

Mental Health Grand Challenges Canada

Partners In Health (PIH)/Zanmi Lasante (ZL)/Payne Global Consulting (PGC)

Contractor Role

Mental mHealth Technical Advisor

Location

Mirebalais, Haiti, with initial training in Boston, MA, USA

Partners In Health and Zanmi Lasante Background

Partners In Health (“PIH”), headquartered in Boston, MA, is an internationally recognized non-profit organization whose mission is to provide a preferential option for the poor in health care. Through its service delivery, training, advocacy and research, PIH works globally to bring the benefits of modern medical science to those most in need and to serve as an antidote to despair. PIH operates sites for clinical care, research and training in 10 countries (Haiti, Peru, Russia, Boston, Rwanda, Lesotho, Malawi, Kazakhstan, Mexico, the Dominican Republic) and has a growing network of affiliated organizations and initiatives in several other countries, including Nepal, Burundi, Mali, Liberia, Guatemala, and Togo. Zanmi Lasante (ZL) is PIH’s sister organization in Haiti.

ZL Mental Health Program Overview

Partners In Health/Zanmi Lasante (ZL) was awarded a Grand Challenges Canada (GCC) grant to develop a community-based mental health system in Haiti’s Central Plateau/Artibonite region. The program emphasizes depression screening and treatment, largely in response to an acute need in the wake of the 2010 earthquake. The mental health program will be rolled out into 11 health centers, including a staff of 1 clinical psychologist lead, 2 psychologists at the Mirebalais University Hospital (HUM), 30 mental health community workers (including 4 located at HUM), and 2 supervisors for the community health workers. Community workers supplement the physicians through community follow up, new patient registration, interim screening, and referral of acute cases. All physicians and providers use some form of a standardized depression screening tool.

mHealth and Mental Health

As a part of the GCC Project, the ZL Mental Health Team will pilot a mobile depression tool for use by community health workers and psychologists to improve screening and diagnosis, clinical care, referral and data collection. A prototype depression screening application for community health workers was developed in early 2014 through a partnership with the Mobile Health course at the International Health Department at the Boston University School of Public Health (BUSPH). The application was modeled after the paper-based screening tool and workflows provided by the ZL/PIH mental health team. During the course of this project, community health workers at selected pilot sites will transition to a mobile phone-based screening tool to improve standardized care, facilitate referrals and follow up. Data automatically collected on the phones through client registration and screening can facilitate

To apply

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All submissions will be acknowledged.

supervision and structured quality improvement activities. Mobile phones have also been shown to improve community health worker motivation and may promote worker retention and engagement.

mHealth Project Objectives

- Build community depression screening and tracking mobile application, based on prototype developed by BUSPH mHealth course on Dimagi's open-source CommCare platform.
- Implement the community depression screening and tracking mobile application at one selected hospital, leading the training of CHWs in the effective use of the application.
- Provide technical support and training on data management of the community depression screening and tracking data.
- Provide recommendations for: (1) the integration of the community depression screening and tracking data into the clinical workflow during patient visits by physicians/psychologists; (2) use of the mobile application and its data by supervisors and "champions" for management, quality monitoring and improvement activities; and (3) expansion of the community depression screening mobile application to other locations.

Position Overview and Responsibilities:

The Mental mHealth Technical Advisor will act as the on-the-ground technical lead and program manager for the design and initial pilot of the mHealth component of the project. This person will be twinning with a ZL employee in order to build local capacity and ensure sustainability of the project. ***This position will work closely with the PIH/ZL mental health teams to develop, test, and implement this tool at 1 site within the ZL primary care system.***

The ideal candidate for this position will have related work experience in the use of mobile tools within international development, experience living and working in low resource settings, a commitment to capacity building, the ability to prioritize and manage multiple tasks, producing high quality outcomes, be comfortable working with, collaborating, and coordinating culturally diverse colleagues, and possess a strong interest in global mental health.

Duties include the following:

- Act as on-the-ground technical advisor and program manager for mHealth pilot, in collaboration with assigned ZL mHealth coordinator (TBD)
- Collaborate with PIH/ZL Mental Health teams to ensure mHealth pilot integrates seamlessly with GCC and PIH/ZL mental health strategy
- Manage the development, testing, training, supervision, and evaluation of community depression screening and tracking mobile application, based on prototype developed by BUSPH mHealth course
- Integrate community depression screening and tracking data into clinical workflow and depression system of care
- Provide technical supervision and support to ZL Mental health team clinical leadership and mHealth users in all phases of pilot

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- Act as liaison between PIH/ZL Mental Health team and senior mHealth technical advisor.
- Produce all technical reports and deliverables as outlined in terms of reference

Qualifications

- Bachelor's degree required. Relevant graduate degree, such as public health, mental health, or health technology, preferred.
- Spoken Haitian Creole and/or French proficiency required. Written Haitian Creole skills preferred.
- Preferred 2 years minimum experience in low-resource settings.
- Demonstrated experience developing, designing, implementing, managing, and/or evaluating mobile health applications in low-resource settings.
- Demonstrated familiarity with CommCare, an open-source mobile health platform created by Dimagi.
- Demonstrated proficiency with data management, including building reports or dashboards in Microsoft Excel.
- Exposure to clinical and/or public mental health services, teaching, program management, and/or research is preferable.
- Ability to work as an effective team member on a diverse team, while taking initiative and working independently; to prioritize on multiple and complicated tasks; to handle confidential information with discretion and professionalism.
- Strong organizational skills and attention to detail in a fast-paced environment.
- Demonstrated possession of excellent written and oral communication skills.
- Sense of humor, patience, a positive attitude and flexibility a must.
- Passionate about community building, sustainability and instilling a community-based approach to global mental health.

Location and Duration

- Projected position start: early January 2015.
- Position is for 14 weeks as a consultant.
- Contractor will travel to Boston, MA, USA for project orientation, onboarding, and training for up to 2 weeks upon project start.
- Contractor will live and work in Haiti for the remainder of the project, with housing provided by PIH/ZL.

Compensation

Based on experience.

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