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Health Policy Institute of Ohio Practicum Experience

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Health Policy Institute of Ohio Practicum Experience

Farhiya Hirsi

Site: Health Policy Institute of Ohio (HPIO)

HPIO was established in 2003. HPIO is Ohio's only nonpartisan organization solely dedicated to informing state health policy decisions. HPIO does not take positions on specific legislation, but will use its expertise on a comprehensive range of health policy issues, including the social drivers of health, to decipher health policy information for state policymakers and others and to provide unbiased research, analysis and data presentation.

Site Supervisor & Credentials/Expertise

Hailey Akah, JD, MA in Public Policy, Senior Health Policy Analyst. Hailey analyzes key health policy issues such as population health, prevention, healthcare access and quality, social determinants of health, health equity and value-based payment.

Goals & Achievement

1. Understand how health policy affects public health outcomes.
 - Policy changes play a big role in achieving health value.
2. Learn about health policy issues and get a better understanding of the health policy landscape, both in Ohio and nationally.
3. Learn about Ohio's healthcare and public health systems and how different factors influence health and healthcare spending.
4. Gain more experience in conducting health policy research through evidence based research.
5. Create connections and collaborate with key stakeholders in the community.

Experience

My practicum was completed at the Health Policy Institute of Ohio. I was given a wide range of projects to work on. Some of these projects needed to be completed as quickly as possible while others had a longer due date. These projects included updating HPIO's online resource pages for the addiction resource page (AEP) and adverse childhood experiences (ACEs). I conducted literature review and other research on ACEs that was part of the ACEs Impact Project. I also analyzed COVID-19 data on race and ethnicity and learned new skills as a result. I did quality control on the Medicaid Basics 2021 by looking through Medicaid services to find any changes that happened specific to COVID-19.

HPIO also gave me an in-depth glance at how projects such as the State Health Improvement Plan (SHIP), a tool to strengthen state and local efforts to improve health, well-being and economic vitality in Ohio and the Strategic Action Plan on Aging (SAPA), which is a prioritized plan that highlights opportunities to advance justice and equity for the elderly. HPIO uses a buddies system, where each project goes through several steps before it is finalized. For all publications, other staff who were not part of the project double-check by going through the data and calculations to make sure everything is correct.



Schedule

1. Attend weekly Monday meeting with supervisor.
2. Attend team meetings every Wednesday.
3. Attend webinars and advisory board meetings.
4. Join in on meetings with state representatives.
5. Work on assigned projects.
6. Meet & greet with team members.

Projects

