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Healthy Philadelphia: Increasing Access to Care in Philadelphia

Nicole Desai

Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine, nicoleledes@pcom.edu

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Healthy Philadelphia

Increasing Access to Care in Philadelphia through Medicaid Enrollment at Health Center 10

Student Intern: Nicole Desai, Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine, Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine Program
Academic Preceptors: John Costa and Denise Curran, MS, Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine
Community Preceptor: Carol Rogers, PA-C, Director, Healthy Philadelphia

COMMUNITY SITE

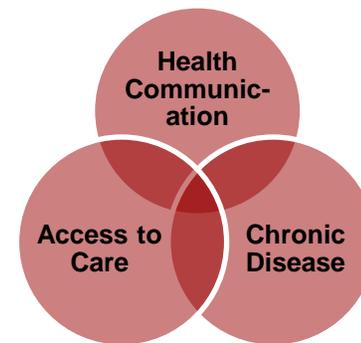
Healthy Philadelphia seeks to make high-quality health care available to all Philadelphians by bringing together the community, health care providers, businesses, and government and grassroots leaders to develop coordinated and integrated systems of care

Health Center 10 (HC10) in Philadelphia is part of a consortium of 8 city health centers. The health centers are located in neighborhoods all across Philadelphia. Their doctors, nurses, dentists and other health care providers work hard to keep patients healthy regardless of their insurance status and ability to pay.

THE PROJECT

The Bridging the Gaps intern was responsible for evaluating patients' eligibility (both adults and children) at HC10 for health insurance, specifically Medicaid. If a patient was deemed eligible, the intern would give the patient a checklist of what documents were needed in order to apply. Once the patient brought back the documents, the intern would then process the application. Overall, the intern assessed 118 patients for eligibility and submitted 69 medical assistance applications. Patients were primarily ineligible because they lacked a green card or because they had not resided in the U.S. for at least 5 years. By the end of the program, 25 patients were approved for medical assistance (the rest of the applications remained pending). The intern was also responsible for helping patients with other insurance related matters. In total, the intern helped 28 patients change their PCP, enroll in a HMO, or verify their eligibility. Lastly, an overarching goal of this summer internship was education; the intern sought to help patients understand the importance of obtaining health insurance.

BRIDGING THE GAPS FOCUS AREAS



PERSONAL STATEMENT

"I had originally wanted to become a part of Bridging the Gaps to gain a deeper understanding of the needs and concerns of the underserved. I realized that while patients' backgrounds, medical conditions, and treatment plans made them diverse, their desire to feel like someone cared about them was universal. Although I have had the privilege to help this community, what I have received in return is far greater than what I could have fathomed. Bridging the Gaps has solidified my desire to direct my career towards community medicine, perhaps, working in a federally qualified health center, like HC10." - Nicole Desai

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The intern would like to thank Carol Rogers for allowing her to be part of Healthy Philadelphia's initiative to ensure that everyone in Philadelphia has healthcare coverage. The intern would also like to thank Holly Nagy for welcoming the intern into HC10 and always helping her to find something to laugh about, even in the face of adversity.

