

Academic Health Department (AHD) Report

Fiscal Year July 2021- June 2022



DEPARTMENT OF
PUBLIC HEALTH
AND WELLNESS

WELCOME

Hello from the Academic Health Department. Thank you for taking the time to read our yearly report. We're using this space to provide details on who we are, what we do, and some of the highlights of the past fiscal year. We hope with this information you'll understand more about our function and the value of collaborating with our team.

What is an Academic Health Department (AHD) and what benefits does it bring to a local health department?

The AHD concept of collaborative learning was established in January 2011 by the public health foundations subcommittee, [Council on Linkages Between Academia and Public Health Practice](#) (Council on Linkages), to bring together public health practitioners and healthcare professionals to share knowledge and experiences to create resources and tools that support the development, maintenance, and expansion of formal affiliations between health departments and academic institutions. Just as teaching hospitals partner with universities to provide education and training to medical students, Academic Health Departments partner with universities with accredited Schools of Public Health to educate and train future public health professionals. Collaboration with a local health department ensures that public health students are learning relevant, practical skills. AHDs also support relationships between departments and universities to conduct research, evaluate programs for effectiveness, publish in academic journals, increase collaboration on grants and other funding opportunities, and to share new research in the field of public health.

Louisville's AHD: Louisville Metro Public Health and Wellness (LMPHW) became an Academic Health Department in September 2018 through a partnership with the University of Louisville School of Public Health and Information Sciences (SPHIS). This partnership involves several shared appointments, meaning that some staff are employees of both LMPHW and UofL.

Drs. Seyed Karimi and Linda Omer are both staff who share time between LMPHW and the SPHIS. We also partner with community organizations on priority projects and use scientific methodology and data collection to work towards improving the health of the community. The AHD also develops the lens of the next generation of public health practitioners by bringing in students to work with our LMPHW team.

Our AHD is housed within the Center for Health Equity in the Research and Academic Partnerships team. Within LMPHW's AHD are 3 interconnected branches: the student experiences program, the volunteer program, and research and evaluation. Samaria Mason, our student experiences coordinator, joined our AHD staff in January 2022. Samaria has over 10 years of social service experience; working within the fields of community mental health, state waiver programs, and non-profit service. Our volunteer coordinator, Jenna Dixon, also transitioned to the AHD in January 2022. Jenna joined LMPHW in August 2020 and began building a brand-new volunteer program. She has 10 years of volunteer management experience and 20 years' experience working in a non-profit setting. In January 2021, LMPHW hosted a drive-through mass COVID vaccination event, LouVax, at Broadbent Arena. During the 4-month operation, Jenna supervised 2,700 volunteers who contributed more than 85,000 hours of service. The next sections of the report will provide more details about our branches.

OUR STUDENT EXPERIENCES PROGRAM:

How do students engage with us?

As an AHD, LMPHW offers a variety of student experiences for public health students and others interested in public health including clinical rotations (including community medicine rotations and job shadowing), internships/practicums, and the capstone program.

Clinical Rotations: Since 2019, LMPHW has been collaborating with UofL's Residency Program with the Department of Family and Geriatric Medicine. Through this community medicine rotation, residents transition among our internal clinics (Harm Reduction Program, MORE Program, Tuberculosis (TB), Specialty) and external clinics (like Family Health Centers - Americana) to gain an understanding of medical care in a public health setting. The program usually brings in 8 residents a year. We also have many nurses across the state complete their preceptorship by receiving one-on-one training with our Nurse Practitioner in the Specialty Clinic. Our volunteer program coordinates with both our internal and external clinic partners for placement of residents and nurses.

In addition, many nursing students come from across Louisville nursing schools and online programs to also spend time in our internal clinics under the guidance of our nursing staff to complete clinical rotation hours and learn to care for patients visiting public health clinics. In June 2022, a group of Community Health Nursing students completed their clinical observations by accompanying staff on public facility and restaurant inspections and observing client interactions in our clinics. Through this opportunity, we have begun to develop a Job Shadowing Experience for individuals interested in pursuing a career in public health. Shadowing a public health professional at LMPHW lets students experience the day-to-day life of the professional and provides information on the skills and education required for the position. If you'd like to share thoughts or take part in the Job Shadowing Experience, please reach out to Jenna Dixon (LMPHWinterns@louisvilleky.gov).

