# January/February 2021 Impacts

63 community peer educators and "first points of contact" to help others build, find, and use resources for wellness, stability, and prosperity



Over winter break we made adjustments to enhance our strengths and address the challenges of our hybrid virtual/in-person communities.

# **Recruitment and Training**

• Welcome to new PHC and IFC Health Workers for 2021! They finished initial training on Jan 23rd and quickly helped their communities through the February Covid 19 surge!





 Applications for 2020-21 UHS-Health Workers for Res Halls, Bowles, I-House and Academic Depts due March 31st! We distributed our recruitment flyer, video, and website to the campus community!



### • PH197 Speakers

- **Tami Cate** UHS Communications Manager and **Elizabeth Adams**, DNP, RN UHS Clinical Operations Manager & Nursing Supervisor, Primary Care
- Liat Wexler PATH to Care Center Prevention Manager, Faculty & Staff
- Toby Morris, MS, RD UHS Dietitian and Elizabeth Aong, MPH, RD UHS Clinical Dietitian
- Patrick B. McGrath, PhD-NOCD Head of Clinical Services, Stacey C. Conroy LICSW, MPH NOCD,
  Keara E. Valentine, PsyD Stanford Univ, and Radhika Sivaramakrishna, Former Cal Parent
- **Tobirus M. Newby**, LCSW UHS Social Services Director
- HWP Coords: Courtney Chau, Tomas Hererro, Jennifer Choi, Tiffany Yu, Loren Lewis

# **Community-Wide Education**

- Health Tips: HWs made these weekly fliers on pertinent college health issues and resources more personal and <u>"sticky"</u> than ever
  - Mental and Physical Hygiene
  - Belonging, Social Norms and Bystander Intervention
- Substance Use Disorder & Obsessive
  Compulsive Disorder
- Lifelong Intellectual Learning and Curiosity
  Occupational Health: Ergonomics and Anti-Racism
- Nutrition & Eating/Body Image & Eating Disorders

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#### • Health Tip LIVE:

- Campus-wide: 2-3 events per month by our Coord Team are open to all. Archive of recordings on our <u>webpage</u>. Live streamed events via <u>Be Well Call Facebook</u>.
- Individual: Health Workers are delivering HT LIVEs for their communities throughout the semester. Topics include: Optimizing Productivity through Optimism (Unit 2); Springtime Activities in Berkeley (Unit 4); Black History Month (Unit 5); Preparing for a Disaster (Unit 6); Breast and Ovarian Cancer Prevention (PHC); Social Relationships (IFC).

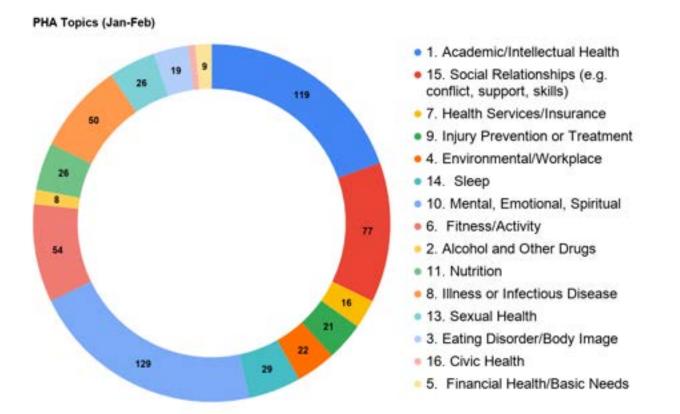


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# **Peer Health Advising (PHA)**



- Total PHAs: 659, Top Topics: *Mental/Emotional/Spiritual Health, Academic/Intellectual Health, Social Relationships*
- Because "virtual" Health Workers have really struggled to engage and do PHAs with "on campus" residents, this semester we expanded our PHAs to include any Berkeley student and/or student community leader. We also encourage Health Workers to do weekly Self-PHAs which have been useful and appreciated.

"Over the past week I've been dealing with a lot of stress and an overall overwhelmingly depressed mood with little motivation. I think the combination of the halfway point of the semester, some issues at home, and the amount of change coming in the next few months is definitely starting to compile and affect me... I use this weekly self-PHA as a way of monitoring my mood over time, and I am getting the help I need!" - Health Worker, 3rd year

# **Spotlight: HWP Pilot - Academic Departments**

 When our UHS Health Workers pivoted to "remote" for Fall 2020, we discovered a pandemic silver lining! Our trained volunteer peer educators might be able to engage and help even more students than before! So during Spring 2021 we are partnering with three academic departments to pilot our holistic health and wellness support services



to their students.

#### **Our Partners:**

- School of Public Health Undergraduate Program: Kimberly Henderson, Academic Advisor & Co-Manager
- Rausser College of Natural Resources: Jenny Miner, Academic Advisor, Environmental Sciences
- Molecular and Cell Biology & Integrative Biology: Natalie Tyson, M.A., LMFT, LPCC, Undergraduate Academic Advisor



#### What we do for our community

Research, write and share Health Tips in workly Divers and via RA smalls. We due Highlight offset information in the meta lobby building loarly for as how your these building.

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#### Successes

- HWP stepped up in multiple ways with Covid 19 prevention, testing and vaccination - especially during the February surge:
  - Amplified and customized campus education and messages, including UHS Coronavirus website and PartySafe: Healthy Pandemic Practices; filled needed volunteer roles
  - Alumni returned to serve students in quarantine/isolation at Foothill
- Weekly Self-PHAs are meaningful reflection/goalsetting time for Health Workers and help Coord Team provide them with timely support.

### Challenges

- Peer Health Advising (PHA) activities are significantly fewer for virtual than in-person Health Workers; an endorsement for our traditional residentially-based approach.
- The Covid 19 surge in February followed by fluctuating numbers of cases - made it hard for the Foothill Professional Staff to integrate their new Health Workers.
- Faced with new challenges, some PHC chapters asked their new Health Workers to perform Covid-related tasks beyond their role, responsibilities and training.

For more information visit HWP webpage, <u>https://uhs.berkeley.edu/healthworkers</u> or contact Karen Hughes, HWP Coordinator at 510-643-9073 or khughes@berkeley.edu.