

Ashley M. Miller

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EDUCATION

- **Masters of Public Administration, Public Management, *in progress*-estimated completion May 2021**
University of Nebraska – Omaha, Omaha, NE
- **Bachelor of Science, Psychology, May 2015**
Honors: *summa cum laude*
University of South Dakota, Vermillion, SD

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Research Specialist II (40 hours/week)

October 2020 – Present

Lincoln, NE

- Work with dynamic teams on variety of public policy projects, including those in behavioral health, public participation, and other applied social sciences endeavors;
- Conduct and facilitate research, coordinate projects and stakeholder involvement processes, design survey instruments, collect and analyze data, write reports, and present findings that impact state, local and federal policy;

Nebraska Violent Death Reporting System (NeVDRS) (8 hours/week)

December 2017 – Present

State Unintentional Drug Overdose Reporting System (SUDORS)

Lincoln, NE

- Full time employment December 2017 through September 2020, and currently consult in the same program management role to ensure programmatic continuity;
- Create and execute an implementation plan for NeVDRS and SUDORS in accordance with the funding opportunity announcement requirements from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC);
- Identify and develop relationships with key data providers and stakeholders to engage support and enhance voluntary participation in NeVDRS and SUDORS. Prior to employment, NeVDRS had access to 12% of applicable data in Nebraska. Efforts have increased participation and allowed NeVDRS/SUDORS access to roughly 90% of applicable data;
- Spearhead the development of the Medicolegal Death Investigation Training curriculum and conference planning to address Nebraska Coroner's needs, as described by the NeVDRS advisory council, stakeholder feedback and formal needs assessments, to simultaneously enhance data quality and participation of stakeholders in NeVDRS/SUDORS. The training will last four days, offering continuing education credits, and hosting a mix of national and local experts to an anticipated audience of 300 attendees;
 - Identify, invite, coordinate and facilitate a committee of diverse experts to collaborate on curriculum development in order to ensure comprehensive programming for attendees;
- Analyze complex public health data with SAS and SPSS to create data presentations, including factsheets and stakeholder-specific content. Use findings as means to recommend intervention and prevention opportunities for government, nonprofit and healthcare facilities;

- Develop case identification protocols with accurate inclusion criteria with SAS code from vital records data, protocol for data collection planning, and case request/receipt tracking systems;
- Present at statewide conferences and various violence prevention nonprofit board meetings with audience sizes ranging from small group settings to several hundred individuals;
- Evaluation of NeVDRS data collection, completeness and quality by the CDC in all years of grant funding scored Nebraska in the “excellent” category for the death certificate information and availability of circumstances from law enforcement and Coroner reports;
- Prepare clear and concise grant reports, data quality assessments, performance indicators, grant budgets, continuation applications, and inter-agency contracts;
- Oversee the hiring, training and ongoing supervision of abstractors to include inter-rater reliability and quality checks;
- Participate in grant application writing and successfully secured funding for SUDORS, a part of Overdose to Action funding;
- Create, coordinate, and facilitate the NeVDRS advisory committee and other stakeholder meetings on a quarterly basis. This includes the following: the development of agenda items, data presentations, discussion of strengths/weaknesses of current program, and inquiry about interest in special topic presentations;
- Participate in the strategic plan development for the Office of Maternal and Child Health to ensure violence prevention remains a strategic initiative and provide data to support this need, including information on disparate populations while identifying opportunity for streamlined prevention efforts.

Research Assistant**May 2018 – May 2019**

University of Nebraska – Lincoln
Lincoln, NE

- Utilized structured clinical interviewing techniques to administer the relationship quality interview (RQI) and assisted in consensus coding for challenging RQI’s to ensure inter-rater reliability and data validity.
- Developed an enhanced understanding, observed and scored dyadic family relationships for mutually responsive orientation.
- Participated in weekly team meetings to discuss literature in the behavioral and social sciences field, protocol deviations, and ongoing training.
- Collaborated with a team to achieve inter-rater reliability via consensus coding of mutually responsive orientation of parental/child interactions with a group of four research assistants.

