



CA Public Health Corps
TRAINING & PATHWAYS PROGRAM

Monthly Update
APRIL 2022

What is the California Public Health Corps (CA-PHC)?

The COVID-19 pandemic illustrated the **need for a well-trained & versatile public health workforce**. To respond, the California Department of Public Health, University of California, Los Angeles, & University of California, San Francisco partnered to develop & launch the CA-PHC Training & Pathways Program in summer 2021.

The CA-PHC is a **paid training & job placement program for early-career public health professionals** to gain experience working at local health jurisdiction host sites.

CA-PHC fellows & host site preceptors receive ongoing support from the program team comprised of public health professionals from the three partner agencies.



our mission

Create a workforce pathway for early-career public health professionals from diverse backgrounds & disproportionately affected communities to conduct communicable disease prevention & control, community engagement, & emergency response activities at local health jurisdiction host sites

Ensure a well-trained public health workforce across California that can effectively & efficiently respond to public health issues to ensure the health & safety of the population

What did the CA-PHC accomplish in April 2022?

TRAINING

Continuing Education

Session on Epidemiology Study Design describing...

- How to identify study designs in clinical and epidemiological research
- How to design research questions
- The basics of cross-sectional studies

Book Club focused on the novel *The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down*, with group discussion topics including...

- The importance of cultural humility
- Working to understand others' perspectives
- Working with community members to reach goals

FELLOW ACTIVITIES

National Public Health Week

Many fellows participated in or led events at their LHJs. Projects included...

- Coordinating community outreach efforts
- Hosting departmental webinars
- Providing health education through social media and radio segments

Group Presentations

Fellows wrapped up their presentations this month and topics discussed included...

- Healthcare Access
- Syphilis Surveillance
- Health Disparities

ADMIN UPDATES

Program Monitoring & Evaluation

The program team reviewed results from the Fellow Semi-Annual Evaluation as well as the Preceptor Survey.

- The surveys asked fellows and preceptors to reflect on their satisfaction with various aspects of the program
- Our team is currently developing summary reports for dissemination

FELLOW SPOTLIGHT

Jennifer Madrigal (Pronouns: She/Her)



LOCAL HEALTH JURISDICTION HOST SITE
Tulare County



EDUCATION
Cal State University, Fresno
BS Health Science, Health Admin



HOMETOWN
Porterville, CA

WHY JOIN THE CA PUBLIC HEALTH CORPS (CA-PHC)?

I decided to apply to the CA-PHC program because I had just graduated from Fresno State and was seeking a job in the field of public health. But because I didn't have any specialized experience in public health, I found it difficult to find entry-level positions that I was qualified for. After reviewing the requirements for the CA-PHC I knew I had to get in. CA-PHC would grant me the opportunity to grow and guaranteed a position for at least two years. I hoped it would give me the chance to explore more about the public health field and gain some tangible experience. I knew that CA-PHC would open doors for me in public health, and it has indeed. Being part of this program has allowed me to build relationships with professionals in my field, discover my strengths and work towards building my professionalism and knowledge in the field.

WHAT HAVE YOU BEEN WORKING ON?

Since I started my fellowship with Tulare County, most of my work has been focused on COVID-19 and health equity. I led an outreach team of health educators working with Tulare's incarcerated population, providing education regarding COVID-19 vaccines to increase the vaccination percentage in the county's detention facilities.

One of my biggest projects yet has been leading the planning for National Public Health Week. Our public health department received a \$25,000 grant from Anthem Blue Cross to host vaccination events and community health fairs to increase access to underserved communities. During these events, we vaccinated up to 100 community members and each person received a \$100 gift card to local grocery stores to address food insecurity. We also had over 250 community members participate in the health fairs that included 37 CBOs and partners to provide resources and education.

I serve as a media liaison for the public health department to support programs with tasks such as creating flyers, promotional advertising, social media, media campaigns, etc. to ensure they adhere to our department's standards. Additionally, I am collaborating with colleagues to publish a monthly internal newsletter to highlight the efforts and activities within our county that focus on addressing health disparities and health equity. I will also continue to support my colleagues with their respective grants and activities.

WHAT COMES AFTER CA-PHC?

Working on these projects and tasks has given me a better understanding and insight into the work that is done behind the scenes to achieve a healthier community. After the CA-PHC program, I would like to continue to work with Tulare County Public Health. It has been a rewarding feeling to serve the communities I grew up surrounded by. However, I would like to move up the ladder and am considering pursuing a Master's in Public Health to increase my value as a professional and be competent at delivering the 10 essential public health services.

