

OHPP ACCESS NEWSLETTER

Issue 1

February 2005

OFFICE OF HEALTH POLICY AND PLANNING

Make New Year's Resolutions Last with the Use of Interns

The Office of Health Policy and Planning (OHPP) relies heavily on interns to accomplish its goals. This year, the OHPP has expanded its use of interns. A group of interns from the Sharpe Program at William and Mary will be working to determine whether James City County, Williamsburg, and other surrounding areas will qualify to be designated as either Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSA) or Medically Underserved Areas (MUA). The designation would allow for these areas to qualify for federal resources designed to increase access to care. OHPP continues to utilize interns from Virginia Commonwealth University's Masters in Public Health Program. The interns will be assisting OHPP with gathering data, drafting documents, attending health coalition meetings, and providing technical assistance for OHPP's constituents.

OHPP recognizes the tremendous talents of its interns



William & Mary student Interns

and appreciates their efforts. OHPP could not accomplish its many successes without their assistance. The interns are valuable and represent the future of the public health workforce.

The staff of the Office of Health Policy and Planning welcomes all of its interns this year. Their internships provide an opportunity for each of them to

gain valuable knowledge and experience in the various areas of public health. OHPP is elated to have interns and would like to share a bit more about each of these extraordinary individuals.

Teva Brown (W&M)

Teva Brown is interested in holistic healing but is undecided on a major. She is from Newport

continued on page 5

Inside this issue:

Making New Year's Resolutions Last with the Use of Interns	1
New PPOVA Website	2-4
Making New Year's Resolutions Last with the Use of Interns cont.	5-6
Shortage Redesignation	7
Faith Based Initiative	8
Staff	9

Special points of interest:

- Interns
- New PPOVA Website
- Shortage Designations
- Minority Health Issues
- Save the Date!!!



RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION CORNER

New Primary Practice Opportunities of Virginia Website




The Virginia Department of Health, Office of Health Policy and Planning is pleased to announce the unveiling of a revamped PPOVA website. The new website can be viewed at:

<http://www.ppoval.org>

OHPP's goal is to present PPOVA in a more comprehensive and aesthetically appealing manner. With the addition of the new services and layout of PPOVA, we hope to provide a useful, time saving tool for all healthcare professionals.

As you navigate the website you will see new features such as:

- "PPOVA Updates"
- Locum Tenens
- Virginia Incentives

- Loan Repayment Programs
- Sidebar

PPOVA continues to offer a listing of services to medical healthcare professionals (*candidates*) and employers. Additionally, each area of the website pertaining to either candidates or employers has been updated to allow for better navigation. Candidates are provided with the following:

- access to a Candidate Interview Form
- Sample CV
- Positions of Interest Form
- Position Acceptance Notification Form.

- Links to questions and answers regarding candidate guidelines.

Employers are provided with the following:

- posting an opportunity
- notifying PPOVA that a position has been filled
- questions and answers follow regarding practice guidelines.

To further assist with navigation of PPOVA, a brief overview of items that are new to PPOVA are listed on the following pages.

-Shelia Fitzgerald



Primary Practice Opportunities of Virginia



LOAN REPAYMENT

- Different types of loan repayment programs available in Virginia
- Eligibility requirements for the different programs
- Service requirements for the different programs
- Practice Site requirements
- Benefits of the different programs
- Program applications
- HPSA/MUA maps

- PPOVA Home Page
- About Us
- Job Opportunities
- Candidates
- Locum tenens
- Employers
- Residency Programs
- Recruit VA Residents
- J-1 Visa Information
- VA Shortage Areas
- Loan Repayment
- VA Incentives
- Discover VA/Maps
- Recruitment Contacts
- Resources/Links
- Publications
- Calendar
- Legal Disclaimer

LOCUM TENENS

- Locum Tenens Guidelines
- Opportunity to apply for a Locum Tenens position
- Opportunity to post a Locum Tenens position

VIRGINIA INCENTIVES

- Nursing Scholarship
- Loan Repayment Programs
- International Medical Graduate Programs
- Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSA) or Physician Scarcity Areas (PSA) Bonus

PUBLICATIONS

- Links to newsletters and articles related to healthcare activities and initiatives



Primary Practice Opportunities of Virginia



SEARCH PPOVA

- Search the PPOVA website



PPOVA UPDATES

- Subscribe to PPOVA Updates; receive monthly notices via email regarding positions posted on our premier healthcare recruitment website.