Research Assistant (Summer, 40 hours/week)**June 2012 – August 2014**

Sioux Falls, SD

- Performed participant study visits with tasks including: fetal monitoring assessments, administration of sensitive questionnaires, and newborn physiology assessments.
- Spearheaded a project sending/receiving over 20,000 medical records for chart abstractions for thousands of study participants to include contacting medical offices with releases of information and developing tracking documents for record receipt and abstraction completion.
- Performed numerous other tasks to include the following: scheduling, follow-up phone calls, data entry, and checking consents.
- Conducted cross-cultural visits on the Pine Ridge Native American Indian Reservation.
- Participated in extensive Institutional Review Board Training and observed the proceedings regarding a large human subject research study at Sanford Health.

CLINICAL EXPERIENCE

COVID-19 Epidemiological Response

February 2020 – August 2020

Lincoln, NE

- Led a team of disease investigators and contract tracers. Assessed individual strengths and delegated responsibilities accordingly. Duties included conducting daily team meetings, assigning cases, consulting with the local health department and team members, cleaning data, and training staff. Utilized innovative methods, such as zoom rooms staffed by knowledgeable team members, to streamline questions on case investigation and alleviate bottlenecks in team functioning. Computed performance metrics to identify both training opportunities and assess workload capacity to maximize team efficiency.
- Specialized knowledge in long term care facility and medical personnel risk classifications, best practices and facility cohorting. Provided consultation to facilities with the Nebraska Infection Control and Assessment Promotion Program (ICAP).
- Offered assistance to Nebraska local health departments regarding epidemiological investigations of confirmed COVID-19 positive cases to determine contacts and associated risk status as well as quarantine recommendations, secondary infections, epidemiological value to further testing, and primary infection source.
- Assisted in the development of active monitoring protocol for high-risk contacts of case investigations to include the development of an automated RedCap survey to track symptoms two times per day and staffing to review and follow up on symptomatic survey responses.
- Assisted in the development of a second RedCap survey for healthcare professionals seeking testing of individuals with symptomology indicative of COVID-19. Ensured the turnaround time for a Person Under Investigation number, which allowed for expedited sample testing with limited public health lab resources, was maintained within 8 hours, 24 hours per day 7 days per week, despite thousands of requests.

Family Permanency Specialist (40 hours/week)

May 2015 – December 2017

Omaha, NE

- Collaborated with multiple professionals to develop specific action plans to efficiently promote positive change and ensure the safety, permanency and well-being of children, who were victims of abuse and neglect.
- Generated numerous reports to include visit documentation, safety, risk, family strengths and needs, and reunification assessments. Such assessments served as the primary basis of progression from removal to a safe means of permanency for the child to include adoption, guardianship or reunification.
- Identified and advocated for the unique needs of individuals through drafting case plans and completing structured decision making assessments. These served as a means to ensure families received invaluable treatment that they were most likely to engage with.
- Generated, and was able to testify to, content in detailed reports for juvenile court proceedings, which were consistently submitted as evidence and utilized as the factual basis for new court orders, thereby creating proficient understanding of litigation and court processes.
- Independently and continually examined all available information from professionals to assess safety of clients and made highly informed decisions with ample, documented evidence.
- Served as a new employee mentor and participated on panels for new employees.
- Acted as coverage supervisor and team lead during supervisor absences.
- Participated in various work groups to include Operations Management and a technology pilot program.

Call Specialist/Teen Crisis Texting Volunteer (20 hours/week)

January 2014 – January 2015

Sioux Falls, SD

- Established rapport with callers in various crisis situations (sexual abuse, domestic violence, child abuse, elder abuse, substance abuse, suicide, and serious mental illness), assessed imminent risk, and provided proper intervention.
- Retained composure and used active listening during high stress conditions in order to de-escalate situations.
- Assisted with the implementation of a teen crisis texting program to include consultation with the Suicide Prevention Coordinator on user interaction, hours, response times and specific needs of employees in responding to instant messaging from a youth population. Promoted this program at local high schools and provided initial response to live messages via the software.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Supplemental Instructor and Tutor (10-15 hours/week)

January 2012 – May 2014

Vermillion, SD

- Reviewed student's assignment scores in aggregate form and surveyed needs of the introductory chemistry class to identify challenging course material and developed lesson plans tailored to these specific needs.
- Led two 1 hour review sessions on a weekly basis for 50-100 students. To accommodate varied learning styles, one session was lecture based and one session promoted group discussion. Utilized available technology with registered clicker devices for students to submit answers to practice questions during session to assess understanding.
- Provided individual tutoring on an as-needed/drop-in basis for General Chemistry and Calculus 2.

