

# **Baltimore Health Department**

## **Educational Purpose and Goals**

The health care delivery system is complicated and knowing all of the possible resources is difficult. The Baltimore City Health Department (BCHD) will provide two distinct learning opportunities: clinical experiences and policy and program development. Residents will spend time at the BCHD learning about the scope of clinical services, observing and participating in programs, and contributing to policy and program development.

## **Patient Care**

- Residents will provide care for patients in sexually transmitted disease clinics, reproductive health clinics, and direct observed therapy tuberculosis programs.
- Residents will take part in care provided through immunization programs, senior care, lead poisoning prevention services, needle exchange, and the HIV van.
- Residents will become familiar with the mechanisms for disease prevention and health promotion.
- Residents will participate in community health education programs, nutrition programs, youth violence prevention, emergency preparedness, drug treatment and maternal and child health programs.
- Residents will develop an understanding of the role of primary care physicians in contributing to the care of vulnerable patients

## **Medical Knowledge**

- Residents will be able to review data relating to a specific public health issue
- Residents will identify, learn and utilize major national and state guidelines for improving the health status of the U.S. population, e.g. "Healthy People 2010".
- Residents will understand the critical role of the practicing physician in recognizing preventable illness and mobilizing community resources for prevention.
- Residents will learn how to treat and diagnose sexually transmitted diseases
- Resident will learn how to treat tuberculosis

## **Interpersonal and Communication Skills**

- Residents will communicate clearly and effectively, through presentations and reports, with health professionals, key stakeholders, the public, and the media
- The resident will be able to integrate patient-centered and doctor-centered communication skills to promote health, prevent disease, and screen for illness.
- The resident will be able to use similar skills in relating effectively to BHD members.

## **Professionalism**

- In sometimes-difficult situations, the resident will be able to always exhibit respect, understanding of the patient's vantage point, acknowledge the patient's plight, and find something praiseworthy about the patient.
- The resident will be able to become a patient's ally, provide support and counsel in a primary care setting, and provide information and other resources needed.
- The resident will be able to be sensitive to cultural, disability, lifestyle, and gender differences.

- The resident will be able to articulate, understand, and practice in a way consistent with ethically sound, patient-centered practices.

### **Practice Based Learning and Improvement**

- Identify ethical, social and cultural issues relating to policies, risks, research and interventions in preventive medicine and public health, focusing on their impact on populations
- Residents will become familiar with health resources available to patients through the Health Department (e.g. immunizations, free HIV testing, drug treatment, tobacco cessation, home nursing)

### **Systems Based Practice**

- Gain a basic understanding of local public health law, including the limitations and powers it conveys on the Commissioner and the Health Department
- Identify the processes by which priorities are selected and decisions are made on the city, state and national level and their points of influence.
- Understand the structure and function of the Health Department, and its interaction with State and Federal health agencies.