

Available Service Learning Experiences for Med 2 - 2018-2019 (DMNB)

Service Learning (SL) Experience Profiles – 2018-2019

1. Teen Resource Center - Pathways to Education Program

- **Mission and Vision:** The Teen Resource Centre (TRC) provides a safe and encouraging environment for our youth to explore their full potential. Pathways to Education's Vision is to break the cycle of poverty through education. For youth in low-income communities, Pathways to Education provides the resources and network of support to graduate high school and build the foundation for a successful future.
- **Number of SL student positions available:** 3
- **SL experience description:**

Volunteer role:

- **Program development and delivery: Tutoring** - Students will work with grade 9 and 10 students from the priority neighborhoods in Saint John to help them improve their academic performance. Students will also help develop resources for the after school tutoring program to improve the learning experience for the youth. Learning activities will be developed to help students develop as competent learners;
- **Program development and delivery: Mentoring** - Students will help develop activities that expose youth to a variety of learning opportunities through pro-social, positive experiences. Students will also be involved in the delivery of mentoring activities.

Service Learning experience description:

- Focused on building post-secondary awareness with our community youth. Many youth at the TRC have identified that they feel there should be more opportunities for them to learn about their post-secondary options. High school is an important time for youth to consider and learn about their PSE options and the fact that our program youth are asking for these opportunities indicates that they are highly likely to be receptive to this learning opportunity. The TRC is completing a project to counter balance the factors that put a youth at a higher probability to not graduate from high school or not pursue PSE by providing them with opportunities to be exposed to factors that will increase their probability to graduate and pursue PSE. Information obtained from research on current best practices and studies on correlative factors will be used to inform us on what experiences we will be providing to youth in our community. This stage of research will occur during the spring of 2018 with our St Thomas Bachelor of Social Work Placement students.
- The social change that we hope to accomplish with this project is to increase the probability for youth in our community that they will graduate from high school and move on to the PSE opportunity that is appropriate to them. Thus



contributing to the collective impact to break the cycle of intergenerational poverty in Saint John.

- Working in close collaboration with TRC and Pathways staff and volunteers, the Dal Med service learning students will engage with youth at the Teen Resource Center to provide guidance and assistance as students work through the career exploration toolkits that are provided to them. Dal Med service learning students will also help coordinate and deliver activities and experiences for the community youth related to post-secondary education and training awareness and readiness.
- **Special Requirements:** Seeking students that are engaging, easy to talk with, non-judgmental, and open-minded. Students must also have strong verbal and written communication skills. Students will work with Program Manager for Pathways to Education to determine which project is the best fit for them.
- **Legal Partnership Agreement signed:** September 25th, 2016
- **Note:** This opportunity is both a volunteer and service learning combined opportunity so will require a larger commitment.

2. Research Education and Clinical Care for At Risk Populations (RECAP)

- **Mission and Vision:** This clinic, located in one of the most vulnerable priority neighborhoods in Saint John began as a grassroots clinic servicing those with Hepatitis C. It now includes programs for methadone maintenance therapy and harm reduction regarding other addiction practices. It provides primary care and specialty care (psychiatry, pediatrics and infectious disease) delivered on site in order to maximize access for patients. Numerous electives and research projects have seen successful here for students.
- **Number of SL student positions available:** 3
- **SL experience descriptions:**
 - Develop harm reduction education resources/materials (e.g., videos, pamphlets, webex)
 - Develop or contribute to family programming around: opioid addiction, prenatal methadone education, new needle after hours distribution strategy
- **Legal Partnership Agreement signed on:** August 19, 2016

3. St Joseph's Community Health Centre and Outreach Primary Health Care Teams (North End Wellness Centre, Marketplace Wellness Centre, Medisante Community Health Centre and HOPE Wellness Centre)

- **Mission and Vision:** This community organization is a community centered interdisciplinary primary health care team. The community health centre provides primary care medical services and community development integrated with other sectors including but not limited to social development, housing strategies,



community partners and organizations. The health teams are located in vulnerable and priority neighborhoods in Saint John.