QUICK LINKS

- Provides visitors quick access to frequently viewed pages.



VA SHORTAGE DESIGNATIONS

- Link to a table of areas in Virginia with Shortage Designations.



The Interns Are Here cont.

continued from page 1

News, VA. She believes that healthcare should be accessible to anyone who needs it, regardless of socioeconomic status or other limiting factors. Teva believes that by creating a thorough analysis of William and Mary's surrounding districts, this internship should assist the VA Department of Health in improving access to care. Teva is very excited and eager to be involved with such a dynamic group of students as well. She believes that intern efforts will create positive changes in the healthcare systems of the surrounding Williamsburg areas.

Colby I. Tataranowicz (W&M)

Colby I. Tataranowicz is earning a double major in History and Psychology. Colby, a native of Virginia Beach, VA is interested in this project because the work will actually help people get better medical care in the area. In addition, this project can be the start for other Sharpe service projects in the future.

Ryan Wong (W&M)

Ryan Wong is majoring in Biology. Ryan is from Newport News, Virginia, and is interested in this project because he plans to pursue a medical career in the future. He believes by interning with the Office of Health Policy and Planning, he will be able to better learn how

the healthcare system works.

Justin Allen Jarrett (W&M)

Justin Allen Jarrett is a Public Policy major from Roanoke, Virginia. Justin feels that it often seems that many people, including himself, are unaware of the enormous lack in health care coverage that countless Americans experience each and every day. Therefore, he is honored to help the Virginia Department of Health, Office of Health Policy and Planning, in surveying local Williamsburg physicians. "Hopefully, the research that we collect will be a launching pad for increased federal funding and health care coverage for the citizens of the Greater Williamsburg area."

Courtney Leigh Cox (W&M)

Courtney Leigh Cox is a Neuroscience/Pre-med major, from Hillsville Virginia. She is interested in working with the Virginia Department of Health in it's efforts to designate part(s) of the Greater Williamsburg Community as a Health Professional Shortage Area. By participating in this project, she hopes to learn more about the community in which she will reside for the next four years as well as have the opportunity to give back to the wonderful community. She also

believes that this project will benefit her personally in her goal of becoming a physician, by exposing her to a different side of the medical field. She believes a good doctor should be well-educated on the operation of the entire health care system. This project will allow her to learn more about the public policy side of medicine. Courtney looks forward to working with the Virginia Department of Health, Office of Health Policy and Planning on this project and all of the experiences it will provide.

Tina Ho (W&M)

Tina Ho is from Springfield, VA and is a Neuroscience major. Tina would like to pursue the study of medicine after completing her coursework at William and Mary. This project ties in both her career and community service interests.

Nicole Keenan (W&M)

Nicole Keenan is a Junior at the College of William and Mary. She is earning a double major in Public Policy and Anthropology. Her interest in health policy derives largely from the experience of growing up in a house with a mother and grandmother that worked in the health industry. Nicole is particularly interested in healthcare access for the uninsured because of the increasing number and



"Hopefully the research that we collect will be a launching pad for increased federal funding and health care coverage for the citizens of the Greater Williamsburg area"



Nicole Keenan (W&M)

continued on page 6



The Interns Are Here cont.

continued from page 5

range of Americans without health insurance.

Shashwat Pandhi (VCU)

Shashwat Pandhi is a recent graduate of the college of William and Mary with a B.A. in Sociology. He is currently taking courses at Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) to prepare for medical school. He would like to become a trauma surgeon and is currently interning with the trauma surgery department at the Medical College of Virginia (MCV). Shashwat believes that the quality of both health and medical care is determined by several factors including access, environment, and government regulation. By interning with the Virginia Department of Health, Office of Health Policy and Planning, Shashwat hopes to gain a better understanding of these issues and take a pro-active role in eliminating the disparities in public health.

