Establishing Best Practice for Tobacco Cessation Interventions within MEDiC

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About the Program:
MEDiC is a student-run program through UW SMPH. MEDiC’s goals include the following: 1) improving the health of the underserved in the Madison area and 2) educating UW-Madison health professions students. The MEDiC Program consists of seven clinics across Madison. These clinics provide a variety of non-emergent medical services.

Project Opportunity 2016
This project is primarily focused on quality improvement within the MEDiC clinics, specifically around the area of tobacco cessation practices. The student working on this project will examine the current status of tobacco screening within MEDiC clinics. The student will also conduct key informant interviews to determine potential barriers and strategies to implementing a more robust tobacco cessation protocol within the MEDiC clinics. Using available data, students will work with MEDiC leadership to effectively implement evidence-based programs/policies that strengthen tobacco cessation practices.

Activities of the project include:
1. Literature review regarding the tobacco cessation clinical practices and evidence-based public health programs addressing tobacco use
2. Analyze MEDiC electronic health record system data to determine the current status of screening/treatment patterns for tobacco use
3. Develop interview questions, conduct key informant interviews and analyze results
4. Present findings to MEDiC leadership and back to appropriate stakeholders
5. Work with leadership to identify/implement potential strategies.

Required:
- Student must have the skills and ability to assist and/or conduct key informant interviews. Student will assist with compiling, organizing and interpreting qualitative and quantitative data.
- A student with the ability to work and communicate effectively with a diverse range of community members and MEDiC leadership is the ideal candidate for this project experience.
- The student should also have strong written and verbal skills, be highly organized and self-directed.
- A student with experience volunteering within the MEDiC clinics would be ideal but not a pre-requisite. Students do not have to be on MEDiC Council to apply for this project.

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