- **Number of SL student positions available:** 3-5
- **SL experience description:**
 - Develop education and awareness sessions and translate research related to Adverse Childhood Experiences in a meaningful way for families of priority neighbourhoods
 - Develop or contribute to Oral Health Programming
 - Mobile Health Outreach
 - Capturing Resident Voice; perhaps via interviews, group discussion/forum.
- **Legal Partnership Agreement signed on:** October 24, 2016

4. **Saint John Human Development Council (HDC)**

- **Mission:** Identify and address social issues in Greater Saint John through research, information, coordination and networking
- **Goals:**
 - Study and identify social needs within the community, and the services that exist to meet those needs.
 - Advise and assist in planning and developing new services and improving existing ones.
 - Initiate opportunities for joint action in the development, coordination, and delivery of services appropriate to community needs.
 - Facilitate local citizens' access to information about community programs and services.
 - Maintain the strength and vibrancy of the HDC to ensure that the above goals are achieved. Familiar programs include the Point in time count of homelessness and involvement with populating 211nb.ca. www.sjhdc.ca
- **Number of SL student positions available:** 2
- **SL experience description:**
 - Students will become familiar with, and attend meetings of, the Community Council on Homelessness; become familiar with the Social Enterprise Hub's tenants and the role of social enterprise; Students will follow the HDC's research and Geographic Information Services (GIA) staff to better understand the role of community data; and will assist in the preparation/updating of research products.
- **Legal Partnership Agreement signed on:** In Progress

5. **Big Brothers Big Sisters Saint John– Advocacy Mentoring Initiative**

- **Mission:** We commit to understand and respond to the needs of young people in our communities with relevant volunteer based mentoring programs.
- **Vision:** Every child who needs a mentor has a mentor.



- **Number of SL student positions available:** 10
- **SL experience description:** Further development of the Advocacy Mentoring Initiative program - we would like to see this program improved through work with the students and the faculty to better serve the "high-needs" children who spend an unacceptable amount of time on the wait list. Possibly help us measure the impact of this program and our new MENTOR Links program for the wait list children of any other project of interest identified by students.
- **Legal Partnership Agreement signed on:** October 14, 2016
- **Note:** This opportunity is both a volunteer and service learning combined opportunity so will require a larger commitment.

6. **Avenue B Harm Reduction Inc. (formerly AIDS Saint John)**

- **Mission:** Avenue B is dedicated to saving lives & improving communities based on the philosophy of Harm Reduction. Our goal is to minimize the negative consequences associated with risky behaviours through prevention, education, and support. Avenue B believes in personal empowerment in which every individual has the right to health and well-being, and we acknowledge our clients' capacities—given the right tools—to protect and help themselves, their loved ones, and their communities. We will strive to eradicate stigma, challenge personal and political boundaries, and demonstrate advocacy in action. Services will always be provided in a non-judgmental, unprejudiced manner that guarantees individuals their right to anonymity and confidentiality.
- **Vision:** Clients of the Needle Distribution Programme shall have access to anonymous services; No limits shall be placed on the number of needles/syringes or other drug use equipment that a client may take during any given visit unless supply is low; No limits shall be placed on the frequency of visits an individual may make; Access to services are low threshold; i.e. minimum amount of information requested from client; Exchange of needles will be recommended; however, it shall not be mandatory; The Needle Distribution Programme can be used to facilitate access to drug treatment, counselling, and other services, if this is the agenda that belongs to the client. However, a client shall never be persuaded or coerced into any service(s).
- **Number of Service Learning student positions available:** 4
- **Service Learning experience description:** Avenue B is very interested in co-creating projects with students with a few ideas for possible project options. Advocacy and partnership building opportunities include:
 1. Projects aimed at improving collaboration and resource sharing with Urgent Care. Given that Avenue B is not open 24hrs – clients need somewhere they can go to access harm reduction supplies. It is essential that these supplies be provided in a non-judgemental environment. A project could involve exploring harm reduction supply options and policy needs to improve access for those

who need to access supplies and to increase the understanding/comfort of those delivering them.

