Positive Health Clinic Intern Description

The Positive Health Clinic (PHC) is a comprehensive HIV primary care clinic providing state-of-the-art care to HIV-positive individuals from a Harm Reduction approach. We are staffed by a team of Infectious Disease physicians, pharmacists, nurse practitioners, nurses, medical assistants, social workers, a patient advocate, a mental health therapist, and a psychiatrist. Our team currently treats more than 850 patients and has extensive experience with all aspects of HIV management.

The PHC Intern will be an energetic, friendly, and highly organized individual who will provide key support to a team of four Social Workers and a Patient Advocate. They will be required to work independently and also communicate effectively with multiple outside agencies, other clinic staff, and various community members. This individual will receive training and will have the opportunity to learn about HIV, harm reduction, social work, and medical case management.

An internship with The Positive Health Clinic offers students an outstanding opportunity to gain significant knowledge about the physical, mental, and social elements of health within the specific population of individuals living with HIV/AIDS. In addition, the student will have the ability to gain experience within the micro, mezzo, and macro practice levels.

- **Micro knowledge** will be expanded through individual Social Work services.
- **Mezzo skills** will be obtained through monthly group wellness classes, mental health groups, and coordination with community resources.
- **Macro understanding** can be obtained through policy advocacy impacting HIV-positive patients.

**Learning Opportunities:**

1. Provide assessment and HIV education to patients through a harm reduction lens at the time of diagnosis, at their medical appointments and in between medical visits as needed.
2. Determine current and ongoing patient needs including mental health, drug and alcohol, housing, transportation, finances, insurance, and identify possible barriers to treatment.
3. Develop rapport and build productive relationships with patients to foster sustainable wellness.
4. Learn up to date policies, procedures, and applications of insurance eligibility and paperwork submission.
5. Learn basic social work skills that include but are not limited to: active listening, motivational interviewing, crisis intervention, collaboration, conflict resolution, and strengths perspective.
6. Develop and expand understanding of HIV care and treatment and the unique barriers to care that individuals with HIV can encounter.

7. Link patients with needed resources (insurance, Medicare/Medicaid, prescription drug coverage, housing, mental health, etc.) and coordinate those referrals to reduce barriers and increase the likelihood of follow through by the patient.

8. Assist in outreach to community agencies to build awareness and collaboration with other establishments that touch the lives of people with HIV/AIDS.

9. Participate with an interdisciplinary team to discuss/determine patient care plans.

10. Opportunity to advocate through meetings/letters/phone calls regarding social welfare policies that affect individuals living with HIV/AIDS.

11. Assist in planning and facilitation of monthly wellness and mental health groups.

**Other qualifications the PHC Intern will possess:**

1. A positive and confident attitude and ability to deal with stressful and chaotic situations.

2. Strong interest in working in a culturally and economically diverse environment.

3. Basic office skills: i.e. computer literate/good telephone skills.

4. Ability to work independently and be organized and detailed oriented.

5. Excellent communication skills, ex; telephone, written, and verbal.

6. Must adhere to HIIPPA regulations and clinic confidentiality policies.