Banafsheh Khamesi (VCU)

Banafsheh is originally from Northern Virginia and moved to Richmond three years ago to attend Virginia Commonwealth University. Currently she is a third year undergraduate student studying biology with a Pre-Med track. Banafsheh has always been very interested in the health field and would like to attend medical

school. She has been interning with OHPP since August 2003. While with the OHPP she has been involved with the CLAS Act project and participating in myriad other projects in the office.

Batool Razvi (VCU/MCV)

Batool is currently enrolled in the MPH program at VCU/MCV. She graduated from VCU in 2004 with a bachelor's in Biology and currently lives in Chesterfield, where she has lived for almost 10 years. In her spare time she enjoys traveling, reading, cooking, and watching movies. Batool is interested in chronic disease, maternal/child health, public health education, health promotion and policy. While working with OHPP she will be focusing on issues regarding the uninsured by assisting with the state planning grant activities. Through this internship, she hopes to learn more about how Virginia can increase the number of insured as well as improve access to care. Batool is also interested in learning more about the policy aspect such as how to initiate the legislative process that will tackle some of these issues.

Quynh Do (VCU/MCV)

Quynh is pursuing her Masters in Public Health at Virginia Commonwealth University. She has been

interning at OHPP since May 2004. She is primarily working with the National Governor Association Center for Best Practices (NGA Center) demonstration project "Enhancing the Safety Net through Data-Driven Policy". In addition to this internship, she works part-time as an Information Technology Analyst specializing in Lotus Notes support for VCU's Administrative Information Technology division. She is also the current MPH class president. She has always been very interested in the health field and would like to work in health policy.

Joseph Schwartz (VCU/MCV)

Joseph was born in Georgetown, and has lived in Arlington all his life. Joseph attended O'Connell High School in Arlington, Virginia. He is a 2002 graduate of the University of Notre Dame with a Bachelors of Science degree in Biology. He completed his research at the NIH 2002-2003. He completed VCU's Physiology Certificate Program 2003-2004. Joseph is currently enrolled in VCU's Masters of Public Health Program. He has been a member of the Tuckahoe Volunteer Rescue Squad since September 2004. Joseph is currently taking EMT classes at the University of Richmond.

-Rene Cabral Daniels



Shashwat Pandhi (VCU/MCV)



Banafsheh Khamesi (VCU/MCV)



Batool Razvi (VCU/MCV)



Quynh Do (VCU/MCV)



Office of Health Policy and Planning Receives Notification of Shortage Redesignations

The Office of Health Policy & Planning (OHPP) has received notification from the Shortage Designation Branch (SDB) of the federal Health Resources and Services Administration that the Buckingham and Cumberland counties have been approved for Health Professional Shortage Area - Geographic redesignations (HPSA).

See table 1

When OHPP learned about the departure of two Buckingham providers, it attempted to secure higher HPSA scores from the SDB. Despite best efforts by all involved,

designations and redesignations are data driven. Virginia competes with frontier states that receive higher scores because patients there must travel much greater distances to obtain primary care. Despite this challenge, OHPP will continue advocating for Virginia’s interests. The happy ending is that OHPP secured the Geographic HPSA redesignation in record time. This allows physicians practicing there to continue taking advantage of two important Medicare incentive programs: the 10% Medicare Bonus and the 5% Medicare Physician Scarcity Area Bonus.

HPSA designation allows these areas to recruit National Health Service Corps (NHSC) loan repayors who have obligations to serve in areas with shortages of primary care health professionals. Approved HPSA areas that have difficulty recruiting qualified physicians may recruit foreign-trained professionals who are eligible to participate in the J-1 Visa waiver program. Another advantage of a HPSA designation includes the eligibility to apply for specific federal, state, or foundation funding.

“OHPP secured the Geographic HPSA redesignation in record time.”

