



USC Suzanne Dworak-Peck
School of Social Work

Children's Hospital Los Angeles Leadership Education in Adolescent Health

Leadership Education in Adolescent Health Program at CHLA

The Leadership Education in Adolescent Health (LEAH) Program, funded by the federal Bureau of Maternal and Child Health, provides interdisciplinary leadership training in adolescent health for five core disciplines including adolescent medicine, nursing, nutrition, psychology, and social work. The pre- and postdoctoral training prepares health professionals for leadership roles in public health practice and clinical care, research, training, and advocacy with the goal of improving family- and youth-centered, community-based care for adolescents and enhancing the capacity of programs around the country to improve young people's health.

Through the CHLA LEAH, we aim to:

- 1) Prepare fellows/trainees for leadership roles in clinical services, research, training and the organization of health services for adolescents and young adults, including those with special health care needs;
- 2) Integrate biological, developmental, mental and behavioral health, social, economic, educational, and environmental health training within a public health framework;
- 3) Emphasize technical assistance, continuing education, and collaboration with state and local public health agencies, education, youth development, and human service agencies and providers with a maternal and child health focus;
- 4) Develop, enhance and improve evidence-based, patient-centered, family involved, culturally competent, community based care plans and practices for adolescents and young adults; and
- 5) Improve the health status of adolescents by engaging trainees in clinic-based and community-based advocacy and research projects that transform service delivery.

Our Fellows and Trainees

The CHLA LEAH Program is committed to priority enrollment of fellows and trainees who reflect diversity in ethnicity, culture, race, gender, and sexual orientation, currently underrepresented in health care and related fields. We are currently recruiting long-term fellows from two of the core LEAH disciplines (nursing and nutrition) who seek leadership roles in clinical services, research, training, and development of health services for adolescents. Long-term fellows are advanced learners who are currently enrolled in a relevant advanced graduate program, or are mid-career community professionals with an advanced degree who are interested in additional leadership training.

Long term fellows complete a minimum of 300 hours of training over the course of the academic year. The program is also recruiting advanced learners or mid-career short-term (<40 hours) and medium-term (40 – 299 hours) trainees each year. These trainees will be from the five core disciplines, as well as from fields of public health, dentistry, and other related fields. These trainees will participate in selected didactic and experiential experiences; stipends are only available to long term trainees.

Long Term Fellow Curriculum

The CHLA LEAH training program is a 9-month integrated, interdisciplinary model that addresses the core competencies of adolescent medicine, nursing, nutrition, social work and psychology. The training year runs from October through June and the didactic sessions and interdisciplinary practice clinics are held each Monday. In addition, there are 4 required Wednesday Leadership Trainings on 10/25/17, 11/29/17, 1/24/18 and 2/28/18. The curriculum includes innovative approaches to professional education and patient care; integrates bio-behavioral, bio-psychological, and social determinants concepts; and provides opportunities to demonstrate leadership in improving services for adolescents through clinical and public health approaches. In addition, all long-term fellows will complete a scholarly project to advance the field of adolescent and young adult health and contribute to the translation of research into practice and policy.

The curriculum consists of nine modules that cover the following areas:

- Overview of MCH System of Care/Life course Development Framework; Introduction to the DAYAM and to Interdisciplinary Studies
- Biopsychosocial model of Adolescent and Young Adult health and Development
- Social Determinants of Health and Cultural Diversity
- Trauma Informed Care/Interpersonal Violence/Vulnerable Populations
- Sexual Health and Gender Issues
- Public Systems and Vulnerable Youth
- Behavioral Health and Substance Abuse
- Nutritional Disorders
- Chronic Illness, Special health Care Needs, and Transition to Adult Services

Specific emphasis is placed on addressing the health needs and health disparities faced by vulnerable youth with limited access to care, chronic illness and disability, and those in high-risk environments and without adequate family support. Learning modalities include seminars, clinical cases, small group exercises, presentation skill development, interdisciplinary team modeling, service system engagement, family-based experiences, policy and advocacy work, research methodology, self-reflective leadership training, and clinical exposure.

About Us

Established in 1963, the Division of Adolescent and Young Adult Medicine (DAYAM) at Children's Hospital Los Angeles is one of the largest adolescent medicine programs in the U.S. It is widely known for its innovative service models, leadership in community collaboration, training programs in adolescent health, and applied community-based research. The mission of the Division is *"to advance the health and well-being of adolescents by integrating health care, health promotion and prevention, youth development, professional education, advocacy, research, and evaluation in response to the needs of young people and their communities."*

For More Information

This program is sponsored by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), Maternal and Child Health Bureau (MCHB). If you have additional questions about the program or are interested in applying, please contact: Sara Sherer, PhD, LEAH@chla.usc.edu

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