



ONLINE COMMUNITY COLLABORATIVE PRACTICE

SPRING 2024

Community-based Project Descriptions

Expectations of Student Work on Community-based Project

During the semester you will work on one project with four to six teammates. Each member of your team should plan to spend at least 10-12 hours on the project throughout the semester. Over the course of the semester, work on the community-based project will be completed asynchronously by each team member as well as during synchronous Zoom meetings that will include some or all members of your team. Some of the meetings could also include the project champion who works for the community organization. It is the responsibility of your team to decide when to schedule synchronous meetings, who should be at the meetings, and what the agenda of the meetings will be. Your team will also be expected to clarify each team member's roles and responsibilities on the community-based project and keep each other accountable for the team members' work on the project. The course directors are available for guidance and assistance, as desired.

How to Use This booklet:

The purpose of this booklet is to introduce you to the project options for this semester. You can simply read through the entire document to learn more about the project options. Also, if you click on the organization's name in the Table of Contents below, you will jump to their project description page.

If you have questions or would like more information, please contact:



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The Ability Center of Greater Toledo

Website: <https://abilitycenter.org/>

Champion: Jules Patalita

Tags: access to care, advocacy, community outreach, data collection/analysis, quality improvement, research, staff development/support, survey development, accessibility/disability

Skills: best practices or evidence-based practice, community assessment, cultural humility and empathy, data analysis, data collection, program evaluation, knowledge of ADA specifications and disability accommodations

Organization Description: The Ability Center works as an advocate and thought leader, changing both attitudes and real world conditions for people with disabilities. We advocate, educate, partner, and provide services supporting people with disabilities to thrive within their community. Though there's much work to be done, we're closer than ever to realizing the fulfillment of that mission. Since our inception in 1920, we've constantly adapted our programming to meet current needs —always aiming at creating greater independence and stronger connection to the community. Together, we will work to make our community the most disability friendly in the nation by increasing independence for people with disabilities, discovering true passions, and changing the community's perception of disability. Diversity, equity, and inclusion are at the core of who we are. We are committed to fostering, cultivating, and preserving a culture of belonging by changing perceptions and discovering true passions.

Project Description: Greater Toledo Survey on Accessible Medical Diagnostic Equipment - In this project students will call the offices of healthcare professionals in the Greater Toledo area and conduct surveys with office managers that assess the availability of accessible medical diagnostic equipment (MDE) in the office and staffs' training on that equipment. Patients with disabilities often encounter barriers to equal health care, and a lack of accessible equipment in health care facilities is commonly cited as an issue for both patients and health care professionals. The goals of the survey are to collect data on the overall accessibility of offices in the Greater Toledo area and receive feedback on what assistance offices could utilize to become more accessible in order to provide higher quality care for patients with a variety of disabilities. Students will be supplied with a survey and script and will independently schedule and conduct surveys and be responsible for data collection. The student team will then analyze the data and then prepare a report on the analysis, themes, and conclusions. Students will gain experience conducting surveys and collecting and analyzing data. They will acquire knowledge of MDE requirements described in the Rehabilitation Act as well as the accommodation needs of many individuals with disabilities.

Buckner Children and Family Services

Website: www.buckner.org

Champion: Erin Ratcliffe

Tags: after school programming, children/adolescents, community outreach, curriculum design, data collection/analysis, family services, low SES populations, program development, quality improvement, research , staff development/support, survey development,

Skills: best practices or evidence-based practice, communication in writing to clients/patients, communication verbally to clients/patients, community assessment, cultural humility and empathy, data analysis, data collection, problem solving, program evaluation, program planning or project management, survey creation

Organization Description: The Buckner Family Hope Center® model seeks to strengthen families and keep them together. By providing families with critical services, aid, and coaching to keep them strong, we seek to decrease the likelihood of abuse, neglect, and removal of children from their homes. The Family Hope Center is a child-centered and family-focused organization where families go in their community to find hope, support, and empowerment as they seek to reach their fullest, God-given potential. The key to the Family Hope Center's success is found in combining effective programs and passionate people as we help families that are experiencing poverty, family issues, and a lack of services.

Project Description: Engaging Teens in Empowerment Programs - The student team will create a survey tool to assess the needs of 13-18-year-olds and evaluate how well existing programs align with their stated needs. The survey will also help us understand the barriers of entry and engagement with the existing programs. In addition, the team will develop a toolkit for Buckner staff to utilize to increase engagement among individuals within this age range.

