



A Research Center at the University at Albany, SUNY

CEMHD Interns Go to Work with Local Anti Gun Violence Program, SNUG

This fall, CEMHD partnered with the Community and Public Service Program to develop an internship in which students assist the Trinity Alliance's anti-gun violence program, SNUG ("guns" spelled backwards). Modeled after Chicago Cease Fire, recently renamed Cure Violence, SNUG uses a public health approach to interrupt the epidemic of gun violence before it spreads. The program hires field staff, called Violence Interrupters, from the neighborhoods it serves and trains them to work with people at highest risk for perpetrating or becoming a victim of gun violence. The program also conducts community mobilization and outreach activities to create a visible community presence after shootings and to change social norms about gun violence.

SNUG is of particular interest to CEMHD because of its public health model. This semester the Center sent three human biology majors to assist with the program: Yerusa Asher, Patrisha Kritchman, and Shanice Saunders.

These days, college students possess excellent computer and social networking skills that can be put to great use in grassroots community organizations like SNUG, which tend to operate with a bare-bones office staff. Our enthusiastic CEMHD interns have made real contributions to the organization. Among other things, they

have redesigned printed materials, including posters and brochures, helped the Community Outreach and Mobilization coordinator create a website, and have improved information sharing about shooting incidents among SNUG staff. They also help update SNUG's Facebook page, assist with planning community events, and have even attended neighborhood shooting responses. Plans are in the works to involve interns in direct involvement with the community, such as working with churches and local businesses.

In return for sharing their computer skills, the interns have learned a lot about SNUG's public health approach to gun violence, issues facing people in poor neighborhoods, how grassroots organizations do community mobilization, and nonprofit communications.

But the experience with SNUG has meant more than that to them as individuals. *(continued on next page)*



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Fast Facts on the Affordable Care Act

Preventive services, such as such as colonoscopy screening for colon cancer, Pap smears and mammograms for women, well-child visits, and flu shots, must now be provided without co-pays under most insurance plans.

If your plan covers children, you can now keep your children on your policy until they are 26 .

Insurers can no longer deny coverage because of pre-existing conditions. Beginning in 2014, they will no longer be able to charge more to anyone with a pre-existing condition either.

Insurers must now publicly justify rate hikes of 10 % or more for the first time under Federal law

Community health centers are receiving increased funding under the new law.

If you make an honest mistake, your insurer can no longer cancel your coverage.

Your premium dollars must now be spent primarily on health care, not administrative costs.

Emergency care at hospitals is now covered, no matter whether or not they are in your network.



CEMHD Interns Yerusa Asher, Patrisha Kritchman and Shanice Saunders

Yerusa Asher is an international student from Pakistan. Her father is a community organizer who held high-level positions at a number of nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) before starting his own. Yerusa aspires to follow in his footsteps. She wants to become a dentist and form her own NGO to improve the oral health of people living in poverty around the world. She was interested in being an intern

with SNUG in order to learn about how small nonprofits do community outreach and education. The things she has learned at SNUG have given her good ideas for running her own organization some time in the fu-

Patrisha Kritchman comes from a family affected by gun violence. Her father was shot as a youth and, with guidance counselors discouraging him from continuing his high school education, ended up in jail. Through

the SNUG internship, she has become more aware of how gun violence can have long-term impacts on whole families, not just the shooting victim, and the importance of seeing violence as a public health issue.

Shanice Saunders is a member of the student group Third World Impact, which helped build a primary school in Uganda. She has also done health volunteer work in Madagascar. This time she wanted to be involved in making a difference locally, and was interested in observing SNUG's public health model at work. During her internship she has been able to make real-life connections to other health-related topics discussed in her courses, which has become another source of enthusiasm for her about the field of public health.

Recent Publications

The Center for Popular Democracy, Make the Road New York, Center for the Elimination of Minority Health Disparities, International Institute of Buffalo, Multicultural Association of Medical Interpreters. **Language Access in New York State: A Snapshot from a Community Perspective.** 2013. Available at: populardemocracy.org/news/language-access-report

Chatterji P, Lahiri K, Song J. **The dynamics of income related health inequality among US children.** *Health Economics.* 2013, 22(5): 623-29. Disponible en: http://ideas.repec.org/p/ces/ceswps/_3572.html

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Insaf TZ, Strogatz D, Yucel RM, Chasan-Taber L, Shaw BA. **Associations between race, lifecourse socioeconomic position and prevalence of diabetes among US women and men: results from a population-based panel study.** *Journal of Epidemiological Community Health.* 2013; 0; 1-8. Disponible en: jech.bmj.com/content/early/2013/12/06/jech-2013-202585

Ravenscroft, J, Schell, L, Akwesasne Task Force on the Environment. **Dietary Patterns of Akwesasne Mohawk Adolescents.** *Annals of Human Biology.* 2013. disponible en: informahealthcare.com/doi/pdf/10.3109/03014460.2013.857722

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