- Lilia Mayer

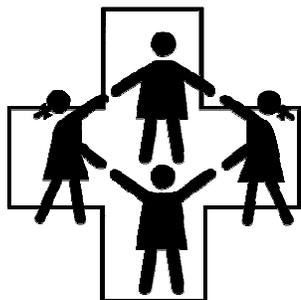
TABLE 1

HPSA Redesignations	
Name of County	HPSA - Geographic
Buckingham	Yes
Cumberland	Yes





Faith Based Initiative



The Office of Minority Health (OMH) is championing issues faced by racial and ethnic communities in Virginia through "Health Ministry". A partnership is being formed to coordinate the efforts of Central Virginia with the Hampton Roads and Tidewater areas. The purpose of this coalition is to determine the role of the church in the minority communities and to build a bridge of "Faith and Health". The Virginia Department of Health (VDH) is spearheading this initiative through the Division of Chronic Disease Prevention and Control (DCDPC) and the OMH. The agencies will ask the churches to draw heavily upon the abundant resources in the church community

and then assess their assets in utilizing its power and influence in public health.

The constituents will discuss changes already apparent in the healthcare delivery system around Virginia. Church leaders are aware that after receiving excellent health care, many patients are discharged with countless unmet needs. The DCDPC and the OMH challenge the faith groups to recognize that their resources are also part of the system. The DCDPC and the OMH believe it is a rewarding effort for the state to look to the churches for assistance with health concerns. The coalition's goal will be to collaborate and expand across the Commonwealth until

the faith community and the health communities are equals in seeking good health for residents and ultimately eliminating disparities for Virginia's racial and ethnic communities. The Faith Based Coalition Meeting will be held in March 2005. For further information, you may contact Cindi Beadle and Laura Wimmer at (804) 864-7877 or Mary Goodall-Johnson at (804) 864-7432.

...determine the role of the church in the minority communities and build a bridge of "Faith and Health".

-Mary Goodall-Johnson



Mary Goodall-Johnson



Office of Minority Health

OHPP....Your partner of choice.

OHPP STAFF

Rene Cabral-Daniels, JD MPH

Director

Rene.CabralDaniels@vdh.virginia.gov

Norma C. Marrin

Policy Analyst, Business Manager

Norma.Marrin@vdh.virginia.gov

Karen Reed, MA

Program Manager

Karen.Reed@vdh.virginia.gov

Margot Fritts, MHA

Senior Policy Analyst

Margot.Fritts@vdh.virginia.gov

Kathy Wibberly, PhD

Senior Policy Analyst

Kathy.Wibberly@vdh.virginia.gov

Mary Goodall-Johnson, Esq.

Program Manager

MaryG.Johnson@vdh.virginia.gov

Ken Studer, PhD

Program Manager

Kenneth.Studer@vdh.virginia.gov

Lilia Mayer, EdM

Policy Analyst

Lilia.Mayer@vdh.virginia.gov

Shelia Fitzgerald

Recruiter/Web Manager

Shelia.Fitzgerald@vdh.virginia.gov

Carroll Anne Smith

Administrative Assistant

CarrollAnne.Smith@vdh.virginia.gov

Margie Thomas

Program Support Technician

Margie.Thomas@vdh.virginia.gov

SAVE THE DATE!!!

September 18-19, 2005

Recruitment Fair

University of Virginia

Charlottesville, VA

more details coming soon....

CONTACT US

Office of Health Policy and Planning
109 Governor Street, Suite 1016 East
Richmond, VA 23219

Phone: 804-864-7436

Fax: 804-864-7440

Web: www.vdh.virginia.gov/primcare

VDH VIRGINIA
DEPARTMENT
OF HEALTH
Protecting You and Your Environment

OHPP MISSION

To contribute to the development of health policy in the Commonwealth with research and analysis of the issues affecting the cost, quality, and accessibility of health care; to help rural and medically underserved communities recruit health care professionals and improve healthcare systems; and to develop as well as administer programs to increase and strengthen the healthcare workforce thereby improving health care accessibility for Virginia residents.