

Chronic Disease

The CDC/CSTE Fellow will serve as an integral team member of the New Mexico Department of Health (NMDOH) Physical Activity and Nutrition Program for Healthier Weight (PAN4HW) located in Albuquerque, NM. S/he will primarily be involved in applied epidemiology activities related to obesity, physical activity, and nutrition. The PAN4HW program is currently in its fifth year of “capacity building” funding from the CDC’s Division of Nutrition and Physical Activity, and has completed and disseminated “The NM Plan to Promote Healthier Weight: 2006-2015.” (http://www.health.state.nm.us/pdf/NM_PPHW2006Web.pdf) The Plan contains objectives for combating the obesity epidemic in six settings across the state: families and communities, education systems, food systems, community and regional planning (i.e., “built environment”), healthcare systems, and worksites. Implementation of the Plan is overseen by the NM Healthier Weight Council, which develops an annual action plan through advisory groups representing the six settings. The Fellow will play an important role in developing the Council’s annual action plans, identifying and evaluating process and outcome measures for Council activities, and in publishing progress reports.

The Fellow will also analyze, apply, and disseminate PAN4HW-relevant surveillance data from sources such as the Behavioral Risk Factors Surveillance System, the NM Youth Risk & Resiliency Survey (an equivalent to the CDC Youth Risk Behavior Survey), and the Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System. S/he will serve in an advisory capacity regarding NMDOH surveillance system questionnaires and methodologies to ensure that PAN4HW’s data priorities are represented. Evaluation of current surveillance sources will be an important function, and the development of new surveillance activities to fill identified data gaps (e.g., height and weight in elementary and middle school students) will be explored.

The Fellow will have opportunities to develop fact sheets and reports for print and web site dissemination, to write articles for the NMDOH Epidemiology Report, to present at the NMDOH Quarterly Epidemiology meetings and annual NM Public Health Association meetings, and to provide training or technical assistance to contractors and community members. S/he will develop relevant portions (e.g., surveillance and evaluation) of the PAN4HW annual cooperative agreement application for CDC funding and program update reports to CDC. S/he will also be encouraged to participate in PAN4HW-relevant legislative bill analyses during the annual 1-2 month state legislative session, which represents a unique opportunity to inform decision makers.

As the PAN4HW program applies for a second 5-year cycle of competitive CDC funding, it anticipates transitioning to an exciting new phase with a stronger emphasis on policy and environmental approaches to promoting healthier weight. In support of this focus, the Fellow may be assigned to audit relevant national and state legislative actions, as well as administrative policies of state and local governments, businesses, educational institutions, and the healthcare system. Tying PAN4HW program activities to environmental and policy strategies and determining evaluation needs for these efforts will be another important activity in which the Fellow may take the lead.

Although Chronic Disease Bureau staff have not traditionally been included in State Emergency Preparedness efforts, this situation may change given increasing recognition of the need to

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prepare for chronic medical needs in the setting of a disaster. A Fellow with a particular interest in addressing these issues will be encouraged to pursue opportunities for involvement.

In summary, the Fellow will serve as an active, integrated team member working with a variety of partners to shape the future of physical activity, nutrition, healthier weight, and emergency preparedness programs in New Mexico.

Assignment Location:	Albuquerque, NM
Primary Mentor:	Susan Baum, MD, MPH Medical Officer/Epidemiologist
Advanced Degrees:	MD, University of Vermont College of Medicine MPH, University of Utah School of Medicine
Secondary Mentor:	Elizabeth Ficek, PhD, MA Epidemiologist
Advanced Degrees:	PhD Health Education, University of New Mexico MA Economics, University of New Mexico
Assignment Location:	Albuquerque, NM
Primary Mentor:	Susan Baum, MD, MPH Medical Officer/Epidemiologist
Advanced Degrees:	MD, University of Vermont College of Medicine MPH, University of Utah School of Medicine
Secondary Mentor:	Elizabeth Ficek, PhD, MA Epidemiologist
Advanced Degrees:	PhD Health Education, University of New Mexico MA Economics, University of New Mexico