

Nora Gimpel MD; Byron Cryer, MD; Marc Nivet, MBA; David Schneider MD; Andrew Lee, MD



BACKGROUND

- Community health training provides education to medical students from a population health perspective.
- Learners are trained to assess the health needs of a specific population, implement, and evaluate interventions in the context of their culture, health status, and health needs.



PROBLEM

- Although programs have been very successful, the medical school lacks a coordinated approach to community health training.
- Community health initiatives often overlap in the community creating inefficiency, inconsistency, and redundancy.



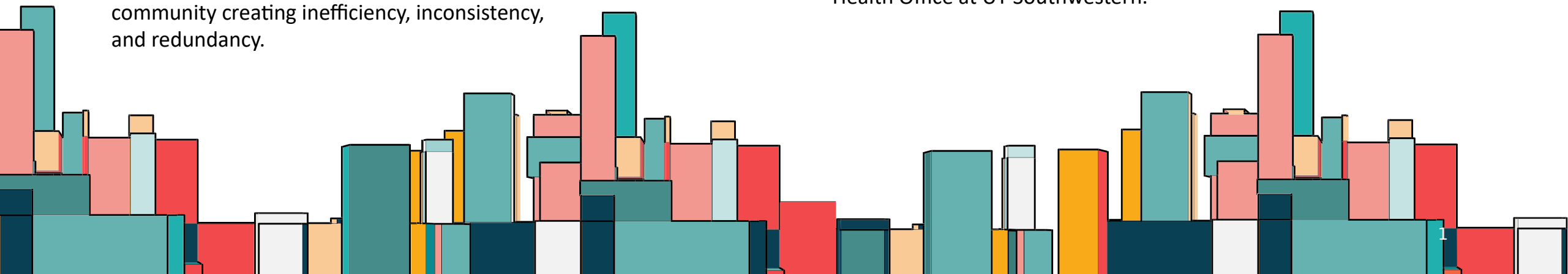
PURPOSE

- The purpose of the project is to create a Community Health Office that integrates and coordinates community health initiatives at UT Southwestern medical school.



OUTCOMES

- Internal (UT Southwestern learners and leaders) as well as external assessments (community and other medical schools) determined the need of an integrated approach to community health at UT Southwestern.
- A proposal will be submitted to UT Southwestern leadership in 2022 to develop and lead the Community Health Office at UT Southwestern.



ELAM

Project Title: Integrated community health training at UT Southwestern Medical school

Name and Institution: UT Southwestern Medical school (UTSW)

Collaborators: David Schneider, MD

Mentors: Byron Cryer, MD; Marc Nivet, MBA; Andrew Lee, MD

Topic Category: community health/education

Background/ significance of project

Community health training provides education to medical students from a population health perspective. Learners are trained to assess the health needs of a specific population, implement, and evaluate interventions, and provide care for individual patients in the context of their culture, health status, and health needs. The Department of Family and Community Medicine coordinates most of the service-learning/community health activities at UT Southwestern Medical school (UTSW). Although these programs have been very successful, the medical school lacks a coordinated approach to community health training. Students from the various student organizations implement hundreds of community health initiatives each year, often overlapping in the community areas that they serve creating inefficiency, inconsistency, and redundancy.

Purpose/objectives

To create a Community Health Office that integrates and coordinates community health initiatives at UTSW medical school.

Methods/Approach

- Internal (UTSW) and external assessments (community and other medical schools) of community health activities
- Draft a community health proposal and obtain input from UTSW leaders
- Present a proposal to UTSW leadership and determine feasibility of a Community Health Office
- Implement program, measure impact, and revise program.

Outcomes/results

- **UTSW students' assessment: current community health activities**
 - Main benefits: practicing medical skills, learning new skills, engaging with the community.
 - Main areas of improvements: provide new clinical experiences, have well-organized and planned activities, establish effective communication regarding opportunities.
- **UTSW educational and administrative leaders' assessment:**
 - There is a need of an integrated approach to service learning at UTSW.
 - A coordinated community health program will bring the possibility of working more effectively in the community.
 - Need for more sustainable projects.
- **Community Health Programs available in medical schools across the United States**
 - Based on the 2018-19 AAMC Curriculum Inventory, 147 medical schools required elective courses related to community health which includes clinical experience, demonstration, small or large group discussion, independent learning, lecture, or service-learning activity.
 - Lack of mandatory activities, service hours, and reflection activities are a source of concern.
- **Current community partners assessment:**
 - Community partners would like to improve the coordination of service-learning activities implemented in the community, optimize project development, expand outreach and monitoring progress.

Discussion/ Conclusions with a statement of impact/potential impact

An opportunity exists to integrate service-learning opportunities, enhance training and community-based research to make long-lasting changes in our communities. I am currently working on the proposal to be submitted to UTSW leadership in 2022 to develop and lead the Community Health Office at UTSW.