



Jillian Goles, M.S.

M.P.H. Candidate, Health Policy Track
jillian.g.goles@vanderbilt.edu

Practicum Site:
American Academy of Physician Assistants
Alexandria, VA

Practicum Site Supervisor:
Ann Davis, M.S.

designated Health Professional Shortage Areas scored at 12 or above. This includes over half of the counties in Illinois.

Interpretation: The AAPA aims to maintain this legislative momentum in an effort to grow OTP efforts. It is important for practicing PAs to stay up to date on new legislative efforts in order to continue to grow our scope of practice. As a practicing PA working with the AAPA's legal staff on new scope of practice legislation, I believe further involvement of PAs in clinical practice is imperative in growing our profession.

Physician Assistant Policy & Effective Advocacy

Program purpose: As a practicing Physician Assistant (PA) and Vanderbilt MPH Candidate, I completed my practicum at the American Academy of Physician Assistants (AAPA) which serves as the national professional society for PAs and advocates and educates on the behalf of the profession and the patients PAs care for. The AAPA is housed in Alexandria, Virginia just miles from our nation's political center, Washington, D.C.

Structure, design of program/project: More specifically I worked within AAPA's Constituent Organization Outreach & Advocacy Department and aided in creating proposals and legislative documents promoting Optimal Team Practice (OTP). OTP would allow for PAs to have a broader scope and full prescriptive authority, as nurse practitioners already do in many states. Thus, gaining the support of relevant organizations and searching for new organizations to partner with on these efforts has been imperative. In addition to researching supporting agencies, I created legislative proposals and other relevant documents regarding Optimal Team Practice that have been and will be utilized by Illinois and Montana during the upcoming legislative sessions.

Outcomes, evaluation, and final practicum products: The Illinois Academy of Physician Assistants in collaboration with my team at the AAPA has been successful in passing two bills which broadened PA scope of practice at the state level and also positively impact public health. Senate Bill 2904 in Illinois expanded the PA ratio from five PAs to every one physician to seven PAs to every one physician. It also eliminated the physician to PA ratio completely for federally-