Non-clinical: internships/practicums and the capstone program: Our non-clinical student programs act to bridge the gap between academia and public health practice

by providing field experience at a public-health related worksite. Students come from many universities locally and nationally though our primary relationship is with the University of Louisville. Students can join LMPHW as either a capstone or practicum student, or as an intern.

The capstone program focuses primarily on undergraduates in the university public health degree program. A practicum or internship experience usually receives applicants in the master's in public health (MPH) program although other master's level students, like those in social work, can also complete their practicum or internship at LMPHW. All the programs overlap in their requirements for students which include developing a learning agreement in consultation with the practice site mentor and faculty mentor, working to address the components of the learning agreement while gaining experience within the organization, and wrapping up with deliverables like written and oral reports describing the program experience.

The capstone program runs for one semester (105 hours) where public health undergraduates have an opportunity to see public health classwork put into practice. Many come in wanting to work with staff on projects, acting as supplemental help, completing tasks that range from entering data into a platform, creating PowerPoints, updating social media pages, and taking notes for meetings. Other capstone students can even help with research and literature reviews. Overall, capstone allows students a chance to be involved with various aspects of a project or program without the full commitment that comes with being an MPH student.

Masters-level students and higher come in as practicum students or interns to work on a project for 1-3 semesters. Practicum students and interns already have a focus of study like epidemiology, health policy, and even healthcare ethics and come to LMPHW for an opportunity to integrate and apply their practical skills and trained learning from coursework in a professional public health work environment. Many of our past practicum students and interns have contributed to projects that resulted in publications and some have even joined us as staff at LMPHW.

| Fall 2021 - Summer 2022 Capstone students | Mentor | Project |
|---|------------|---|
| Aniya Murray | Alex Amare | Gray St. Farmer's Market Preparation & Evaluation |
| Vincent LaRussa | Alex Amare | Gray St. Farmer's Market Preparation & Evaluation |
| Jeremiah Dulin | Jan Rogers | Healthy Babies Louisville/MCH support |
| Erica Brantley | Jan Rogers | SUIDs Harm Reduction Practices |
| Reniece Ruffin | Jan Rogers | Healthy Babies Louisville/MCH support |

| Fall 2021 - Summer 2022 Interns/Practicum Students | Degree/ Program | Mentor | Project |
|--|---|--|---|
| James Birch | PhD candidate, epidemiology | Communicable Disease (CD) – Dr. Carolyn Akakpo | Examining Louisville communities' awareness on reportable disease |
| Elizabeth Harrod | Master's in public health (MPH) | Center for Health Equity (CHE) – YuTing Chen | Mapping COVID-19 Disparities and Achieving Health Equity |
| Cassidy Peterson | MPH | CHE – Rebecca Hollenbach | Health Equity Report Researcher & Community Advisory Board Support |
| Tewsdaay Babicka | Master's in science (MS), counseling | CHE – Dana Miramontes | HER & Community Advisory Board Support |
| Sofia Huster | MPH | CHE – Rebecca Hollenbach | Health Equity Report Research Briefs |
| Nancy Ngo | MPH | CHE – Rebecca Hollenbach | Health Equity Report Researcher & Community Advisory Board Support |
| Emma Betancourt | MPH | CHE – Dr. Trey Allen | Support on research study of Prenatal Care Practices and Access in Louisville/Jefferson County |
| Michele Ledbetter MPH | MPH | CHE – Dr. Trey Allen | A Qualitative Assessment of Prenatal Care and Prenatal Care Access in Louisville/Jefferson County with Ready 4K Alliance |
| Oluwatomisin (Tomi) Ogungbenle | Master's of art (MA), healthcare ethics | CHE – Dr. Trey Allen | Support on research study of Prenatal Care Practices and Access in Louisville/Jefferson County & HER2021 supplemental report - social determinants of housing and evictions |
| John Daniel McGeeney | MS, biostatistics | CHE – Dr. Seyed Karimi | COVID-19 Projections |
| Dr. Olawale Afolabi | MPH | CHE – Leanne French | Upstream Approaches to Childhood Asthma |
| Cassidy Sickels | MA, healthcare ethics | CHE – Michelle List | Senior Medicare Patrol Literature Review |
| Caitlin Reichard | MA, healthcare ethics | CHE – Michelle List | Senior Medicare Patrol Equity in Medicare |
| Melanie Quezada | MPH | CHE – YuTing Chen | Update on Mapping COVID-19 Disparities |
| Lisa Calvin | MS, counseling | Clinical/Health Services – Mary Jolly and Yvette Frank | Healthy Start support |
| Aliysa Solankhi | Bachelor of science, chemistry | CHE – Haritha Pallam | Essential Needs Program Evaluation |

