

Advocacy Project Outline

Goal:

Medical students will establish a working knowledge of what it means to be a child advocate and how to use tools of the media, research, and government systems to champion a specific pediatric issue.

Objectives:

1. Identify important public health issues for the pediatric population.
2. Create a “one-pager” outlining an important pediatric health topic, why it matters, and what can be done about it.
3. Discuss obstacles in overcoming challenges in beginning advocacy initiatives
4. Describe community, state, and/or federal resources available to support pediatric advocacy initiatives
5. Identify your local, state, and national legislative representatives.

Instructions: (Goal is to evaluate all presentations in ~ 1 hour or 1 afternoon)

1. Students will be divided into pairs/groups at Orientation.
2. Students are to identify a specific advocacy topic (see list) and develop a 10-minute presentation and class discussion regarding their topic to be presented on their assigned case conference day.
 - a. Students are to submit 3 learning goals that they want learners to take away from their presentation as “take away” points
 - b. The presentation should include: Background, Defining the problem, Why it matters, and a Call to action (how to join the collaboration)
 - c. Students are to initiate a discussion with their classmates regarding barriers and solutions to the identified problem with emphasis on audience participation. Debate is welcome and is a tool for learning.
 - d. Students are encouraged to use multi-media presentations, interviews, and non-medical contacts as sources. Think outside the box!
3. The students will also develop a “one-pager” or an “Op-Ed” to be distributed to the rest of the clerkship group.
4. Students will need to identify their State Senators (General Assembly) and State House Representatives and write a letter to one of them about their featured concern. This letter will be read aloud to the group. One of these letters will be voted on by the group to be sent to the state representative along with the 1-pager.

Summary of requirements to complete as a group and turn in on day of presentation:

-10-minute presentation to whole group with 3 “take aways” for the group

- 1-pager or Op-ed
- Letter to state representative about presentation topic

Suggested topics:

1. Gun violence/Gun-related deaths in children
2. Drowning
3. Safe Sleep/SIDS
4. Bike Helmets
5. Medicaid expansion/CHIP coverage
6. Drug use/Accidental Overdose
7. Child Abuse
8. Under immunization
9. Immigrant Health
10. Mental Health and Emotional Development
11. Human trafficking
12. Foster care
13. Online safety
14. E-Cigarettes and flavored tobacco products
15. Other (must be approved by clerkship director)

Grade:

This will be a completion grade based on the previously described criteria. If the CD feels that the presentation was inadequate or the presentation was not completed at the assigned time, the student(s) will receive an incomplete and will have to re-do the assignment(s) until it meets an adequate standard

Resources to be sent out to students:

How to write a one pager:

<https://everylifefoundation.org/rare-advocates/advocacy-tools/tip-sheets/tip-sheet-making-a-one-pager-for-meetings-with-legislators/>

<https://publichealth.jhu.edu/lerner-center/resources/how-to-create-a-one-pager>

How to write an Op-Ed:

<https://publichealth.jhu.edu/lerner-center/resources/how-to-write-an-op-ed-or-letter-to-the-editor>

<https://the-learning-agency.com/guides-resources/write-an-op-ed/>

AAP Advocacy Guide:

<https://www.aap.org/en/advocacy/aap-advocacy-guide/>

A medical student's guide to advocacy: American College of Surgeons

https://www.facs.org/media/gqzgsxdh/6_medical_students_guide_to_advocacy.pdf

Find my legislator: TN

<https://wapp.capitol.tn.gov/Apps/fml2022/search.aspx>

Tips for effective communication with your legislator:

<https://www.capitol.tn.gov/help/contacting.html>

Advocacy Toolkit

<https://www.cfms.org/what-we-do/advocacy/advocacy-toolkit>