FELLOW SPOTLIGHT

Alyssa Moreno (Pronouns: She/Her)



LOCAL HEALTH JURISDICTION HOST SITE
San Bernardino **County**



EDUCATION
UC Los Angeles (UCLA)
BS Human Biology and Society



HOMETOWN
San Diego, CA

WHY JOIN THE CA PUBLIC HEALTH CORPS (CA-PHC)?

I was born and raised in Southeast San Diego and made the move to San Bernardino County for this position. In college, I was fortunate to study healthcare and science through a societal lens, learning that the socio-political world around us unfairly determines whether we are afforded healthcare, a safe place to sleep, and the autonomy to advocate for our own well-being. I joined Pathways to deepen this understanding and develop my skillset for health equity, social justice, and structural change.

WHAT HAVE YOU BEEN WORKING ON?

Most of my time is spent with the Communicable Disease Section where I serve as a Sexually Transmitted Infection (STI) Communicable Disease Investigator. As San Bernardino County is plagued with increasing numbers of syphilis cases targeting vulnerable populations, I am proud to be part of efforts to curb the spread of disease. In addition to working syphilis cases, I've conducted disease investigations for COVID-19 and gonorrhea; created training materials and facilitated staff huddles; and tracked missed opportunities for syphilis investigations. My preceptor also loops me into health equity events and tasks, departmental programming, and trying new things like writing a policy briefing for public health's role in addressing homelessness.

I am also fortunate to intern for the Community Vital Signs Program, which coordinates and conducts our department's Community Health Assessment (CHA) and Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP; also known as the Community Transformation Plan). Through Vital Signs, I get a front-row peek into the CHA, CHIP, and public health accreditation process through supporting this multi-sectoral and community-led collective impact initiative. I appreciate that Vital Signs emphasizes the integral role of broad stakeholders and community engagement; our health outcomes are unquestionably influenced by our positionalities and the structures that shape them. We are currently developing an educational presentation on Vital Signs, CHA and CHIP, and public health for the department's COVID-19 contact tracers — the learning never ends!

WHAT COMES AFTER CA-PHC?

Afterward, I am excited for continuous learning and will hopefully pursue my Master of Public Health degree.

NOTES FROM THE FIELD

Tehama County (Written by Preceptor Carissa Crawford)

ABOUT OUR JURISDICTION

Tehama County is nestled in rural Northern California in an area with endless rolling foothills, flat-topped buttes, and an abundance of farm and ranch land. The environment that can be found in Tehama County allows for a vast array of outdoor recreational opportunities such as fishing, hunting, and hiking. According to the Census Report, the population of Tehama County is roughly 65,829. The health priorities of concern are access to healthcare, chronic disease, unintentional injuries, and communicable disease.



CA-PHC Fellow Mark Hinojos is starting to learn more about the role public health plays when it comes to emergency preparedness. He was recently an evaluator for our local hospital's full-scale exercise which showcased the decontamination process that would take place if an individual was exposed to an organophosphate or other unidentified chemical.

OUR FELLOW'S CONTRIBUTIONS



Over the past eight months we have had the pleasure of training and learning about the CA-PHC Fellow assigned to Tehama County Public Health, Mark Hinojos. Mark came to us from San Bernadino where he had been helping with COVID-19 case investigation and contact tracing (CI/CT). When he came to Tehama County, he also helped us with our CI/CT efforts and has been a tremendous help in other areas.

Most notably, Mark has been instrumental in helping to get the word out about the importance of the COVID-19 vaccine as well as the value of maintaining non-pharmaceutical prevention measures. His prior marketing experience has been helpful in working with various COVID-19-related communication projects through paid media campaigns. These campaigns have helped our community to address inequity amongst various priority populations and areas that may have been disproportionately affected by the pandemic.



OUR FELLOW'S IMPACT

Mark is always willing to lend a helping hand in any and all local health jurisdiction related projects. Mark has expressed and demonstrated his passion for people and helping others. He has participated in many community outreach events, and he enjoys working one on one with community members.

Mark has fully immersed himself in Tehama County and has already made a positive impact with many colleagues and community members. We are glad that he is here, and we will continue to involve him in projects that will ignite his passion for public health.