Student Applications, Project Collection, and Funding

There's a cycle of when students apply for the student experiences program and when they begin their work at LMPHW. Their university programs expect them to begin at LMPHW in either January, May, or August. Students begin looking for opportunities the semester prior to the one they will begin work with us. Our AHD currently collects projects throughout each academic semester through emails, requesting work that will begin 1 -2 months from the request date. These projects are added to a catalog that is distributed a month prior to the student start date after which interviews are set up with project supervisors to determine if the student fits well for the position. If you're interested in developing a student research project or to learn more on how to work with our students, email Samaria Mason (LMPHWinterns@louisvilleky.gov).

Another fantastic advancement we've had this past year is having the capacity to provide those in our student experiences program stipends for the work they contributed to while at LMPHW. Through CDC funding, the AHD paid 22 stipends to our student interns from fall 2021 through this past summer.

In addition, the Region IV Public Health Training Center (R-IV PHTC), housed at the Emory University Rollins School of Public Health, awarded funding to a local UofL student, Emma Betancourt. Emma is a practicum student working with LMPHW's community health coordinator in maternal and child health, Jan Rogers. The project includes engaging with different communities and creating presentations and educational materials for a variety of programs including TAPP and Healthy Start Louisville. She will also be collecting information throughout the process as part of a study to determine which delivery method is most effective in the engaged communities.

Engagement within Student Experiences

We asked a couple of our student interns, staff mentors/project supervisors, and even staff who originally started at LMPHW as student interns to share a few sentences that highlight their overall experience with the student program.

I have had very positive experiences with all the student interns that I have mentored. Under supervision, student interns have been able to contribute significantly to a few research projects that I've worked on. More than being extra hands for research projects, I have found that students are often able to provide unique vantage points and lenses to the work that I do at the Center for Health Equity. For instance, I was fortunate to have a health ethics student help me with a review of literature for work that we are doing around evictions and their relationship to health outcomes. In their review of literature and subject matter expertise, the student came across a conceptual framework that better helped us understand and frame our understanding of how evictions and health equity are related.

- Dr. Trey Allen, CHE

My overall experience mentoring students has been wonderful! The BHE team has been able to expand our programs and research in so many ways. An intern from 2019 laid the foundation for our team to be able to conduct suicide fatality reviews, which will finally get off the ground in early 2023. My interns from last year were able to create an amazing report highlighting the local need for transgender affirming care and private insurance protections. Our interns have shown me that they are not only passionate about the projects they work on, but they are resilient and resourceful. Once they've been connected with the appropriate stakeholders, most often the projects really begin to blossom into something that benefits the entire department and helps move us toward transformative community work.

-Alex Amare, CHE

I interned as a capstone student at LMPHW in the spring of 2019. I gained experience working with non-profit and grassroots organizations and learned more about my city and the communities that make up the population. I had also taken a variety of courses that were helpful in prepping for the work at LMPHW like Public Health Practice, Health Equity, Environmental Health, Maternal Child Health, Biostats and Epidemiology, and Public Health Nutrition. The transition from student to LMPHW staff was amazingly smooth and welcoming. I am so appreciative to have been introduced to CHE as a learning environment, I feel as if I have done nothing but grow and flourish since the day I began working as an intern. I have had the pleasure of learning from and working with such well-rounded mentors. And now I have the chance to give someone else that opportunity. I've continued the internship process by going on to mentor student interns, too. I believe it is my duty to foster the growth of the next generation of public health professionals. These students are awesome and offer the freshest of perspectives and give me the chance to learn from others and for me to offer them my learned experiences. By bringing in students, I've learned greater time management skills, and it has encouraged me to think of the processes associated with public health work and challenged growth in my communication skills. I love getting the chance to connect with others and learn from students who have a different background or trajectory.

