

The Connection Community Consultants Projects 2018-2019 Academic Year

Feasibility Analysis of Community-Based Organizations Becoming Designated Medicaid Service Providers

Organization: [Green & Healthy Homes Initiative](#)

Description: The Green & Healthy Homes Initiative (GHHI) has created innovative programs to improve the delivery of services and ensure the efficient use of resources to reduce lead poisoning (in Maryland by 98%), asthma and injury in low income housing while improving energy efficiency. GHHI continues its mission to end lead poisoning while continuing to look at housing as an integral factor in the health of families and communities.

GHHI currently provides home assessments, case management, and home interventions to low-income families through local, state, federal, and foundation grants. While many of these services are eligible for reimbursement through Medicaid in Maryland, GHHI has not yet explored the possibility of becoming a Medicaid provider. Becoming a Medicaid provider would provide a more sustainable source of funding. The consultants explored if and how GHHI could become a Medicaid provider in Maryland and what service(s) would be covered.

Final product: The final deliverable was a presentation of the findings from the feasibility analysis.

Team members: 4 JHSPH students, 1 JHSPH staff

Impact of Child Life Programs or On-Site Child Care in Outpatient Settings

Organization: [Health Care for the Homeless](#)

Description: Health Care for the Homeless is a non-profit organization that works to prevent and end homelessness for vulnerable individuals and families by providing quality, integrated health care and promoting access to affordable housing and sustainable incomes through direct service, advocacy and community engagement.

Health Care for the Homeless (HCH) wanted to evaluate the impact of their Child Life Programs and on-site child care in decreasing stress with clients (children and parents) and staff during outpatient medical visits. The consultants completed a literature review on the effectiveness of child life/child care programs in decreasing stress during medical visits. In addition, the

consultants researched whether other HCH clinics provide child life/child care at their centers.

Final product: The final deliverable was a document summarizing the results of the literature review. In addition, the consultants will create a table identifying HCH programs that have a child life/child care component.

Team members: 4 JHSPH students, 1 JHSPH staff

Updating the Next Course Training Program Policies and Procedures Manual

Organization: [KidzTable](#)

Description: KidzTable is a social enterprise seeking to change the way children and seniors eat by providing 6,000 fresh, nutritious meals daily to children in schools, pre-schools, shelters, adult daycares and summer camps throughout the greater Baltimore region. KidzTable also provide Next Course, a 12-week, full-time, intensive food service training course that combines classroom instruction with hands-on experience in the production kitchen, ServSafe certification, soft skills training, and job placement.

KidzTable needed to update the Next Course Program Policies and Procedures Manual to better reflect the current operations and structure of the program. Next Course provides food service training, kitchen experience, certification, soft skills trainings, and job placement.

Final product: The final deliverable was a complete and updated Next Course Program Policies and Procedures Manual.

Team members: 3 JHSPH students, 1 JHSPH faculty

Evaluating the Efficacy of Educational Pipeline Programs

Organization: [MERIT Health Leadership Academy](#)

Description: The MERIT Health Leadership Academy is a comprehensive academic and career mentorship program supporting Baltimore high school students who aspire to careers in medicine. MERIT scholars take advanced academic classes, work in hospitals and labs during paid summer internships, and receive long-term college and career mentorship.

MERIT wanted research on evidence-based best and promising practices, nationally and globally, to support the development of MERIT's health career pipeline program. The

consultants completed a literature review and report to inform MERIT's strategic planning process as they make intentional plans for their future.

Final product: The final deliverable was a concise, comprehensive report summarizing research findings, including successes, challenges, and recommendations.

Team members: 4 JHSPH students

Strategic Planning for Shared-Space Community-Serving Makerspace at Henderson Hopkins

Organization: [Bmore4Kidz](#)

Description: Bmore4Kidz provides a safe, nurturing and creative makerspace environment in the community to encourage children to learn and create while engaging their families. Bmore4Kidz currently provides STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts & math) makers programs to 3rd - 5th grade students at Henderson Hopkins Elementary School, blocks from the JHU East Baltimore campus.

Bmore4Kidz is seeking to expand their afterschool program to include a shared-space community-serving makerspace at Henderson Hopkins Elementary School. The Connection Community Consultants helped Bmore4Kidz with this discovery phase by developing a strategic plan. The consultants synthesized existing research to develop a report on best practices and sustainability. The consultants also developed several surveys, geared for different stakeholders, to assess the demand and needs for the community makerspace.

Final product: The final deliverable was a strategic planning report on best practices and sustainability of a community-serving makerspace at Henderson Hopkins. Consultants also developed several surveys to assess the demand for services of various community stakeholders.

Team members: 4 JHSPH students

The Gateway Project Curriculum Editing & Design Project

Organization: [House of Ruth Maryland](#)

Description: The House of Ruth Maryland leads the fight to end violence against women and their children by confronting the attitudes, behaviors and systems that perpetuate it, and by

providing victims with the services necessary to rebuild their lives safely and free of fear. House of Ruth Maryland's Training Institute provides community education, training, consultation and technical assistance to professionals and the community at large on intimate partner violence (IPV) and issues related to IPV. The Gateway Project is an intervention program for individuals who have been abusive toward an intimate partner.

With previous support from SOURCE, House of Ruth Maryland recently developed a new training curriculum, which will be shared nationally this summer to other agencies. The Connection Community Consultant completed an extensive edit of the newly-created curriculum for grammar, consistency, and clarity to create a finalized professional curriculum using literacy and adult learning best practices.

Final product: The final deliverable was a completed professional curriculum that is ready to distribute.

Team members: 2 JHSPH students, 1 MPH/MBA student, and 1 JHSOM student

Creating a National Healthy Housing Toolbox

Organization: [Green & Healthy Homes Initiative](#)

Description: The mission of Green & Healthy Homes Initiative (GHHI) is to break the link between unhealthy housing and unhealthy families by creating and advocating for healthy, safe and energy efficient homes. GHHI provides healthy housing repair and interventions to Baltimore residents and provides policy and guidance to the state of Maryland. GHHI is also a national organization providing technical assistance and innovative financing guidance to over 30 cities nationwide.

GHHI is in the process of developing an online Healthy Housing Toolbox to be used nationally. The Connection Community Consultant helped GHHI gather, edit, research, and develop content related to GHHI's history.

Final product: The final deliverable was a completed section of the toolbox, a timeline of GHHI for the "The Baltimore Story," ready for the GHHI Communications team to post online.

Team members: 1 JHSPH student