

## Mental Health Policy Intern – Fall 2014

### Center for Public Policy Priorities

The Center for Public Policy Priorities (CPPP) is a nonpartisan, nonprofit 501(c)(3) policy institute committed to improving public policies to better the economic and social conditions of low- and moderate-income Texans. The center pursues this mission through independent research, policy analysis and development, public education, advocacy, and technical assistance.

#### Intern Position

CPPP is looking for a graduate student intern to work directly with the Mental Health Policy Analyst as well as with CPPP health team members Anne Dunkelberg and Stacey Pogue. The intern will primarily focus on issues related to Mental Health care. Policy topics include: access to mental health services for all populations, implementation of the ACA and mental health parity, state budget analysis for public mental health services, analysis of the current mental health system as well proposed initiatives, and other related topics.

Specific tasks may include:

- Assist with researching mental health topics, policy and budget analysis, writing, and editing reports and other projects;
- Assist with developing and proposing several policy initiatives for the 2015 Legislative session, including a pilot program that will seek to utilize peer support specialists to provide support services to inmates transitioning from a correctional setting into the community mental health centers;
- Assist with participation on several advisory councils, coalitions, and other stakeholder groups;
- Assist other health team members with other coalition and campaign planning and logistics;
- Be encouraged to author or joint-author blog posts or other agreed-on research products on related mental health policy topics;
- Assist with other necessary tasks as they arise.

If the intern requests, we will work with them to identify an area of mental health policy research that is **relevant to the Center's work** and coordinated with the intern's academic goals in which they can engage.

The intern will work with CPPP health team members Anne Dunkelberg, Stacey Pogue, Katharine Ligon, and possibly an additional team member (see [www.cppp.org](http://www.cppp.org) for more).

During the 2015 Legislative session, health team members will be busy with session-related work, and applicants should expect to proactive about communicating via email etc. to get the guidance and input they need to fulfill their work responsibilities while staff are at the capitol.

As the Center does not employ any dedicated clerical staff, interns (and policy staff alike) are expected to do their own clerical work and on occasion help out with team preparations for Center events, etc.

The ideal candidate will be brave enough to proactively seek out the guidance they need from the health policy staff in our busy and sometimes hectic workplace. We encourage the intern to act as an active partner in our health team work and the CHIP Coalition leadership.

**Time and Dates Needed:** Internship late-August through end of December 2014 at minimum; an ideal successful intern will be interested in, and considered for continuation through the Spring of 2015.

**Salary:** \$15/hour for 15 to 20 hours per week. Intern will be paid in accordance with the Center's normal payroll practices and will be subject to the usual, required withholding. As a temporary employee, an intern is entitled to CPPP's paid holidays if a holiday falls on a day she/he would otherwise have worked. Interns are not entitled to any other employee benefits such as sick and vacation leave, health and life insurance, employer-sponsored pension, and cell phone reimbursements.

**Work Location:** Center for Public Policy Priorities, 7020 Easy Wind Drive, Suite 200, Austin, TX 78752 (same building as Black Star Co-op, at the Crestview metro station).

**Minimum Qualifications:** Prefer graduate student with demonstrated interest in mental health policy and analytical and writing skills. Open to international students.

**Interested applicants: please submit a cover letter describing your interest in this internship, and resume by July 31, 2014, to:**

Katharine Ligon  
Health Policy Analyst  
[ligon@cphp.org](mailto:ligon@cphp.org)

The Center for Public Policy Priorities is an Equal Opportunity Employer.