



Harm Reduction Program in Camden

Student Intern:

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Academic Preceptors:

Dr. Rosanna Eang, DO, Cooper University Health Care
Dr. Mara Gordon, MD, Cooper University Health Care
Dr. Anthony Rostain, MD, Cooper University Health Care

Community Preceptors:

Ms. Martha Chavis, CEO/President, Camden Area Health Education Center
Ms. Joye Rozier, Chief Program Officer, Camden Area Health Education Center

COMMUNITY PARTNER

Camden Area Health Education Center (AHEC) is a community based organization in Camden, NJ.

Mission: "Improving community health through education, advocacy, and partnership"

Vision: "Healthy futures for all people"

Website: <http://www.camden-ahec.org/>

TEAM'S EXPERIENCE

- Syringe Access Program (SAP) – distributed clean needles as well as other harm reduction supplies such as Narcan, sharps containers, and various wound care materials
- Oral health - provided oral health education, flyers, and supplies to the participants of the SAP program
- Community Health Workers - learned to be an advocate of CHWs as a physician and brainstormed ways in which CHWs can be utilized to address various health disparities that exist in Camden
- Community scavenger hunt – participated in an assets assessment of various Camden neighborhoods

BACKGROUND

AHEC uses a holistic approach to recognize the impact lifestyle, environment, economic status, and access to care has on health. The organization provides services to youth, families and seniors. Health education services are provided on-site and on the mobile van at various sites throughout the area. The services reach over 10,000 individuals a year and include Rapid HIV and STI screening and treatment, syringe access, and community wellness programming.



REFLECTION

"I have learned numerous lessons from this experience that will shape the rest of my time as a medical student and as a future physician. I have seen the significance of integrating myself into the community that I serve while simultaneously having the humility to recognize that I need to rely on the expertise of others who can do what I may not be able to. I have seen the value of doing something as simple as a walkthrough of the neighborhoods in which my patients reside and the power of a small ten minute conversation to build a connection. I am grateful to have witnessed the strengths of this city and the sense of community that it possesses. I leave this summer with a greater pride in the city that I am in, hopefulness for the work that is being done, and an aspiration to contribute to the betterment of this city and its people."