2. Projects related to improving Urgent Care collaboration to explore and draw attention to the limits and consequences of current wound care follow up procedures. For many, it's hard enough to make it through those doors the first time and being told to come back in a few days to have the bandage changed creates an additional barrier. During triage, wound care is low priority so it can take hours to be seen. Patients also do not have the funds to purchase wound care supplies on their own.
3. Projects looking at the stigma and discrimination experienced by people who are using drugs or have done so in the past and/or people on Methadone/Suboxone while trying to access healthcare. Such barriers exist that many refuse to access the care that is needed until they are very sick or are taken to hospital via emergency services. Training and education of existing and future staff for all health facilities is critical.

With each of these projects, there is infinite possibility to engage with the staff, clients and community to gain further insights about the needs and challenges faced by this population.

Special requirements: A willingness to be open to learning about people from different walks of life; Respectful and non-judgemental.

Legal Partnership Agreement signed on: In progress

7. Youth Pregnancy Network

- **Mission:** Our mission is to support outcomes of sexual choices among the youth of Greater Saint John through Advocacy, Education, Collaboration and Navigation of existing resources.
- **Vision:** Empowered youth with easy, readily available access to resources, education and support to allow them to make the best possible choices around healthy sexuality.
- **Values:** Non judgemental; Supportive; Inclusive; Respectful; Experts in our field; Caring

Number of SL student positions available: 2

SL experience description:

1. What is Going On with Sexual Health in our Community: Catalogue the current services available in local community organizations for youth regarding sexuality, pregnancy prevention, safer sex, healthy relationships, which would include: researching the current programming through the school education system, community groups (TRC, Y, North End, KV Oasis etc.). This directory then can be used to identify gaps in present resources and this information would then be used as a platform to develop further programs regarding these topics essential to youth

health. Research programs that exist (SHOUT, Red Cross, CP society, Alberta's school model etc.) Are there programs for parents? What are the gaps?

2. Collect information from Grade 9 students in the Anglophone South District (ASD) to assess what students currently know and what information they are looking for further information and further advocacy.

Legal Partnership Agreement signed on: In progress

8. NaviCare/SoinsNavi - The NB Navigation Centre for Children with Complex Care Needs

- **Mission and Vision:**

NaviCare/SoinsNavi is a bilingual navigation centre for children 25 years of age or younger with complex care needs in NB. This personalized service is free for families and care providers.

NaviCare/SoinsNavi Vision: Our vision is that every child with complex care needs has access to the health, social, and educational services that he or she requires in a timely manner. The aim of NaviCare/SoinsNavi is to help facilitate more convenient and integrated care to support the physical, mental, emotional, social, cultural and spiritual needs of children and their families using a personalized family-centred model of care.

NaviCare/SoinsNavi Mission:

- Help improve access to health, social, and education services
- Help facilitate the integration of services across levels of care and sectors
- Promote self-management through teaching families how to navigate services and programs
- Increase community capacity in the care of children with complex health conditions
- Identify gaps and barriers to services and programs in NB and across Canada
- Advocate for system change to promote collaborative patient-centred care
- Develop and share evidence based best practices in the care of children with complex care needs

- **Number of SL student positions available:** 1

- **SL experience description (3 options):**

1) Outreach: The student will work with our patient navigators to build relationships with programs in the Saint John and surrounding area that provide resources and services for children with complex care needs and their families. Programs may be delivered through the government, not-for-profit organizations, and private sector, among others. The success of NaviCare depends on both the relationships we build with programs and services and our knowledge of programs that are appropriate for families and children who reach out to our patient navigators.

2) Family Advisory Council (FAC): The student would work closely with our FAC to develop resource materials for families in NB. Our FAC is comprised of parents and caregivers of children with complex care needs. The FAC advises our centre and



acts as a resource for our patient navigators and the research team. The FAC has expressed interest in the development of resources for families in NB. One current project is a journey map. The student would be expected to attend monthly FAC meetings at which time they would work with FAC members on this project. Other projects could include helping to develop videos, pamphlets, etc..

3) Peer-to-Peer Support Project: Families have expressed interest in peer-to-peer support. The student would work with our patient navigators to assist in the development of a peer-to-peer support program, including the development of a strategy on peer-to-peer support that will guide the implementation of this program at NaviCare/SoinsNavi.

- **Legal Partnership Agreement signed on:** In progress