-Jan Rogers, CHE

Looking back, I'm really in awe of the experience I gained in the internship and will always stand out as one of the highlights of my graduate school experience. It far exceeded every expectation and will always be one of the highlights of my graduate experience. Because I worked for a full year, I saw many different stages of the research process, including literature review, drafting a proposal, data cleaning, analysis, and report writing. I gained a wide variety of experiences through the project, which are directly relevant to my new position as a statistician and analyst with Eastern Research Group. On the LMPHW project, I conducted literature review, wrote statistical code, performed in-depth data cleaning, evaluated data completeness, and extracted distributional summaries. Working with large public health datasets was an extremely valuable skill to acquire, and it was fascinating to learn about epidemic modeling. I always felt like the project served an important public function because it related to the COVID-19 pandemic and informing Metro about the tangible advantages of vaccine adoption among children. The project was a highly useful context for applying the topics I was learning about in my classes. I became proficient at coding in Stata thanks to the project, and I gained important new coding skills in R. I also learned about SEIR epidemic models, and the role Monte Carlo simulations can play in modeling.

Dr. Karimi empowers his students to become invested members of the team. He taught me to be thorough without missing the forest for the trees. He encouraged me to do my best work and was always supportive and kind along the way. He was also very understanding of my academic schedule during busy times of the year. Truly, this experience went above and beyond anything I could have imagined. I've been in contact with some incoming Biostatistics students, and I'm sharing the LMPHW student experiences catalog with all of them.

- Daniel McGeeney, student intern

OUR VOLUNTEER PROGRAM:

At LMPHW, volunteers can contribute to the health and wellbeing of the community by either working directly with clients or behind the scenes in our health services clinics. We welcome anyone with an interest in public health to apply for the program. For more information about joining our volunteer team, visit [our Volunteer webpage](#) or contact Jenna Dixon (LMPHWinterns@louisvilleky.gov).

Our volunteer program was started during the COVID-19 pandemic. We quickly grew to more than 7,000 applicants when we began recruiting volunteers for the LouVax Broadbent drive-thru vaccinations. Hundreds of volunteers continued their volunteer service hours when LouVax hit the road bringing mobile vaccine clinics into communities across Jefferson County. Volunteers are a key component to our emergency response team and continue to serve the community when needed. The table below represents a snapshot of volunteer hours and economic impact of our LouVax Volunteer Data.

| | |
|----------------------------|-----------|
| # of Mobile Missions | 220 |
| # of Volunteers | 1,476 |
| # of Hours | 5,886 |
| Estimated Economic Impact* | \$167,986 |

*Based on the 2021 [Value of Volunteer Time — Independent Sector](#)



Karen, pictured left, volunteers at a LouVax mobile clinic

From the thousands of volunteers that worked with us, we asked 3 to share their LouVax Volunteer Experience with us.

LouVax Volunteer Experience: Karen Pennington

What influenced your decision to volunteer with LouVax? Covid 19 turned my world upside down. My long loved significant person passed from Covid 19 in November 2020. I had to do something besides quit my job. I just did not know what. Michael had gotten well enough to go to a LTACH, but then he crashed there and spent the last 10 days of his life in a Covid 19 ICU. I was able to stay with him as he was no longer Covid positive but the damage to all his organs had been done. The vaccine was approved two weeks after his passing.

How did you find out about the opportunity? I googled giving vaccines after I saw a media announcement about Broadbent along with KNA (Kentucky Nursing Association) request for volunteers.

What did it feel like to come back into the community and provide your services? I love working with the community, I just hope the community feels the same way ... that we all want to be well and safe.

How did your past experiences prepare you for your volunteer role? I was a nurse for 41 years, my time spent as a home care nurse, acute care manager in a hospital. My most favorite times are one on one, patients, clients, and family.

Did you learn something new or develop a new skill during your volunteer experience? I learned something new each time I volunteered. Every person I was with always brought a new fresh vision to tasks we had been doing for some time.

Is there anything else you would like to share about your experiences? It was great. LouVax helped me and many others through a difficult time. To be part of the vaccination push was an honor. The kids! The fearful! They stepped up and got vaccinated even though they were terrified. I thank everyone who made LouVax a reality.

LouVax Volunteer Experience: Lisa Pham

What influenced your decision to volunteer with LouVax? It was my initial experience at Broadbent Arena in March 2020. I had planned to volunteer at Broadbent for as long as I could. After finding out that it was moving to the mobile clinics, I wanted to continue volunteering because I had enjoyed it so much. Additionally, the goal behind LouVax was something that I wanted to get behind and support in whatever way that I could!

