



**KENT COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT
ACADEMIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT
PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

PROJECT NAME: Suicide Prevention Strategic Plan Development

SEMESTER: Spring/Summer 2019

PRECEPTOR: Barbara Hawkins Palmer

DESCRIPTION: The Healthy Kent Suicide Prevention Coalition (HKSPC) has been active in the community since 2007 working in collaboration to decrease the rate of suicides in Kent County. The HKSPC is made up of 20 organizations and individuals working to reduce suicide attempts and deaths by suicide. The HKSPC has a 5-year Prevention Plan for Kent County that is needing to be updated and revised. The student intern will work with a subcommittee from the HKSPC on updating the Prevention Plan. This will include setting up meetings, preparing meeting materials, reviewing/investigating other suicide prevention plans, analyzing suicide data, collecting program data, etc. In addition, the student intern will assist in the establishment of a Suicide Fatality Review process for Kent County. The HKSPC has a proposal and committee to assist with implementation.

IMPORTANCE TO PUBLIC HEALTH: The economic and human cost of suicidal behavior to individuals, families, communities and society makes suicide a serious public health problem around the world. In the US, suicide is the 10th leading cause of death and in Kent County, suicide is the second leading cause of death amongst 10-14 year old's, high school and college students. The number (53-89) and rate (8.79 to 13.72) of suicides has increased significantly in Kent County between 2010 and 2017. In both the 2014 and 2017 Kent County Community Health Needs Assessments, the greatest community health priority was mental health.

APPLICABLE ESSENTIAL PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES:

- Monitor health status
- Inform, educate, and empower
- Mobilize community partnerships
- Develop policies and plans
- Link people to health services
- Assure a competent workforce
- Evaluate effectiveness

PROJECT DELIVERABLES:

- A completed Suicide Prevention Plan for Kent County.
- A completed suicide prevention logic model for the HKSPC.
- A distribution strategy for the Prevention Plan.
- An assessment of readiness of the Kent County Health Department (KCHD) to implement a Suicide Fatality Review process.
- Present a 15 minute presentation on the Intern Project during Student Research Day at KCHD.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS: Students applying for this internship must have a high school diploma or be enrolled in a bachelor's or master's degree program. Computer proficiency and experience with public speaking and group facilitation is preferred.

SKILLS: The student selected for this internship opportunity should expect to develop public health skills and competencies in the following categories:

- Public speaking
- Plan development
- Data analysis
- Coalition building and collaboration