

# Interdisciplinary Community Health Promotions Course

Indiana University School of Medicine  
Department of Public Health

Mary A. Frazier, MD, MPH  
Visiting Associate Professor

## **Course Description:**

- The Indiana University School of Medicine Department of Public Health in collaboration with the Indiana University School of Social Work developed and offered a new course to foster interdisciplinary community health promotion training among health professionals. This applied community health promotion course required partnership between graduate MPH students, graduate Social Work students, community members, and public health agencies, such as local health departments.

# Course Partners

- **Academia**
  - Indiana University School of Social Work
  - Indiana University School of Medicine Department of Public Health
  - Indiana Health Education Centers
- **Healthcare Professionals**
  - Marion County Health Department (MCHD)
- **Community**
  - Minority Health Coalition of Marion County
    - Baby First Advocates
  - African Community International Center
    - African Immigrants Health Access Program
  - MCHD Stamp Out Syphilis Coalition
    - Seniors Subcommittee
  - MCHD Maternal and Child Health Division/New Beginnings/Healthy Start Consumer Council

## **Student Learning Objectives:**

- Understand and identify the importance of context to health outcomes
- Understand and differentiate the following concepts: neighborhood and community; population and community; needs assessment and community assessment
- Define key concepts in community, including sense of community, community capacity, and empowerment
- Describe and utilize methods of primary data collection for community health analysis and service acquisition
- Identify sources of secondary data to assist in the process of community health analysis and service acquisition
- Demonstrate application of community engagement principles
- Understand the ethical issues in community health analysis and apply relevant ethical decision making models
- Develop and demonstrate cultural competency skills and critical thinking in the application of these skills on micro, mezzo, and macro levels

# MPH Core Competencies

- A. Describe theories and measures used in population health models
- B. Analyze public health problems using ethical, cultural and historical frameworks and strategic thinking, evaluating their implications for public health practice
- C. Act in concert with personal, professional and community sense of values
- D. Critique ethical, social, cultural, political, economic, historical and legal dimensions of policies and programs which affect the health of diverse populations
- E. Describe environmental, social and biological determinants of health and disease and their political, economic and legal contexts
- F. Write proposal, reports, policies, or program guidelines and evaluations
- G. Make presentations in support of a particular public health proposal using demographic, statistical, programmatic and scientific information
- H. Create learning environments for program management, policy proposals or intervention strategies
- I. Serve as a member of culturally and professionally diverse teams working on local, regional, and national public health issues
- J. Understand appropriate uses and limitations of both quantitative and qualitative data, and make relevant inferences from such data
- K. Involve members of diverse communities in collaborations to identify and solve problems, facilitating search for common ground
- L. Advocate for public health programs and resources
- M. Use the media, advanced technologies and community networks to communicate information
- N. Create a shared vision among culturally and professionally diverse individuals and groups to achieve public health goals
- O. Participate in the process of coalition and partnership building

# MSW Core Competencies

- A. Integrate theories and models from the immersion, foundation and intermediate curricula with strategies and techniques of advanced community practice
- B. Understand the practice requirements for interventions with urban, rural, identity and virtual communities
- C. Critically analyze the dynamics and consequences of social and economic injustice including the patterns, dynamics, and consequences of discrimination, economic deprivation, and oppression for age, class, color, culture, disability, ethnicity, family structure, gender, marital status, national origin, race, religion, sex, and sexual orientation and the political, social, cultural, and economic factors
- D. Critically assess and utilize various community, organizational and political frameworks for identifying and acting upon the underlying causes of human degradation, powerlessness, and social inequality
- E. Demonstrate cultural competence for work with groups that have been traditionally marginalized on the basis of age, class, color, culture, disability, ethnicity, family structure, gender, marital status, national origin, race, religion, sex, and sexual orientation
- F. Use advanced skills from various models for planning, implementing and organizing political action interventions
- G. Demonstrate interpersonal and technical skills necessary for effective community building and organizing
- H. Intervene and advocate within the boundaries of ethical practice consistent with the values of the social work profession
- I. Recognize how local practice and intervention issues are a part of global contexts

## **Format of Course:**

- The course is designed for the student to synthesize discussions, readings, and applied activities from a variety of sources including community members, health professionals, community members, and students from both public health and social work disciplines. This is achieved through small group discussions, panel discussions, and fieldwork.

# Course Activities

- **Active Learning**: Immersion into Consumer Experiences such as service access, travel, cultural and linguist competency, cost, quality, etc.
- **Community-based Experiences**: African Immigrant Community, Latino Community, African American Community, Faith Based Community, and HIV Community, etc.
- **Outcomes**: Assessment of specific health and social services among Priority Population in Marion County grounded in the perspectives of diverse consumers. This includes assessment of community structure, residents, organizations, and associations, to determine health-related capacities, needs, and interest.
- **Panel Discussions**: Health Promotions Coalitions and Community Representatives
- **Community Presentation**: Consumer Services Immersion Experience Outcomes/Case Studies/Action Plans

# Evaluation Methods: Students

Satisfactory performance of the following activities

- Student professional participation
- Self-reflective journaling assessments
- Pre-engagement community assessment
- Community engagement and health assessment
- Design collaborative culturally competent health promotion action plan

# Evaluation Methods: Course

- Focus group interviews among enrolled students
  - Pre-course focus group
  - Post-course focus group
- Course Evaluation Surveys
  - Indiana University course evaluation surveys
    - Distributed at end of each semester
  - IUSM Department of Public Health new course evaluation survey
    - Distributed mid-semester

# Lessons Learned

- Due to time constraints, identification of project prior to onset of course
- Increase opportunities for team building experiences among students
- Increase participation of community project preceptors in pre-course planning activities
- Course requires significant amount of self-regulation and fieldwork
  - Need to clearly communicate to prospective students
  - Avoid multilevel credit hours (only offer course as three hour course)

# Acknowledgements

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  - Carolyn Black, Ph.D., MSW, ACSW, LCSW, Associate Professor, IU School of Social Work
- Community Preceptors
  - Mary Allen, Stamp out Syphilis Coalition, Seniors Subcommittee Co-chairperson
  - Angela Goode, Stamp out Syphilis Coalition, Seniors Subcommittee Co-chairperson
- Virginia Caine, M.D, Director Marion County Health Department
- Jonathan Barclay, Associate Director of Indiana Area Health Education Center Program