EVALUATION OF SAN MATEO COUNTY’S TUBERCULOSIS CONTROL PROGRAM

GENERAL OVERVIEW
San Mateo County’s Tuberculosis (TB) Control Program provides priority TB prevention and control activities to help those with TB disease and protect the health of the public.

The TB Control Program provides the following services:
- Provides evaluation, treatment and case management services for County residents with active tuberculosis or latent tuberculosis infection
- Identifies, notifies and ensures follow up of individuals determined to have been contacts of a case of active tuberculosis disease
- Investigates outbreaks of tuberculosis
- Collects and analyzes data on tuberculosis cases in the county
- Provides consultation to medical providers regarding the diagnosis and treatment of tuberculosis cases
- Provides tuberculosis education to the public

The TB Program provides Directly Observed Therapy (DOT) for many of our TB patients. San Mateo County uses DOT as a tool to support patients through a lengthy course of treatment, improve tuberculosis treatment adherence, and minimize adverse outcomes. All patients with pulmonary TB or drug resistant TB, as well as patients on intermittent regimens should be on DOT. DOT is also strongly recommended for others at high risk for serious outcomes, or poor adherence.

The TB Program received funding through SMCSaves to implement and evaluate a new strategy in providing DOT; Video Directly Observed Therapy (VDOT). VDOT allows TB staff to communicate with and observe patients taking their TB medications via a live video connection. This strategy eliminates the need for a TB Control Program staff person to perform in-person visits to patient’s homes. As a result, staff members are able to provide observational therapy to a greater number of TB patients and reduce travel cost significantly. VDOT therapy cannot replace all DOT because there are some patients who do not have access to necessary technology, may not be able to reliably use the technology, and/or require a higher level of interaction in order to remain adherent to the medications.

Program Website: http://smchealth.org/tb

ASSIGNMENT
Working with the Senior Public Health Nurse (Sr PHN) who supervises the TB Control Program, an assigned County Manager’s Office Analyst, and an MPA Professor, the Student Consultant will conduct an evaluation of the VDOT implementation. Specific duties may include, but are not limited to, the following:
- Identify the type of evaluation to perform
- Collecting data on of patient utilization of VDOT
- Budget analysis on savings actualized from implementation of VDOT
- Analyzing data as to effectiveness of VDOT for both patient adherence and fiscal savings
- Providing recommendations as to any potential modifications to increase effectiveness of VDOT
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<th>DESIRED SKILL SETS</th>
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<td>- Knowledge in quantitative analysis, management systems, public policy and program evaluation</td>
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<td>- Skills in data management, analysis, report writing</td>
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<td>- Experience in public health preferred, but not required for this position</td>
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<td>- Strong interpersonal skills</td>
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<td>- Self-directed</td>
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<td>- Flexible and open to feedback</td>
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