

Allyson Gittens

EDUCATION

Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health - Baltimore, MD Sept. 2016 - May 2018
Master of Health Science in Social Factors in Health

Dartmouth College - Hanover, NH Sept. 2008 - June 2012
Bachelor of Arts in Sociology; Minor in International Studies

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

RAND Corporation - Boston, MA Nov. 2018 - Present
Policy Analyst

- Lead research tasks in order to track 11 communities, conducting 40+ phone interviews with a diverse range of stakeholders, conducting environmental scans for each community, updating scans at regular intervals, and synthesizing data to produce summary documents for each community.
- Analyzed survey data of 500+ behavioral health technicians and 600+ mental health providers serving in the Military Health System (MHS).
- Contributed to the writing of 100+ page report describing the role of behavioral health technicians in the MHS.
- Managed \$300,000 federally funded study by preparing project meeting agendas, maintaining timelines and databases, compiling and disseminating notes from meetings, and serving as liaison to project sponsors.
- Conducted environmental scans, carry out interviews, coordinate with key informants, as well as write case studies and chapters for final report on the status of the entry-level health care workforce in the U.S.
- Conduct literature reviews to inform best practices for providing non-medical counseling to military children.

Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health - Baltimore, MD Jan. 2017 - Present
Research Assistant in the Department of Health Policy & Management

- Plan and conduct systematic literature review to evaluate best practices for carrying out community-based interventions for helping African-American women manage hypertension.
- Drafted 3,000-word manuscript for future publication for study exploring the usefulness of a cost model for knee osteoarthritis treatment for African American and Latina women.
- Collaborated with research team to organize focus group discussions for Latina women in Silver Spring, MD.
- Coded transcripts of patient telephone interviews regarding the impact of Health Enterprise Zones in Baltimore.

Mathematica Policy Research - Cambridge, MA May 2017 - Nov. 2017
Health Policy Analyst

- Conducted analyses on yearly trends and the use of electronic health records for the "Core Set Performance Measures" set forth by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS).
- Compiled and analyzed state data on the Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems (CAHPS) Survey and created a Powerpoint slide deck to present findings and recommendations to CMS.
- Developed template for states to submit future CAHPS data to an internal database to improve ease of reporting.

VA Boston HealthCare System - Boston, MA Aug. 2015 - July 2016
Research Assistant at the Center for HealthCare Organization and Implementation Research (CHOIR)

- Conducted quantitative telephone interviews with over 40 Veterans for a study with an experimental evaluation design regarding patient satisfaction with mental health care services within the Veterans Health Administration.
- Maintained RedCap database for the collection of data from quantitative interviews with veterans.
- Managed account on ClinicalTrials.gov to track progress of veteran satisfaction study.
- Prepared various tables and graphs summarizing qualitative and quantitative findings for grant proposals.
- Compiled, drafted and submitted IRB protocol and other required documentation for research compliance.

Boston Children's Hospital - Boston, MA Sept. 2014 - July 2015
Resource Specialist in the Department of Adolescent Medicine

- Enrolled patients in social services such as food stamps, housing, health insurance and utility assistance.
- Identified and secured clinical and social services for patients with complex medical conditions in need of ongoing support services.

- Advocated at Massachusetts State House for legislation that would provide families with better access to nutrition assistance benefits and emergency shelter.

Publications and Research Reports

- Fischer, S. H., McBain, R. K., Faherty, L. J., Sousa, J. L., Karedy, V., **Gittens, A. D.**, & Martsof, G. (2020). *Strengthening the entry-level health care workforce: finding a path* (R. Health, H. United States. Department of, P. Human Services. Office of the Assistant Secretary for, Evaluation, & C. Rand Eds.). Santa Monica, CA: RAND.
- Gaskin, D. J., Karmarkar, T. D., Maurer, A., Bucay-Harari, L., Casillas, G., **Gittens, A.**, ... & Wood, J. E. (2020). Potential Role of Cost and Quality of Life in Treatment Decisions for Arthritis-Related Knee Pain in African American and Latina Women. *Arthritis care & research*, 72(5), 692-698.

Volunteer Experience

Saint Katharine Drexel Parish Social Justice Committee – Boston, MA September 2020 - Present
Committee Member

- Co-created pamphlet of local resources for community members including information for various services in the areas of education, housing, food, legal as well as COVID-19 safety guidelines.
- Collaborated with committee members to devise equitable COVID-19 vaccine distribution plan for communities of color in Boston.

Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health – Baltimore, MD May 2017 – May 2018
Vice President of Quality of Life Committee - Student Assembly

- Mobilized and oversaw committee of 9 members to plan, develop and execute programs to improve overall student experience at the Bloomberg School of Public Health.
- Served as liaison on the school's Wellness Committee and University Health Services Committee to advocate for student health issues.
- Planned and implemented health promotion campaigns, networking events, wellness events and town halls with deans of the school.
- Managed \$5,000 budget and allocated funds for a variety of events to enhance students' well-being.

Dartmouth College – Hanover, NH Jan. 2017 – Present
Admissions Ambassador

- Conduct admissions interviews with prospective Dartmouth applicants.
- Write reports and provide feedback to the Dartmouth Admissions Office about the candidacy of interviewees.
- Inform prospective students about the Dartmouth undergraduate experience and answer any related questions that interviewees may pose.

Martha's Place – Baltimore, MD Jan. 2017 – May 2017
Job Search Specialist

- Taught essential guidelines and best practices for creating a resume to residents of Martha's Place who were previously homeless and recovering from substance abuse.
- Advised residents with little work experience and significant gaps in work history on developing their resumes.
- Researched strategies and instructed as well as practiced interview strategies for women who have criminal backgrounds and are recovering addicts.
- Collected information and informed Martha's Place residents about upcoming job fairs in the Baltimore area.

SKILLS

- Languages: Conversational Spanish
- Qualitative Analysis Programs: Proficient in MaxQDA and Qualtrics
- Statistical Software: Proficient in STATA and some knowledge of R
- Other Programs: Proficient in Salesforce, EndNote, RedCap, Hootsuite and WordPress

AWARDS

- Dartmouth College – Hanover, NH*
- The Sociological Imagination Award - In Recognition of Social Justice June 2012
- Boston Latin School – Boston, MA*
- National Honor Society Member May 2008