How did you find out about the opportunity? I found out about this opportunity through an organization at my university! I was randomly scrolling through the meeting notes and this opportunity was posted. I then decided to investigate it and signed up to be a volunteer.

What did it feel like to come back into the community and provide your services? I had never volunteered on as large of a scale as LouVax was. I think that it was so important that the clinics moved TO the communities that needed them the most and I think we can all agree that it was very rewarding. I really felt like a part of the team no matter what role I was assigned at the clinics, and I think that the compassion that everyone possessed made the whole experience entirely worth it.

How did your past experiences prepare you for your volunteer role? As I mentioned earlier, I had never volunteered anywhere like LouVax so there were a lot of skills to learn to make the most out of the experience. However, I currently work with the public as a part of my job, so teamwork, communication, compassion, and respect are skills that I have gained and was able to bring into this volunteer experience.

Did you learn something new or develop a new skill during your volunteer experience? I think that I have learned the importance of education and compassion, especially when it relates to medicine and public health. There were many instances where some individuals needed more information and whatever I was unable to answer, there were always other volunteers that were ready to further explain. These explanations were never short or brief. They were detailed and this is where communication and teamwork really came into play because what we didn't know, someone else did. Besides this, I think that this experience further developed the skills that I had already had.

How did the volunteer experience impact your career goals? It has helped solidify them. I am in the process of applying to dental school and I think the same principles/skills that I have learned and developed through this experience are going to contribute to the work that I do as a future health professional (hopefully).

Is there anything else you would like to share about your experiences? I have really, really enjoyed volunteering. I think that everyone who volunteered/ worked at the clinics brings something to the team that was crucial to ensure it worked and who are some of the most passionate and hard-working individuals that I have ever met. I will be forever grateful for the conversations and interactions that I have had with everyone, especially for the opportunity to help make a difference in the community.

LouVax Volunteer Experience: Noel Schulman

How did you find out about the opportunity? Honestly, I was originally looking at a way to get my vaccine a little bit early. I saw an article online about LouVax and then saw that my friend from engineering school was already volunteering at Broadbent. I contacted her about it, and she helped me get my first shift. I had a good time and appreciated being able to feel like I was working to end the pandemic and get life back to some degree of normal.

What did it feel like to come back into the community and provide your services? I usually lead a hermetic lifestyle, so coming into a social environment is always different for me, but it was nice to be around people. It was also nice to know that people were wanting the vaccine. It created a hopeful environment.

Did you learn something new or develop a new skill during your volunteer experience? Much of what I learned in Industrial Engineering was embodied at Broadbent. It was always fun to watch the system in action. I've done a lot of data entry and database development in the past, which was helpful when volunteers were still working in those roles and needed to be fast and accurate. My first degree was in language, which came in handy later. I only used the languages I had studied more fully a couple of times (French and Russian). I ended up relearning Spanish and getting much better at it. All the clients and translators were such kind and patient teachers.



How did the volunteer experience impact your career goals? I don't know if it did or not. I am still working at my other volunteer job, Louisville Weimaraner Rescue. I have always loved volunteering and I always will. I don't think that will change.

Is there anything else you would like to share about your experiences? Everyone, both the paid and volunteer, were such great people. They came from all walks of life, Republicans, Democrats, young, old, every demographic. We all were united in trying to make the city a better place to live. Doing this gave me the opportunity to see beautiful and interesting parts of the city I would never have seen otherwise. It has meant a lot to me. Thanks for giving all of us this gift.

Volunteer Word Cloud

Volunteers were asked to share one word that described their volunteer experience with LouVax. Check out their responses!



RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

Greenlighting process for Covid-related projects

During the past couple of years, many LMPHW research projects have focused on COVID-19 and its effects in the Louisville community. With so many directions that the research can go, the AHD team worked in collaboration with epidemiology and policy staff to develop a [COVID-related research greenlighting process](#). The process allows us to determine if LMPHW's COVID-19 response aligns with both our mission and the wants of the community and how to utilize CDC and ARP funds. It helps us learn what research is already underway and identify gaps to create comprehensive evaluations and research to help fill in the gaps in existing evaluation work happening at LMPHW.

