Adam Gailani, M.D.

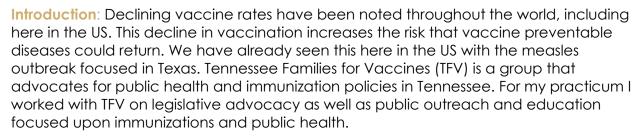
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Practicum Site: Tennessee Families for Vaccines

Site Supervisor: Emily Delikat, M.P.H., C.P.H.

Vaccine Advocacy in Tennessee

Key words: vaccination, legislation, advocacy



Methods: My practicum time was divided into multiple areas. First, I attended weekly planning meetings during the Tennessee state government's legislative session. When proposed public health legislation was discussed, we developed strategies for how to promote or oppose relevant legislation. This culminated in TVF's visit to the Tennessee state capital to discuss public health legislation with state representatives and senators. Second, I worked with TFV during public outreach events such as Dicken's of Christmas festival in Franklin, TN, and at the Nashville Sounds' "Hit a Home Run for Health Night" to promote TVF's mission. I also developed an educational website targeted towards legislators and the general public for TFV that addressed common questions regarding vaccines.

Results: My primary practicum product is the educational website that covered common questions about vaccines that was written for the legislators (primarily in Tennessee) and the general public.

Conclusions: With vaccine rates declining across the US, it has become even more important to advance and maintain public health measures and systems. Continued legislative and community engagement is vital to strengthen public health measures such as vaccination. Community organizations such as TFV can play a key role in advancing these measures.

