Mental Health Policy Education Program

The Behavioral Health Center of Excellence at UC Davis is pleased to launch a Policy Education Program in partnership with the Steinberg Institute. The program provides opportunities for UC Davis graduate students from all schools and colleges to learn about the legislative cycle and the process of creating bills that impact mental health services and care at the local, state and national level. Graduate students include School of Medicine 4th year students and residents seeking electives, the School of Law and the School of Nursing. Other graduate students are also welcome.

The fall 2015 program is scheduled for October, November and December in the Center’s downtown office at 1130 K Street. Interns are expected to work 4 hours in office per week to start. A commitment of 3 months is preferred; a minimum of 1 month is required. Please coordinate any credit you may receive for this internship or elective through your department’s coordinators.

Interns will take a "deep dive" on a particular issue, helping define a specific problem, conduct research and provide a recommendation. This research and policy development internship focuses on the nexus of behavioral and mental health data and public policy. Your recommendation final report must be submitted to the Steinberg Institute, with a copy to the Behavioral Health Center of Excellence and your department, by the assigned deadlines.

Potential areas of focus defined by the Steinberg Institute:

- Campus mental health services availability landscape scan across state (CSU, UC, Community Colleges): number and kinds of providers on campus, service access rates, gaps in services, understanding the differences in services, funding sources for medical and mental health, international students needs and culturally sensitive services, etc.
- Veteran Services: gaps in care, where is the VA meeting needs, what local services are meeting needs and have replicable programming, etc.
- Suicide Prevention: Hotlines and funding, evaluation of MHSA funding and services county by county
- County level parity evaluation
- Separation between physical and mental health coverage and care
- SB 82: what is the current spending and what additional funding for crisis care beds in the 2016-2017 budget is needed? What is the cost? How many beds are needed? Cost associated and savings at ERs.

Application process

**August 14:** Deadline to submit letters of intent is August 14, 2015. You must also submit a brief letter recognizing your application from your department
elective/internship contact as well as your resume to Kristy Bird Trouchon, Administrative Director, Behavioral Health Center of Excellence at UC Davis, by email at kbtrouchon@ucdavis.edu.

Final candidates will be notified in September 2015.

2016 programs
Information regarding the Spring 2016 internships at the Steinberg Institute will be announced late 2015.

Please note that future program offerings will include a fellowship through the Emerging Leadership in Policy and Public Service (ELIPPS) Internship program of the Office of the Chancellor for the summer of 2016. Selected candidates are expected to work for 20 hours per week from late June until mid-September. Information about this paid internship will be available in late 2015 through the Behavioral Health Center of Excellence at UC Davis.