

The Connection Community Consultants Group Projects 2015-2016 Academic Year

Non-Profit Governance and Structure: Updating Board Bylaws

Organization: [The National Alliance of Mental Illness Metropolitan Baltimore](#)

Description: Over the past 2 years, NAMI has grown leaps and bounds with staff reorganization, board development, and strategic planning. They were in need of a dynamic board structure and updated bylaws to better meet the needs of the organization and the families they serve. By working with the Executive Director, the team helped to professionalize their Board of Directors by addressing organizational role definitions, term limits, nominating and election processes, membership, and organization safeguards. The group presented their findings to the Board of Directors at the end of the project.

Final product: E- version of the NAMI-MB updated bylaws, and a final presentation to the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors

Team members: 1 MPH/JD student, 1 MPH student, 3 JHSPH students

Critical Evaluation of Grant Writing Process at Back on My Feet Baltimore

Organization: [Back on My Feet Baltimore.](#)

Description: Back on My Feet Baltimore needed help critically evaluating their current grant writing process. The students learned about the organization and what it's tried in the past, and developed a sustainable infrastructure to streamline their grant application process. Researching best practices through literature reviews, the consultants compiled a final report with suggestions as well as a number of documents to guide future data collection and ease the burden of applications.

Final product: Report outlining best practices and suggestions for improvement for an effective non-profit grant writing system

Team members: 3 JHSPH students, 1 MPH student

Individual Donor Fundraising Kit Development and Best Practices Research

Organization: [Baltimore Student Harm Reduction Coalition](#)

Description: BSHRC seeks to move away from foundation funding and reached out to SOURCE for student help in researching best practices to transition to individual donor bases. After learning more about the process, the consultants worked with the Executive Director to refine the mission statement, highlight key organizational values, and gather relevant statistics to present to potential donors and communicate what BSHRC is all about.

Final product: Electronic fundraising kit including a brief report on best practices in diversifying nonprofit funding sources as well as a presentation/packet for potential new donors

Team members: 3 MPH students, 1 JHSPH student

Process Development: Centralizing Communication at Gwynns Falls Leakin Park

Organization: [Baltimore City Department of Recreation and Parks](#)

Description: Gwynns Falls Leakin Park covers over 1,000 acres and forms the most extensive park system in Baltimore City. Inside the park, a variety of organizations operate including Outward Bound, the Carrie Murray Nature Center, and various recreation centers. All partners have various events and programs conducted throughout the year, but there is no central collection system that consolidates schedules in one place for the community. The consultant group worked with the Department of Recreation and Parks to evaluate their organization and determine the best data collection approach, design the process, and create a template for future staff and volunteers to populate with event information. They also compiled demographic data on surrounding neighborhoods to be used for future outreach.

Final product: A repeatable data collection system to better communicate what the park can offer the surrounding community

Team members: 2 MPH students, 3 JHSPH students

Conflict Resolution Training Module for Baltimore's Homeless Population

Organization: [Project PLASE](#)

Description: Clients seeking help at Project PLASE often encounter conflict in their everyday lives but lack the appropriate skills to handle these situations. Project PLASE received help from student consultants to develop a conflict resolution training module to be used at client workshops. The project included focus groups with clients to learn about the challenges they face, working with the Executive Director to learn more about conflict resolution and mediation, and creating an informational presentation including video segments, self-assessment questions, and group role-play exercises.

Final product: Informational presentation and individual reflections about the focus group process.

Team members: 4 JHSPH students, 2 MPH students

Curriculum Development for High School Health Disparities Course

Organization: [MERIT Baltimore](#)

Description: Working with the MERIT Program Director, the student team developed an 8-lesson curriculum framework for a health disparities class to be taught in January 2016. They brainstormed lesson ideas, such as Diabetes and Access to Healthy Foods or Asthma and Environmental Exposures, and developed lesson plans to go along with each topic, including ideas for engaging exercises and appropriate reading and media resources.

Final product: Curriculum handbook for the Integrated Health Disparities course, with 8 lesson plans spanning various health topics, as well as PowerPoint presentations for each lesson

Team members: 4 JHSPH students

Community Needs Assessment

Organization: [The Door, Inc.](#)

Description: Generation E4 Afterschool and Summer programs provide math and science support in addition to life-skills, violence/substance abuse prevention instruction during the school year and summer for [Title I students](#). Student consultants helped the staff at The Door designing a focus group process to assess whether they are meeting both the needs and expectations of program participants and parents. Consultants learned about focus group research methodology and qualitative data collection, developing discussion guides, conducting focus groups, and performing preliminary analysis on qualitative data collected.

Final product: Brief report summarizing focus group methodology and qualitative data collection/analysis and preliminary data analysis report identifying areas of highest need as a result of focus group participation

Team members: 4 JHSPH students, 1 MPH student, 1 SOM student

Strategic Plan for Neighborhood-Based Child Welfare Interventions

Organization: [Baltimore City Department of Social Services](#)

Description: Student consultants worked with the Assistant Director of the department to transform their Child Protection service program from “reactive” to “proactive” using ArcGIS software. They cleaned and analyzed 2015 neighborhood-level trends in child abuse and neglect allegation, and summarized their findings for BCDSS. Future work will build on these results to develop strategic plans for high priority neighborhoods and provide relevant interventions, such as parenting classes and Head Start programs.

Final product: A final report summarizing the data analysis of Child Protection Service data and next steps for the project.

Team members: 2 JHSPH students, 2 MPH student

Survey Development and Implementation: Meeting the Needs of Hot Lunch Program Participants

Organization: [Franciscan Center, Inc.](#)

Description: The Franciscan Center serves as a one-stop shop for families and individuals in crisis throughout Baltimore. They provide a hot lunch dining program open to anyone who is hungry, serving anywhere from 350 to 650 people daily. While the Center keeps a gross count of meals served in their Hot Lunch Program, they do not collect any registration demographic information. The staff at the Center wanted to know more about who these participants are in order to direct their funding to related programs in the future. The consultant team designed and implemented a survey with the goal of providing this insight for future programming. They conducted research into survey development for populations, observed the dining program, and distributed the surveys. Other staff and volunteers at the Center will input the data and analyze it. The team also presented and won a Service Poster Competition about their project.

Final product: A final report outlining the survey development process, recommendations for data entry and preliminary analysis, and the final survey tool developed

Team members: 2 JHSPH students, 2 MPH student