



My Practicum at Access Alliance

Tackling Tuberculosis Stigma

Knowledge Mobilization Lead

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Access Alliance

- Access Alliance (AA) is a community health centre that provide services to address systemic inequities to improve health outcomes for vulnerable populations. 
- They conduct research on issues that affect their clients and actively share research evidence to **inform healthy public policies and interventions** geared towards advancing health equity.
- As a Knowledge Mobilization Lead (KMb), I worked remotely under the Research and Advocacy Department and reported to the Knowledge Mobilization & Social Action Coordinator.



Image 1: Zoom screenshot taken from a daily check-in

KMb & Health Policy

Policy

KTE activities and products for this level are geared specifically at informing policies and funding models at government level or at sector/system level.

Organizational

KTE activities & products for this level are focused on informing positive changes in organizational level programs, services, practices & culture.

Community

KTE activities & products for this level are focused on overcoming knowledge & capacity gap among communities of interest &/or deepening public knowledge about the issue.

Image 2: Shows how KMb is the meaningful use of evidence to align research, policy & practice to create better health outcomes for all. Retrieved from AA website.

Projects Overview

• Mobilize YU Certificate	• TB Slide Deck
• TB KMb Plan	• TB Social Media Campaign
• HIV, TB, & COVID Literature Review	• Impact Summary Research Report
• KMb Tools Development	• Social Media Database

Major Projects/Initiative	Key Tasks & Lessons Learnt
TB KMb Plan:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supported the development of the TB KMb plan by outlining key tools/products, activities, target audience(s), etc. • Conducted a literature review on HIV, TB, and COVID to draw parallels on how stigma exacerbates disease within the individual, community, and policy level. • Applied a health equity lens gained from HLST 3120 (Analyzing Processes of Power and Politics) to understand how civil society and politics influence the development of health & social policy.
TB Slide Deck	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Critically analyzed the Tackling TB Stigma Research Report and synthesized important findings and recommendations into a slide deck to be shared at the North American Refugee Health Conference.
MobilizeYU Certificate: 8-Week KMb Course	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learnt about the two-way connection between researchers/stakeholders and how research evidence can inform decisions on public policy and professional practice. • Engaged in conversations with faculty researchers, postdoctoral fellows, graduate students, and community partners. • Learnt about research and communications strategies, impact and evaluation, knowledge products, acquired clear writing skills, etc.



Significance of Work

- **Generated Awareness** around TB and the high levels of stigma attached to newcomer populations in Toronto with the intent of eliminating misconceptions, which will lead to increased usage of TB management services.
- **Imparted Knowledge** for improving health and settlement service provider competencies and practices, that will lead to increased access to support and care for newcomers in Canada who are living with/at risk of acquiring TB.

Reflection

My time at Access was an invaluable experience as I learnt about the biases influencing health policy, research, and decision-making through an important public health issue. By attending meetings with researchers and community partners, I gained confidence speaking in professional settings and noted the importance of moving away from siloed healthcare delivery to solve complex health issues such as TB.

Words of Advice

Advice to my former self:

- This is a low-risk environment and there's nothing to be nervous about.
- Keep a notebook and write down everything.

Advice to future students: Talents are universal, but opportunities are not, so wherever you go, take initiative and create your own opportunities! Have fun 😊