Overall, the process requires staff members working on or interested in covid-related research to write a brief summary of the proposed project followed by a presentation to the senior director's team (SDT). If given the okay, a more detailed proposal must be written and sent to the COVID-19 research committee for review. The research committee will recruit any additional subject matter experts to provide comment. Then the fiscal team will evaluate feasibility and any additional steps needed for proper contracting and purchasing, and appropriate funding source. Finally, the CHE director, T Gonzales, will make the final decision on whether the project should move forward. Details on the full process for review and approval of covid-related research and evaluation can be found in [SharePoint](#).

Outcomes of covid-related research

There were different projects that moved forward after the greenlighting process. We want to highlight one of these projects that utilized community feedback for building trust and partnership during the pandemic. This project was led by Leanne French in Partnerships and Community Engagement, and Deborah Payne. Their work was presented at the 2022 KPHA conference and has been submitted for the 2022 NACCHO Innovative Practice Award. We asked them to share feedback about their project to learn more about the objectives of the research, any outcomes and public health implications, and tell us about any community partners involved.

Community Partnerships for Improved COVID Response, Leanne French and Deborah Payne

Much like the rest of the United States, minority populations in Louisville, KY experienced higher rates of infection and death during the COVID-19 pandemic. While LMPHW worked hard to fight the spread of COVID, these populations ultimately did not receive information, outreach, and access to early vaccination at the same rates as other Louisville residents.

Through tracking of COVID metrics, LMPHW observed that Black and Hispanic populations in specific ZIP codes were experiencing higher rates of infections and lower rates of vaccination. Our 2017 Health Equity Report shows that populations within these ZIP codes also face higher rates of other health disparities and shorter life expectancies.

A planning team within the CHE determined that building partnerships with community organizations was critical for reaching populations that LMPHW had not reached through existing vaccination and education campaigns. Staff identified and developed partnerships with more than 25 organizations already working within Black, Brown, Hispanic, and LGBTQ communities. These organizations were contracted to promote vaccination, share information about COVID and vaccinations, and host a community listening session and a vaccination clinic.

Short-term goals for community partnerships included: increasing vaccinations among the most vulnerable and underserved populations; learning about and responding to barriers to vaccination; and identifying additional COVID-related needs. Longer-term goals were building relationships between residents, public health and health care partners and identifying opportunities for continued community engagement.

The overall public health impacts of the COVID Community Partnership program were reduced fear around the vaccine, higher rates of vaccination, lower disparities in COVID infections and deaths, and an increased trust in health partnerships.

Learning from and listening to community became a cornerstone of LMPHW's COVID response. Community listening sessions identified how best to serve people of color, to do outreach and communication, and to rebuild after a long era of mistrust. This led to a shift in patterns of communication, as well as locations of mobile vaccination clinics. The integration of input from COVID partners and listening session participants normalized the community's role in advising culturally competent operations. The IMT team responded to requests from partners to pivot on issues like including testing at vaccination sites and having partners host consistent mobile vaccination clinics.

Many of the issues raised and questions asked during listening session Q&A highlighted the lack of trust between communities most impacted by COVID inequities, local government and health care systems. LMPHW wants to continue to build power by engaging citizens in decision-making roles within workgroups, advisory boards, and programs.

Community partners included: Action for the People/Black Lives Matter, Black Counseling and Consulting Collective, Change Today-Change Tomorrow, CIVITAS LGBTQ+ Chamber of Commerce, Feed Louisville, Hip Hop N2Learning, Interfaith Pathways to Peace, La Casita Center, Louisville Chapter NAACP, Louisville Chapter NAACP – Youth Council, Louisville Parent Teacher Organization, Louisville Recovery Community Connection, Louisville Urban League, Louisville Youth Group, MOLO Village, Neighborhood House-Portland, Nicole 50/50 Mentoring Group, Play Cousins Collective, Queer Kentucky, Smoketown Family Wellness Center, South Louisville Community Ministries, Story Spaces Incubator, The Hope Buss, West Louisville Urban Coalition, Vision of Life, and Zora's Cradle.

Publications in July 2021 – June 2022

This past year also saw many publications ranging from technical reports to peer-reviewed journals and conference abstracts. You can find the LMPHW team members and student interns names that were involved in these publications bolded below.

