

University of Iowa College of Public Health

CPH Student Internship Opportunity

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Organizational Information

Name of Organization: Iowa Primary Care Association

Address: 9943 Hickman Road, Suite 103

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Position Information

Description: Almost 700,000 Iowans under age 65, approximately 24% of the total population, do not have health insurance (Families USA, March 2009). Thousands more have insurance that only covers catastrophic illnesses and accidents. For these individuals and families, there are limited options available for affordable health care.

Many of these Iowans turn to Iowa's safety net providers for affordable primary and preventive health care. Through a unique partnership created in 2005 by the Iowa Legislature, the Iowa Collaborative Safety Net Provider Network (Network), Iowa's health care safety net providers have united to identify common unmet needs that can be addressed cooperatively. Access to pharmaceuticals, specialty care referrals, and health professionals recruitment were identified as the first three areas for collaboration and medical home was most recently added as a priority issue area.

In the beginning, the Network was comprised of Community Health Centers, Free Clinics, and Rural Health Clinics, but has grown tremendously in the past few years to include Family Planning Agencies, Local Boards of Health, and Maternal/Child Health Centers. Because the demand for these providers' services greatly outweighs their resources, there is an ongoing need to coordinate efforts. The recession and dramatic increases in unemployment have amplified the challenges these clinics face of remaining fiscally solvent while providing care for an increasing uninsured population.

In addition to the safety net clinics identified above, many other organizations are key partners in the Network's efforts. Following is a list of Network member organizations. The Iowa/Nebraska Primary Care Association coordinates and manages the Network.

- Child Health Specialty Clinics
- Community Health Centers
- Critical Access Hospitals
- Des Moines University
- Family Planning Agencies
- Free Clinics
- IowaCare organizations
- Iowa Academy of Family Practice
- Iowa Department of Public Health
- Iowa Department of Human Services
- Iowa Farm Bureau
- Iowa Foundation for Medical Care
- Iowa Medical Society
- Iowa Medicaid Enterprise

- Iowa Pharmacy Association
- Local Boards of Health
- Maternal/Child Health Centers
- Polk County Medical Society
- Principal Financial Group
- Project Export Center on Excellence on Health Disparities, University of Northern Iowa
- Rural Health Clinics
- State Board of Health
- The University of Iowa
- Wellmark Blue Cross & Blue Shield

The Network recently hosted a strategic planning session for its governing body to determine goals, objectives, and activities the Network should pursue during the next several years. Following are the draft goals established during the initial planning session. The goals, objectives, and activities will be finalized during April 2011.

- Improve the Iowa Collaborative Safety Net Provider Network's communications and advocacy efforts
- Increase the underserved population's access to safety net services
- Improve the financial viability of safety net providers
- Increase health system integration and collaboration across the continuum of safety net services

The Network is requesting a CPH student to assist in carrying out many of the initial objectives and activities that will support the goals of the Network stated above. The Network is specifically interested in working with a student on the development of a survey tool that will assess the services available through safety net providers as well as their financial viability to provide services to the underserved in Iowa.

Desired Skills: The student will need to be able to assist in the development of survey tools, the surveying of safety net providers, and the analysis of the data captured.

Start/End Dates if specific: \_\_\_Summer 2011, no specific dates required\_\_\_\_\_

Ongoing/variable/negotiable dates: Yes ; No \_\_\_\_\_

Average number of hours/week expected: \_\_16 – 20 hours/week\_\_\_\_ (200 hours total)

Must all work take place on-site? Yes \_\_\_\_\_; No

Is tele-commuting possible for part of the work commitment? Yes ; No

Salary: Yes ; No  (? , we are assessing our budget to determine if we have funding available for a salary or living expenses for a CPH student)

Average number of hours/week expected (200 hours total)\_ 16 – 20 hours/week

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Application Materials to Submit:

Cover Letter:  Yes  No

Resume :  Yes  No

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Please Submit Project Application to:

Laurie Walkner, RN, MA  
Laurie-walkner@uiowa.edu  
Fax 319-335-8341  
Phone: 319-335-6836