Catholic Social Services

Website: colscss.org

Champion: Angela Stoller-Zervas

Tags: chronic illness, community outreach, curriculum design, health navigation, older adults, staff development/support

Skills: best practices or evidence-based practice, community assessment, health literacy, other: readiness to change implications

Organization Description: Our organization is a non-profit serving the Columbus Ohio Catholic Diocese region. Motivated by faith, Catholic Social Services helps poor and vulnerable seniors and families reach their potential. However, an individual does not need to be Catholic to receive our services. Our goals include helping seniors remain independent, improving their money management skills, providing senior companionship, providing transportation, supporting students in college, supporting our Hispanic community, and providing emergency assistance.

Project Description: Living Well with Chronic Illness - Service Coordinators do not typically provide clinical services, but are expected to help residents identify unmet needs, connect them with services, and support and encourage residents' health and wellness. In this project the student team will determine the prevalence of chronic illnesses of seniors living in HUD subsidized housing where our service coordinators work. The team will then choose one or two of the identified chronic illnesses for which interventions can be improved. The team will then help us educate 10 service coordinators, through a Stages of Change theoretical lens, on how to determine that someone has a chronic illness, what readiness stage they are in to improve their management of the illness, and what the next steps could be to encourage ongoing improvement.

This project can be done in two stages:

1. Determine the prevalence of chronic illness, then educate service coordinators on how to identify chronic illness in a resident and the stage of change the resident is at.
2. Within the context of the service coordinator role, provide potential interventions for each stage of change that the service coordinator could employ to support positive change for the residents. Potential supports could include statements of encouragement, education material, introduction to helpful websites, identical about potential community-based services, and individual and/or group interventions.

Clintonville Beechwold Community Resources (CRC)

Website: clintonvillecrc.org

Champion: Stephanie Baker

Tags: data collection/analysis, education, family Services, food Insecurity, program development, research, screening, socialization, survey development, urban, vulnerable populations

Skills: best practice or evidence-based practice, community assessment, data analysis, program evaluation

Organization Description: As part of the century-old settlement house movement, CRC is a community-based social services agency that brings people together to help individuals and families build upon their strengths. For 50 years, CRC has been making a difference in the lives of our neighbors. Many lives have been improved or sustained by the services CRC provides. We promote self-sufficiency while respecting individual worth, rights, and dignity. We believe we create a greater quality of life for everyone throughout the community.

Project Description: CRC Family Services (Food Pantry) Needs Assessment - This project will review national, state, and local (Columbus, OH) data on food insecurity. This project will also review and summarize census demographic data for the two most prominent zip codes this program provides services to. The project will conduct a literature review for trends and best practices in addressing food insecurity and will summarize all findings into a final report for the agency to use in program planning and decision making.

Lutheran Social Services (LSS): LSS Health Center

Website: <https://lssnetworkofhope.org/>

Champions: Alyssa Huddleston & Tammi Jackson

Tags: community outreach, homelessness, LGBTQIA+ populations, technology

Skills: communication in writing to clients/patients, community assessment, cultural humility and empathy, health literacy, problem-solving

Organization Description: The LSS Health Center is a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) that is specifically designated as a site for health care for the homeless. We are co-located within the Faith Mission shelter of Franklin County Ohio (Columbus area). We recently expanded our HIV prevention and treatment services as well as other outreach services. We are now developing our community engagement plan, educational/promotional materials, and event planning.

Project Description: Community Engagement - In this project the student team work directly with our outreach team to improve our community engagement efforts. Potential projects could include assisting with the creation of educational materials and/or promotional materials or developing specific events. The specific project will be based on the interests of the students on the team and the needs of our outreach program.

Mobile Meals of Toledo

Website: <https://mobilemeals.org/>

Champion: Rochelle Rodgers

Tags: advocacy, food insecurity, older adults, all ages

Skills: communication in writing to clients/patients

Organization Description: Mobile Meals of Toledo has been around for over 50 years. We continue to follow our original mission: to foster independent living by helping individuals maintain or restore a healthy diet. The home-delivered meal service is for people of all ages and economic levels. We serve clients who may be homebound, have limited mobility, are recovering from surgery or injury, or are unable to cook, shop, or otherwise maintain a healthy diet. Mobile Meals' local kitchen works hard to provide our clients with various delicious and healthy meal choices. Mobile Meals offers meals low in sodium and fat and provides renal, diabetic, and mechanical soft specialty menus.