Journals:

Dankwa EA, Donnelly CA, Brouwer AF, **Zhao R**, Montgomery MP, Weng MK, and Martin NK. "[Estimating vaccination threshold and impact in the 2017-2019 hepatitis A virus outbreak among persons experiencing](#)

[homelessness or who use drugs in Louisville, Kentucky, United States.](#)" Vaccine. 2021; 39(49): 7182 - 7190. DOI: 10.1016/j.vaccine.2021.10.001. December 3, 2021.

LMPHW/**Taylor Ingram** Consulting: Weber SB and Penn M. "[Public Health Strategies: A Pathway for Public Health Practice to Leverage Law in Advancing Equity.](#)" Journal of Public Health Management and Practice. 2022; 28: p S27 – S37. DOI: 10.1097/PHH.0000000000001444. January/February 2022.

Peiper NC, Shamblen S, Gilbertson A, Guest G, **Kopp M**, Guy L, Rose MR. "[Acceptability of a HIV self-testing program among people who use illicit drugs.](#)" International Journal of Drug Policy. 2022; 103: 103613. DOI: 10.1016/j.drugpo.2022.103613. Epub March 4, 2022

Reviews:

DuPre NC, **Karimi SM**, McKinney WP, Mitra R, Vu GT, Shakib S, and Little B. "[A Review of the Article: Guerra and Guerra \(2021\), "Mask mandate and use efficacy for COVID-19 containment in the U.S. States," published by International Research Journal of Public Health.](#) DOI: [10.28933/irjph-2021-08-1005.](#)" September 15, 2021.

Reports:

Karimi SM, Zarei H, **McGeeney D**, Patel N, Gunaratnam B, Vu GT, McKinney WP, Little B, DuPre NC, Mitra R, Khan SM, **Chen YT**, **Oeth C**, **Hollenbach R**, and **Moyer S**. "[Projecting COVID-19 Hospitalizations in Jefferson County, Kentucky, Based upon the Update of Vaccination in 5 – 11 year olds.](#)" Technical Report for Center for Health Equity, Louisville Metro Department of Public Health and Wellness (LMPHW). December 7, 2021.

Payne D, **Bowman-Rogers A**, **Oeth C**, **Bolinger J**, **Carter M**, **Gaither E**, **Graham A**, **Allen T**, **Bensman E**, **Leslie M**, and **Hollenbach R**. "[Health Impact Assessment \(HIA\) to review impacts of potential changes to Kentucky's Affordable Housing Tax Credit.](#)" Technical Report for the Center for Health Equity, Louisville Metro Department of Public Health and Wellness (LMPHW). February 2, 2022.

Abstracts/poster presentations:

Creating a bridge strategic plan to strengthen the public health workforce, public health improvement training (PHIT, 2022) **Emily Divino**, MPH; **Sarah Moyer**, MD, MP; **T Gonzales**, MSW

Creating a student-centered public health practice experience with your area health department (KPHA, 2022) Tammi Thomas, PhD and **Linda Omer**, PhD

Listening to communities for improved covid response (KPHA, 2022) **Deborah Payne**, MPH and **Leanne French**, MS

Qualitative Assessment of Prenatal Care and Prenatal Care Access in Louisville / Jefferson County (KPHA, 2022) **Trey Allen**, PhD; **Oluwatomisin A. Ogungbenle**, MS; **Michele Ledbetter**, MPH

Using QI and Electronic Health Record to connect with community partners to address disparities in Infant

Mortality (APA, 2022) Matt Kinney, MD; **Mary J Jolly**, MSW, CLC; **Lindsay Bilyeu**, BSN, RN, CLC
[Factors associated to cervical cancer for women with and without disabilities in Kentucky](#) (APHA, 2021)
Carolyn Akakpo, PhD

Challenges to local urban and rural smoke-free laws: cigar bar exemption case study (NCTOH, 2022) Amanda J Bucher, BA; Shannon Baker, BA; **Rebecca Hollenbach**, MPH; Tracy Aaron, BA, CHES; Ellen J Hahn, PhD.

Tobacco Industry Tactics: Cigar Bar Amendment Attempts in Kentucky (Kentucky Tobacco Control Conference, 2022) **Rebecca Hollenbach**, MPH; Onjewel Smith, MS; Wynona Padgett; Timothy Mullet, MD

AHD STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE

In 2021, the AHD worked with LMPHW staff to develop an AHD strategic plan that would build more support into the AHD, especially in its role to formalize LMPHW's participation in public health research and student participation. Our vision is to see public health practitioners are equipped with health equity knowledge and expertise to ensure every community thrives, and our mission is to develop relationships and create infrastructure for students and public health professionals to learn, understand their communities, implement innovate practices, and contribute to the expansion of the field of health equity.