SERVICE EXPERIENCE

Team Member

June 2019 – present

Local Outreach to Suicide Survivors

Lincoln, NE

- Served as a member of an on-call team consisting of trained mental health professionals and suicide survivors to provide acute support to survivors of suicide.
- Provided immediate assistance to survivors to help them cope with the trauma of their loss, provided follow-up contact with the survivors, and coordinated the utilization of services and support groups within the community.

Sexual Assault Support Group Facilitator

May 2015 – May 2016

Women's Center for Advancement

Omaha, NE

- Assisted in the development and instruction of weekly topics for a sexual assault survivor support group to enhance quality of life, increase coping skills, and inspire members to achieve personal goals.
- Encouraged participants to empower fellow survivors and provided connections to advocacy services.

Site Leader

April 2011 – April 2013

Alternative Week of Off-Campus Learning

Vermillion, SD

- Arranged and supervised a multiple day community service trip for college students to work with individuals experiencing developmental disabilities. The work was meant to assist the self-sustaining village in readying for the upcoming spring season.

- Created an application process, interviewed and selected qualified applicants to participate in the experience.
- Created a budget and an itinerary for travel, which included arranging for all miscellaneous travel needs.
- Created and presented two hours per week for two months to prepare the selected group of individuals to be culturally competent and aware of the demands of the upcoming service trip.

KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Recognition of Service Certificate for conference planning (CDC, 2020);
- Challenge Coin recipient for commitment to service (University of Nebraska – Omaha School of Criminology, 2019)
- “Excellent” ratings for data completeness and quality (CDC, 2017 and 2018)
- Star Family Permanency Specialist Nominee (Nebraska Families Collaborative, 2015);
- “Burning the Midnight Oil” recognition (Helpline Center, 2014);
- Outstanding Leadership Award (University of South Dakota, 2013);

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS/PRESENTATIONS:

- Nebraska State Epidemiologic Outcomes Workgroup: Member
- Safe States: Member
- Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists: Member
- Nebraska Drug Safety Advisory Group: Member
- Medicolegal Death Investigation Training Host • Omaha, NE • 2020/2021
- Lincoln Police Department • Lincoln, NE • 2020
- Nebraska County Attorney Association • Virtual Conference • 2020
- Drug Safety Advisory Group • Lincoln, NE • 2019
- Metro Area Suicide Prevention Coalition • Omaha, NE • 2019
- State Epidemiological Outcomes Workgroup • Lincoln, NE • 2019
- Lancaster County Suicide Prevention Coalition • Lincoln, NE • 2019
- Lincoln Public Schools • Lincoln, NE • 2019
- Nebraska State Suicide Prevention Coalition • Lincoln, NE • 2019
- A Nebraska Coalition for Victims of Crime Advisory Council Meeting • Lincoln, NE • 2019
- Nebraska Sheriff Association/Police Chief Association Annual Conference • Kearney, NE • 2018/2019
- A Women’s Fund Omaha Advisory Council Meeting • Omaha, NE • 2018
- Nebraska Information Analysis Center • Lincoln, NE • 2018

CERTIFICATIONS & TRAININGS:

- Resolving Conflicts (2019)
- Hallmarks of Supervisory Success (2019)
- Cultivating an Inclusive Environment: Recognizing and Responding to Implicit Bias (2019)
- Human Subjects CITI Online Training (2018)
- Mental Health First Aid Certified (2017)
- Nonviolent Crisis Intervention Skills Certified (2015)
- ASIST (Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training) Certified (2014)