative community-based process that will help identify unmet health needs in
the County. The Practicum student will provide various population health and well-being data and
analytical support to Healthy Montgomery initiative, its workgroups, and related partnerships and
taskforces related to HM needs assessments, action planning, and evaluation efforts. This position
will compile sections of a needs assessment report that summarize key findings of data leveraged by
HM initiative broadly, and within any of its six priority areas (behavioral health, cancers,
cardiovascular disease, diabetes, maternal and Infant health, or obesity) or the three lenses through
which strategies are developed and applied (to address unhealthy behaviors, lack of access, and
health inequities). These results will integrated into the next needs assessment being compiled by
Healthy Montgomery in 2014-2015. Student will work directly with Senior HHS Planning Staff from
Healthy Montgomery and Planning and Epidemiology Programs to gain first-hand experience in
leveraging local data sets into meaningful, comparable population health metrics and data fact
sheets for a broad audience; Student will acquire evidence of work experience in published materials
student authors during practicum that demonstrates his or her public health skills; student gets
internal view of local public health field and local community health improvement efforts. Published
materials will be used internally; student will be working on parts of reports, brief reports and/or fact
sheets for public consumption (not peer-reviewed publications).

Practicum Goals:
To align student with mentors to complete a mutually relevant project that results in a product from
the student’s work experience that also fulfills HM community health improvement data support
needs while enhancing the skills and knowledge base of the intern within allotted timeframe of
practicum.

Examples of work the intern could accomplish during the placement:
• Contribute to the HM needs assessment report sections that summarize data results of needs
assessment for behavioral health, cancers, cardiovascular disease, diabetes, maternal and infant health, obesity, cross-cutting topics, or social determinants of health topics that includes drafting summary narrative, tables, and graphical/visual presentations of key findings; • Create data profiles for action planning work groups on identified priority community health issues (e.g., diabetes, cardiovascular health cancers, maternal and infant health) as determined by the Healthy Montgomery Steering Committee; • Update existing data profiles on obesity and behavioral health for action plan implementation work groups; • Create data fact sheets on obesity, behavioral health and other identified priority community health issues for consumption by a broad audience (e.g., policymakers, general public); • Contribute to the development and inclusion of logic models that frame evaluation metrics for identified priority community health issues as determine by the Healthy Montgomery Steering Committee; • Contribute to progress reports that summarize the evaluation results from an implementation plan.

Practice Activities:
- Analyze Data (Primary or Secondary)
- Assist with Planning
- Attend and Participate in Inter and/or Intra Agency Meetings
- Conduct Cost Effectiveness Analysis
- Conduct Health Assessment
- Develop Database or Information System
- Develop Strategic Plan
- Evaluate Program
- Review Literature
- Write Grant
- Write Report

Skills needed by the student to complete the practicum:
This practicum requires: • strong written, verbal, and researching skills to compile and summarize key data findings for a broad audience; • advanced proficiency in MS office 2007/2010 platforms – specifically MS Excel, MS PowerPoint, MS Word are required; • excellent organizational skills; • intermediate to advanced knowledge of epidemiological, analytical or statistical methods (age adjustment, tests of significance, techniques to compare within and across attribute groups, measures of disparity, measures of inequities) • LOCATION REQUIREMENT: Practicum requires student to be onsite for majority of student hours (with potential flexibility to perform tasks offsite as well) – specifically student will need to schedule at least one on-site day to be on Mondays, Wednesdays or Thursdays to interact with Senior Epidemiologist; student expected to meet requirements by County for orientation of volunteers and to take HHS security awareness training, HIPAA/Privacy training, and submit a set of signed data use agreements to comply with use of Maryland births, deaths, or utilization files. In addition to required skills, the following additional skills are preferred: • ability to apply geospatial techniques to analyze and present results with maps; • Familiarity working with large data sets such as census population files, births, deaths, ER visits, or inpatient visits; • MS Publisher experience preferred; prior SAS and/or SPSS analytic experience on population data sets preferred; use of Arc Map GIS Software to visualize health and well-being measures preferred.

Number of students requested for this practicum:
2

Anticipated time commitment needed for one student (hours per week):
20

Anticipated Total Practicum Hours:
250

Expected START DATE for practicum:
11/15/2014
Expected END DATE for practicum:
3/13/2015

Location and Travel

Practicum Area: Maryland, Washington DC, Virginia  
Street: 1335 Piccard Drive  
City: Rockville  
State: Maryland  
Zip: 20850  
Country: UNITED STATES

Primary Location:  
On-site, Off-site

Routes that can be used to access the organization:

Application Procedure:
Please address and e-mail cover letter and resume to Karen Thompkins MPH, Senior Planning Specialist, at karen.thompkins@montgomerycountymd.gov

Organization URL:  
http://www.healthymontgomery.org

Deadline to submit application materials:  
11/30/2014