Most of our progress this past year has been around our 4th theme: increasing the capacity of the AHD. Since inception, the AHD has created a more streamlined process for student engagement and research. To expand capacity and work more effectively, the AHD needs to create a structure for staffing, reporting and communications, and documentation and data collection that will allow us to organize and plan projects, schedule work, and share ideas and succession plans. We can then allocate resources effectively, manage change, build a knowledge base, and learn from the process. Engaging in these practices can become standard and a resource for input/output of ideas, projects, and research to produce information for dissemination through multiple venues including social media, journal publications, and community newsletters. Some of our goals met include hiring more AHD staff, documenting the overall process, including roles and responsibilities at each step, for student recruitment, onboarding, and completion, and

developing an internal communications plan around what to expect annually from the AHD.

There have been many challenges in completing more of our goals and some of this has been addressed by rewriting a few of the goals and tasks related to them. This includes our 1st theme that focuses on building institutional relationships through the utilization of a research agenda. One of our priorities over the next year will be working on developing a process for creating a research agenda to help streamline research projects. The agenda will be useful for determining the focus of LMPHW's research lens, considering that the agenda will include defining key stakeholders including universities, agencies, community organizations, and community members focused on a shared vision of equity, leading to a more effective collective impact.

We also expect advancement in our 2nd theme that centers preparation and development of a public health workforce to have an equity lens. The goals related to this theme incorporate improving the public health and health equity competencies of both students and the staff that supervise them and developing an evaluation tool to assess the high-quality engagement between staff and students. This will be done in partnership with the Equity Infrastructure team who will also be building a set of health equity competencies and training courses. If you have any interest on working our team on the AHD strategic plan or have any ideas to share, email Linda Omer (linda.omer@louisvilleky.gov).

AHD STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE

Public Health digital library (PHDL)

LMPHW still maintains a subscription to the PHDL. The PHDL is funded by the National Library of Medicine and overseen by the National Public Health Coordination Office. The PHDL provides state and city public health departments access to library resources including over 340 journals (articles), 75 e-books, and 150 databases in support of evidence-based practice and research. This will allow LMPHW staff to find timely evidence-based research in support of public health practice and learn how to create Policy Maps. They also offer many [training courses](#) from ones that contribute to continuing education credits for nurses to learning how to standardize data collection and sharing. You can find details on creating an account [here](#). For regular updates, visit the [PHDL blog](#) and subscribe to their newsletter. For any questions or thoughts on the PHDL, email Linda Omer (linda.omer@louisvilleky.gov).

Abstract Submission Process

Do you have work from the past year that you want to share with a national audience? As the Academic Health Department expands its capacity, we're creating structures for reporting and communication as well as documentation and organization of processes related to both student engagement and research. When our staff and students have been working on research/projects, it's important we allocate resources effectively and build a knowledge base on best practices for sharing our output from projects and research. One avenue we can utilize to disseminate the information includes presentation at health conferences.

We've developed directions on the process for an abstract submission for conferences. Please note, it is important that an approval by the SDT is given before submitting. This is to ensure that 1) the abstract aligns with LMPHW's departmental mission and vision, 2) LMPHW can provide support (mainly funds for travel expenses and registration) for attendance, and 3) the AHD can maintain output of sharing our research and utilize the information to evaluate our rate of submission.

- I. Consider some of the successes, innovation, and lessons learned from your work over the past year
 - A. Discuss your intentions to submit an abstract with your supervisor
 - B. Email linda.omer@louisvilleky.gov and t.gonzales@louisvilleky.gov that you intend to submit an abstract
- II. Draft your abstract and share it with your supervisor
 - A. Send to senior leadership of your division/program
 - B. They will share abstract with Dr. Omer and T no later than one week prior to due date
- III. Abstracts from across the department will be reviewed and approved/declined for submission by the Senior Director's Team
- IV. Incorporate recommendations and edits and submit by deadline
- V. Forward conference response** to supervisor and Dr. Omer

***Whether your abstract is accepted for presentation or not, please send the conference response*