Project Description: Wellness Volunteer - Check In - Family members who may live out of town like knowing that their relatives receive the weekly wellness calls by our wellness volunteers. These volunteers also provide a listening ear and develop a friendly relationship with our clients. The objective of the wellness call is to establish a meaningful connection with our clients and report any change in the client's condition. In this project the student team will conduct wellness calls and track the client responses. Mobile Meals will send a weekly call list every Tuesday afternoon and the wellness volunteer team will submit the wellness report with any concerns or client responses by the end of the week, on Fridays. Our meal program staff will follow up with the client if needed. A summary of this data will be provided to the organization at the end of the semester.

Northland Community House

Website: N/A

Champion: Bill Owens

Tags: access to care, community outreach, health navigation, technology, trauma-informed care, refugee and immigrant populations

Skills: best practices or evidence-based practice, communication in writing to clients/patients, cultural humility, data analysis, health literacy, problem-solving, program planning or project management

Organization Description: Northland Community House was founded by Bill Owens (who grew up in the Northland Area) as part of the 150-year-old Settlement House Movement that partners with individuals, families and groups within a specific geographic area to best assure they meet their basic needs and lead the best quality of life as defined by them. Northland Community House's work includes community building activities, program services, volunteerism, advocacy, and information & referral. Paid professional staff and volunteers assist Northland Area residents to overcome barriers and challenges in contemporary life, including independent living, food insecurity, social isolation, and threats to secure housing. The achievement of aspirational goals in the arts and relationships with others as well as education and recreation may be out of the reach of many of the Northland Area residents. Since these are aspects of a full life, Northland Community House also helps interested residents access these opportunities.

Project Description #1: Decreasing Social Isolation and Loneliness Among Older Adults - Social isolation and loneliness are serious yet underappreciated public health risks that affect a significant portion of the older adult population. Approximately one-quarter (24 percent) of community-dwelling Americans aged 65 and older are considered to be socially isolated, and a significant proportion of adults in the United States report feeling lonely (35 percent of adults aged 45 and older and 43 percent of adults aged 60 and older). The rise of social isolation is not a personal choice or individual problem. Instead it is frequently rooted in community design, social norms, and systemic injustices. In this project, the student team will identify community design, social norms and systemic injustices that are contributing to social isolation & loneliness among older adults in the Northland neighborhood and identify potential best practices and interventions to decrease this social problem.

Project Description #2: Northland Health Access & Communication - The Northland Neighborhood of Columbus, Ohio has an estimated population of 125,000. This includes immigrant and refugee individuals and families from 29 countries. This diversity of country of origin is reflected in the local businesses bringing a rich cultural smorgasbord of restaurants and food trucks. This diversity of culture is a definite strength, yet it can create challenges when attempting to communicate public health information across Northland neighborhoods, such as providing updates about COVID-19 or sharing information about free produce giveaways and other resources and services.

In this project the student team will create a deliverable that outlines ways to communicate to all the ethnic groups residing in Northland. Since the Bhutanese population is the most numerous in the Northland community, at the beginning of the project we will target that population first. As the OCCP student team begins the project, the team will conduct a literature review of existing best practices for communicating health and access to services information to similar demographics and compile a resource document based on their research. They will then review what is known about best practices for community to our community, such as what was effective during the pandemic. Depending on the team's productivity, additional steps in the project could include completing a needs assessment by surveying a sample of the chosen demographic, analyzing the survey results to identify themes and best practice, and creating a model or draft protocol that summarizes the team's findings. Future OCCP teams can test the model or protocol and implement interactive improvements.

Step Forward

Website: www.stepforwardtoday.org

Champions: **Project 1:** Daena Gamble & **Project 2:** Marilyn Moore

Tags: children/adolescents, data collection/analysis, health navigation, low SES population, survey development

Skills: communication in writing to clients/patients, communicate verbally to clients/patients, data analysis, data collection, program evaluation, survey creation

Organization Description: As the state's designated anti-poverty agency for Cuyahoga County, Step Forward is tasked and trusted to lead the fight on the ground against poverty in our community. The nonprofit organization helps low-income individuals and families address immediate needs and build long-term skills to transform their lives through early childhood education programs, **such as Early Head Start and Head Start**, adult skills training, and other support.

Project Description: Lead Follow Up Survey/Phone Interview - Head Start programs support children's growth from birth to age 5 through services centered around early learning and development as well as health and family well-being. Its focus is to actively engage parents because family participation throughout the program is critical to strong child outcomes. Our health services include ensuring children are receiving medical, dental, hearing, vision, and behavioral screenings. Statistics show that the City of Cleveland has rates of lead poisoning that are almost four times the national average, and this directly impacts the population of families we serve. Therefore, in efforts to assist our families in decreasing possible lead exposure, Head Start requires that children receive lead screening at their primary health care professionals office. Unfortunately, this has been an ongoing challenge for the children in our program. Therefore, in this project the student team will:

- Create and administer a survey via a QR code to assist the program in assessing the reasons why the parents are not obtaining lead screenings. In conjunction with the Health Coordinator, the survey will be administered to the parents via Head Starts Child Plus database system.
- Compile the survey data collected and formulate a report to present to the Health Coordinator.

