

# The Connection Community Consultants Group Projects 2016-2017 Academic Year

## Housing for Adults with Disabilities

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

**Description:** Students provided assessment on the current state of housing for adults with disabilities in Baltimore City and County. Research was needed on housing resources, policies, and best practices for adults with disabilities (particularly mental illness and/or substance use disorders). This information guided the NAMI Metro Baltimore board as they consider the role that the organization will play addressing this problem as they fine tune their strategic framework for next year.

**Final product:** Literature and program review of current programs & policies that exist in and around Baltimore presented as a written report and 15-minute presentation to board members.

**Team members:** 5 JHSPH students

## Accreditation for Martha's Place

**Organization:** [Martha's Place](#)

**Description:** For 16 years, Martha's Place has provided recovery support and transitional housing services offering both six-month transitional housing, as well as long-term Single Room Occupancy (SRO) housing for neighborhoods in the Sandtown-Winchester and surrounding communities. However, the state recently required that organizations which provide therapeutic, residential, and care services (like Martha's Place) have accreditation. Students worked with the Program Director to understand the parameters of these new requirements, which accreditation process best suits Martha's Place, and update and develop policies and procedures needed for accreditation.

**Final product:** Developed a Process Plan & Policy and an Accreditation Timeline for recommended accreditation through CARF International.

**Team members:** 5 JHSPH students

## **MERIT Health Leadership Academy: Scholar Needs Literature Review**

**Organization:** [MERIT Baltimore](#)

**Description:** MERIT looked to transform its practices into a data driven, needs based program to assess best practices for Baltimore area students. MERIT provided the community consultants with a research topic template and literature review presentation format to guide their work. The community consultants conducted research on these topics via scholarly journal and program evaluation review, summarizing key concepts and highlighting important research statistics, including all citations.

**Final product:** Literature review identifying the best programming practices for MERIT focusing on areas such as mentoring, family engagement, and student STEM & healthcare achievement.

**Team members:** 1 MD student, 1 MSN-MEN student, 2 JHSPH students

## **Moveable Feast Client Satisfaction Survey Revision**

**Organization:** [Moveable Feast](#)

**Description:** Moveable Feast was looking to redesign its client satisfaction survey to assess how well the organization is achieving its mission in relation to improving community health and quality of life. Its past 4-page paper survey had been developed organically. As a result, Moveable Feast was interested in strategically redeveloping its survey to create a better tool to judge the impact of Moveable Feast on the 800 clients in its meal delivery program.

**Final product:** Revitalized client satisfaction focusing on the home delivered meal project's effectiveness considering quality of service, nutrition, and overall satisfaction.

**Team members:** 1 MPH/MBA student, 5 JHSPH students

## Every Kid Needs a Village: Building a Community School Around Each Student

**Organization:** [Commodore John Rodgers](#)

**Description:** Commodore John Rodgers School is constantly seeking new opportunities for both programs and outside funding to strengthen the school community. As a result, Commodore was in need of a strong grant template focusing on student wellness and family engagement that can be used to continue identifying and applying for funding opportunities to help sustain Commodore John Rodgers Elementary/Middle School as a community school.

**Final product:** Flexible grant template tailored to Commodore's unique history that can be used in the future to apply to a multitude of funding opportunities.

**Team members:** 4 JHSPH students

## Texting for Chronic Disease Management

**Organization:** [Baltimore City Health Department - Office of Chronic Disease Prevention](#)

**Description:** The Office of Chronic Disease Prevention was exploring the feasibility of improving chronic disease management through a texting intervention in several programs focused on asthma, pre-diabetes, and cardiovascular disease. They were interested in addressing whether texting as a public health application is effective in improving chronic disease management, and, if so, what is the best framework to conduct such an intervention. Specifically, they wanted to know what the best practices are, what type of information is best disseminated via text, what similar programs already exist, and how to begin to develop a texting intervention.

**Final product:** Literature review aimed at developing recommendations and a framework for initiating a texting intervention for chronic disease management.

**Team members:** 4 JHSPH students

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## Defining Environmental Literacy in Baltimore

**Organization:** [Parks & People Foundation](#)

**Description:** A key goal of Parks & People Foundation (PPF) is to be a leader in Baltimore of providing programs that improve the environmental literacy of elementary, middle, and high school students by ensuring that all youth programs have an outdoor component that takes place on our campus or in local parks. Environmental literacy is a term that is loosely defined, both within PPF and in organizations across the country. PPF was looking for consultants to review and compile relevant research on environmental literacy and to identify key methods of measuring environmental literacy. Information gathered in this project allowed PPF staff to create metrics for measuring the impact of their programs through research tested methods in the future.

**Final product:** A final literature review of relevant literature, research, and program models on environmental literacy to help Parks & People Foundation identify key methods and criteria for measuring the impact of their programs on environmental literacy among elementary, middle, and high school students.

**Team members:** 2 JHSPH students

## Strength to Love 2 Fundraising Initiative

**Organization:** [S2L2/Intersection of Change](#)

**Description:** Recently, Intersection of Change (IOC) added an organization called Strength to Love 2 (S2L2), one of the largest urban farm initiatives serving ex-offenders returning to the West Baltimore community. They were in need of students to help develop fundraising strategies for S2L2 that includes potential event ideas, resources, and steps to guide the group. Students will speak to other fundraising committees within IOC as well as other Baltimore area farms to learn about similar initiatives for funding.

**Final product:** A strategic fundraising report that could be developed into an annual fundraising event for S2L2.

**Team members:** 4 JHSPH students

## **Policies and Procedures for Franciscan Center Programs**

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

**Description:** The Franciscan Center serves as a one-stop shop for families and individuals in crisis throughout Baltimore. The Franciscan Center has grown substantially as an organization and therefore seeks to develop formal policies and procedures for its services. Students developed administrative guidelines for the food services branch of the Franciscan Center, specifically for the kitchen and emergency food pantry. The ultimate goal of the project was to create an internal document that gave consistency to the organization's activities for guests to maintain its services and mission.

**Final product:** Two final reports outlining the policies and procedures for the kitchen and emergency food pantry.

**Team members:** 5 JHSPH students

## **Southeast Youth Collaborative Professional Development**

**Organization:** [SEYC/Living Classrooms Foundation](#)

**Description:** The Southeast Youth Collaborative (SEYC), with Living Classrooms, is made up of community organizations in Southeast Baltimore who value developing youth leaders as well as strengthening the community through connecting members of all ages to provide training around job and college readiness. As a response to the 2015 Baltimore uprising, SEYC created a 5-week long summer program for high schoolers to reengage in the community and learn applicable lifelong career skills. SEYC was seeking a team to research best practices to employ for community engagement, specifically in the areas of professional development, conflict resolution, and cultural identity. Consultants reached out to partner organizations and integrate their findings to develop a summer program calendar.

**Final product:** Develop best practices for career development and engagement that includes a Professional Development Calendar and Red-Day Toolkit for the summer program.

**Team members:** 5 JHSPH students