

VISTA Assignment Description (VAD)

Title: St. Louis County Public Health Opioid Prevention Specialist

Sponsoring Organization: Ecolibrium3
Project Name: Big Water Resilience Corps
Project Number: 17VSNMN001
Project Period: 01/22/2017 - 08/18/2018

Site Name (if applicable): St. Louis County Public Health - Virginia, MN

Focus Area(s)

Primary: Capacity Building
Secondary: Healthy Futures

VISTA Assignment Objectives and Member Activities

Goal of the Project: In order to address the opioid epidemic in St. Louis County, MN, the Big Water Resilience Corps VISTA project will build capacity of St. Louis County's Public Health and Human Services. The member will build on existing partnerships with local and regional agencies to enhance opioid prevention efforts and build systems to reduce overdoses and expand understanding and options for treatment in a rural environment.

Objective of the Assignment (*Period of Performance: 11/27/17-11/26/18*)

Expand partnerships and regional understanding around heroin and opioid abuse.

Member Activity: (1/1/18-6/30/18) Combine Community Forum data into one high impact paper for distribution to community partners.

Member Activity: (11/27/17-11/26/18) Attend and support the work of the OARS North, OARS, and Carlton County Drug Prevention Coalition.

Member Activity: (11/27/17-5/31/18) Evaluate community forum data to develop summaries and determine effective evaluation methods for future forums.

Member Activity: (4/1/18-11/26/18) Conduct focus groups, in conjunction with the Community Health Needs Assessment for St. Louis County, to determine what factors contributed to first (and continuing) use and recovery in rural individuals.

Member Activity: (1/1/2018-11/26/18) Conduct focus groups for American Indian Drug Court participants determining how drug court experiences influence student perceptions regarding addiction. Complete qualitative analysis of phase-up and graduation forms for Duluth and Carlton Drug Courts to determine culture as a force for recovery in American Indian participants.

Objective of the Assignment (Period of Performance: 11/27/17-11/26/18)

Build policy, protocols, and programming around Naloxone to ensure access and effective use.

Member Activity: (11/27/17-11/26/18) Facilitate relationships and meetings necessary to complete Naloxone Opioid Antagonist Protocols, including attendance at Category 8 MN Department of Human Services State Targeted Response (STR) Grant Steering Committee meetings.

Member Activity: (2/28/18-6/30/18) Engage institutions of higher education in Naloxone Policies and Procedures including developing training protocols and best practices for campus access and use.

Member Activity: (11/27/17-1/30/18) Establish a baseline of Naloxone dispensing in St. Louis and Carlton counties by analyzing Board of Pharmacy and MDH survey results and regional phone surveys. Follow up with regional pharmacists as needed.

Objective of the Assignment (Period of Performance: 11/27/17-11/26/18)

Develop expanded educational and funding offerings to reduce opioid abuse.

Member Activity: (11/27/17-11/26/18) Develop presentation materials and determine effective delivery options to local organizations, college students, high schools, and prescribers and providers, on substance abuse issues including prevention, intervention, harm reduction, treatment, and recovery.

Member Activity: (11/27/17 – 11/26/18) Research evidence-based strategies or best practices for prevention messaging, targeting multiple audiences; create a coordinated, targeted approach with community coalitions for outreach and education.

Member Activity: (1/1/18-11/26/18) Assist in the development of messages and education around Positive Social Norms and prescription disposal.

Member Activity: (4/1/18-11/26/18) Research funding opportunities for community coalitions and assist in grant applications.

Objective of the Assignment (Period of Performance: 11/27/17-11/26/18)

Build personal skill and knowledge to serve as a countywide resource through successful completion and application of training.

Member Activity: (11/27/17-11/26/18) Participate in training/continuing education opportunities that may include Substance Abuse and Prevention Skills Training, Aware Rx Curriculum, Naloxone Administration, ABCs of Addiction, Parental Substance Abuse, IRB Research Training, and Adverse Childhood Experiences Training.

Opioid Prevention Specialist- St. Louis County, MN

Member Duties : The VISTA member will: 1) combine Community Forum data into one high impact paper and determine future forum evaluation methods, 2) support regional coalitions reducing opioid use, 3) conduct focus groups of Drug Court participants, 4) facilitate relationships necessary to complete Naloxone Opioid Antagonist Protocols, 5) Engage institutions of higher education in Naloxone Policies and Procedures including developing training protocols and best practices for campus access and use, 6) establish a baseline of Naloxone dispensing in St. Louis and Carlton counties, 7) develop presentation materials and determine effective delivery options to local organizations, college students, high schools, and prescribers and providers, 8) assist in the development of messages and education around Positive Social Norms, other evidence-based prevention messaging strategies, and prescription disposal, and 9) research funding opportunities for community coalitions and assist in grant applications.

Program Benefits : Health Coverage* , Living Allowance , Childcare assistance if eligible , Relocation Allowance , Training , Choice of Education Award or End of Service Stipend .

*For details about AmeriCorps VISTA healthcare benefits, please visit <http://www.vistacampus.gov/healthcare>.

Terms : Car recommended , Permits working at another job during off hours , Permits attendance at school during off hours .

Service Areas : Tribal , Education , Public Safety , Community Outreach , Health , Children/Youth .

Skills : Team Work , General Skills , Writing/Editing , Social Services , First Aid , Community Organization , Medicine , Leadership , Law , Public Speaking , Public Health , Counseling , Conflict Resolution , Computers/Technology , Fund raising/Grant Writing , Education , Communications , Youth Development , Recruitment .

Service Description : In order to address the opioid epidemic in St. Louis County, MN, the Big Water Resilience Corps VISTA project will build capacity of St. Louis County's Public Health and Human Services. The member will build on existing partnerships with local and regional agencies to enhance opioid prevention efforts and build systems to reduce overdoses and expand understanding and options for treatment in a rural environment. The objectives of the assignment include: 1) expanding partnerships and regional understanding around heroin and opioid abuse, 2) building policy, protocols, and programming around Naloxone to ensure access and effective use, 3) developing expanded educational and funding offerings to reduce opioid abuse, and 4) building personal skill and knowledge to serve as a county-wide resource through successful completion and application of training. This position focuses on rural health and will work closely with the Substance Abuse Prevention and Intervention Initiative, University of MN- College of Pharmacy, and the Regional Alcohol, Tobacco, and Other Drug Prevention NE MN. The Opioid Prevention Specialist will expand community collaboration and engagement, help plan and evaluate forums and focus groups, develop policies and protocols, research evidence-

based and best practices in prevention messaging, build a comprehensive community education and outreach system, and research ongoing opportunities for funding and program sustainability. In addition, during the year of service, the VISTA member will participate in special projects including an analysis of the impact of drug courts on student perceptions and culture as a force for recovery in the American Indian population.

SUMMARY Program Type: AmeriCorps VISTA

Program Opioid Prevention Specialist- St. Louis County, MN

Program Start/End Date 11/27/2017 - 11/26/2018

Work Schedule Full Time

Education level College graduate

Age Requirement Minimum: 18 Maximum: None

Program Locations MINNESOTA

Languages

English

Accepting Applications From 09/28/2017 To 11/02/2017