Project Description: Nutrition Education - Parents frequently need training on healthy food habits, proper foods to consume and proper portion sizes. Therefore, in this project the student team will create an online printable healthy food and recipe booklet that has been approved by experts in nutrition. The team will research and identify what should be included in the booklet, such as a list of healthy foods quality and their recommended frequency; suggestions for healthy habits regarding food purchasing, preparation and consumption; and recipes and snacks using WIC approved items.

Stephen Center Wellness Day

Website: <https://stephencenter.org/>

Champion: Kylie Widhelm

Tags: access to care, advocacy, children/adolescents, community outreach, data collection/analysis, homelessness, literacy, low SES population, mental health, quality improvement, screening, trauma-informed care, urban

Skills: community assessment, data analysis, health literacy, program evaluation, program planning or project management

Organization Description: The Stephen Center Wellness Day is a bi-annual event run by an occupational therapy faculty member from Creighton University at a homeless shelter in Omaha, Nebraska. A group of interprofessional students and faculty work in a homeless shelter to evaluate and treat clients from birth to geriatrics. This interprofessional group of students and faculty consists of nurses, pharmacists, physical therapists, physicians, physician assistants, and occupational therapists.

Project Description: **Stephen Center Wellness Day survey review** - On October 21, 2023, in just four hours the interprofessional team of students and faculty from Creighton University treated over 100 clients experiencing homelessness. In order to make the event even better in the future, feedback was obtained from students and faculty. In this project the student team will review and analyze the data gathered, then present their findings to our group in order to inform the 2024 Wellness Day event that will take place in April 2024. The team will then assist planning and creating marketing materials for the event.

The Salvation Army - Columbia Area Services

Website: <https://easternusa.salvationarmy.org/southwest-ohio/central-ohio/help-trafficking-survivors/>

Champion: Melanie Deis

Tags: access to care, advocacy, children/adolescents, community outreach, curriculum design, data collection/analysis, low SES population, program development, quality improvement, research

Skills: best practices or evidence based practice, community assessment, cultural humility or empathy, stat analysis, problem solving, program planning or management

Organization Description: The Salvation Army's Anti-Human Trafficking program in central Ohio serves survivors of human trafficking through direct services, including case management, hotline response, drop-in services, group sessions, and more.

Project Description: Anti-Trafficking Public Awareness Campaign - Our Anti-Human Trafficking Program would love to partner with a team of students in the creation of content and materials with the intention of increasing public awareness about human trafficking. Through our program at The Salvation Army and our facilitation of our local anti-human trafficking coalition (CORRC), we have ongoing opportunities to distribute educational materials both online and in-person. While we strive to create materials within our team, it would be excellent to work with a team in the creation of various content (print, social media flyers/posts, video content, etc.). We would begin the collaboration process with team education regarding human trafficking, ethical storytelling, and media guidelines for anti-human trafficking public awareness content. Once everyone feels comfortable and has a good understanding of our program vision, we would establish a timeline with processes for submission and feedback on materials.

United Church Homes

Website: unitedchurchhomes.org

Champions: Beth Long-Higgins & Darla Metz

Tags: complex conditions, curriculum design, data collection/analysis, education, mental health, older adults, program development, quality improvement, research, staff develop/support, workforce development

Skills: best practices or evidence-based practice, community assessment, cultural humility and empathy, data analysis, data collection, program evaluation, program planning or project management

Organization Description: United Church Homes is a leading provider of healthcare and senior living services with a mission to transform aging by building a culture of community, wholeness, and peace for those we are privileged to serve. With the central offices located in central Ohio, we serve over 80 communities in 15 states.

Project Description: Critical Incident/Crisis Management in Housing Communities for Older Adults - The goal of this project is to analyze and assess the experience of UCH staff who provided leadership following critical incidents in their communities since May 2022. These incidents included several deaths by suicide and an accidental drowning of independent living residents in four different communities. Access to a recorded conversation with these leaders will be available. Additional contact with any of these individual leaders for follow-up by the team members could be arranged. Once specific areas of concern are identified, recommendations for helpful resources and research to address opportunities for improved response and best practices will be included in the team's final project report.