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Pair: Michael Celestin Jr. (Mentee) and Alton Hart Jr. (Mentor)

Pair:

Mentee: **Michael Celestin Jr., MA, CHES**

Program Manager

Tobacco Control Initiative

LSUHSC School of Public Health

Mentor: **Alton Hart Jr., MD, MPH**

Associate Professor, Department of Internal Medicine

Director, Adult Cancer Survivorship Clinic Massey Cancer Center

Associate Scientific Director, Center on Health Disparities

Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU)

**About the Project:**

Over the next year and a half, Mike, with guidance and support from Alton, will be working on a project to promote increased use of the U.S. Public Health Service guideline for treating tobacco use and dependence by urologists in the LSU Health system. Urologic conditions, such as prostate cancer, are a common problem in the U.S., and the state of Louisiana.

Prostate cancer is the second leading cause of cancer death for men in the nation and Louisiana, and the most commonly diagnosed cancer among African-American men.  “As I (Michael) grow professionally, I am increasingly aware of the burden of cancer and the disparities in health equity that affect African-Americans.  I hope that my work can contribute to changing these serious public health problems.”

This project will employ multiple strategies including, provider training, performance feedback and tailored cessation services for patients. The success of the project will be determined by provider adherence to the practice guidelines and changes in patient readiness to quit, quit attempts and quit rates. This project will be a component of the Tobacco Control Initiative – a population-based risk reduction program of LSUHSC School of Public Health and the LSU Health system.

**Prioritized EBPH Competencies:**

Michael has selected to focus on building his capacity in the areas analytic/assessment skills and advocacy and communication skills.

With his extensive experience in health communication, and implementation and evaluation of prostate cancer screening and tobacco cessation programs, Alton, will help guide Michael in his project deliverables and goals and in developing these competencies necessary to move an evidence-based intervention into practice.