

Bridging the Gaps



DREXEL UNIVERSITY
College of
Medicine

Pediatric Navigation - Bridging the Gaps in Primary Care and Patient Education

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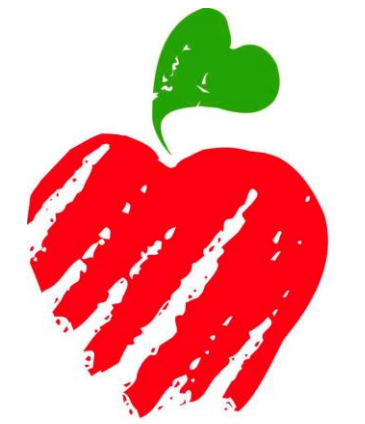
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Community Preceptors: Renee Kottenhahn, MD, St. Christopher's Hospital for Children
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BACKGROUND

Community Partner:

The Center for the Urban Child (CUC) is an expansive outpatient facility at St. Christopher's Hospital for Children in North Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, that cares primarily for Medicaid eligible children from birth to 21 years old. Many families face complex challenges due to financial, social, educational, and cultural barriers. [St. Christopher's Hospital CUC](#)



Navigator Background:

After a requisite year of training as Pediatric Navigators through Drexel University College of Medicine's Health Advocacy Practicum, BTG interns are equipped to support multidisciplinary team in advocacy initiatives. As advocates for patients, navigators support resident physicians by identifying social needs (e.g. food or housing insecurity, behavioral health) early in the visit and can rapidly connect patients to community resources and/or the clinic's free medicolegal partnership or social work as needed. Navigators use medical interpreters if needed and are also trained to discuss topics such as early literacy (Reach Out and Read Program), oral health, asthma counseling, and gun safety (American Academy of Pediatrics' SAFER training) with pediatric patients and their families.

Bridging the Gaps Assignment:

Aside from clinic, BTG interns refine and expand existing resources available to patients within the clinic. Interns focused on physical health resources to address the rise in obesity seen after the COVID-19 pandemic. The information compiled from websites, social media, e-mail communication, and site visits, were used to make tools that aid families in overcoming access barriers. Additionally, interns supported gun safety initiatives by refining existing gun safety screening tools based on patient feedback.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Compiled a spreadsheet of local physical activity resources that clinicians can consult and continually update
- Supported expansion of [Cap4Kids.org](#) (The Children's Advocacy Project - an open-access repository of up-to-date resources for parents and professionals) with physical health resources in North Philadelphia
- Created flyers (to the right) to help parents register for local fitness centers (e.g. Philadelphia Parks and Recreation Summer Camps, YMCAs, Salvation Army Kroc Center)
- Helped to promote the American Academy of Pediatrics' SAFER training, which focuses on firearm injury prevention in clinic settings with emphasis on safe gun storage
- Screened over 80 families regarding gun safety and distributed 30 free gun locks

Salvation Army - Kroc Center

1. Sign up in person
2. FREE membership if you bring your Health Partners insurance card
3. Apply for lower membership fees. Bring first page of tax return OR one month of pay stubs
4. No interpretation services for non-English speakers



YMCA - Multiple Locations

1. Sign up in person or online (In person recommended)
2. FREE / low cost membership with Health Partners or Keystone First insurance
3. FREE 1 year membership to 7th graders. Go in with parent and bring class roster or report card
4. Apply for lower membership fees. Bring first page of tax return AND one month of pay stubs
5. No interpretation services for non-English speakers



How to Register for Recreation Center Summer Day Camps

Ages 6-12



Sign-up hours will vary at each Philadelphia location
Please contact your local recreation center for more information.

1. Sign-ups for day camps begin in late February.
2. Registration is first come, first serve.
3. Low cost option (using low cost form) is available but not guaranteed.
4. Registration form (and low cost form if applicable) need to be given in person at the recreation center.
5. Non-English speakers can bring a language access card to the recreation center or request use of the language access line over the phone.



Registration



Low Cost Form

REFLECTION

As Pediatric Navigators from September 2022 through July 2023, we gained a deeper appreciation for the multidisciplinary nature of caring for patients, including the work of legal aid, social work, and community health workers. We gained greater confidence in our skills to rapidly adapt to conversations about difficult topics, to develop patient rapport to uncover unmet social needs, and to thoughtfully provide access to resources. We also learned to be more cognizant of language barriers, readability, and technological challenges. Our experiences as Pediatric Navigators will make us better physicians that are aware of the social influences of health and better advocates to address needs appropriately.