**Contact Information**

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**Step One: Pick a Topic**

Select topic of interest

Prepare literature/data review on your topic

Discuss topic with Advocacy Mentor Due Date:

**Step Two: Community Exploration**

Select a community-based organization (CBO) that is working to address your topic of interest. *Advocacy mentor can assist with the selection of CBO*

Contact CBO and plan site visit with CBO

*Advocacy mentor can assist with the selection of CBO*

Email questions / Update to Advocacy Mentor

Due Date:

**Step Three: Develop 3-Level Advocacy Action Plan**

Develop a 3-Level Advocacy Action Plan and review with Advocacy Mentor

Plan an additional Site Visit with CBO if necessary

Due Date:

**Step Four: Prepare Presentation for Final Presentation at Friday Noon Seminar**

* Prepare PowerPoint presentation.
* Review presentation with Discipline Supervisor and Advocacy Mentor Due Date:

**Core Concepts in Child Advocacy**

Definition: Advocacy "pleads the cause of another"

Latin root - means to add one's voice

Three levels of advocacy:

1. Individual

2. Community

3. Policy

What makes **YOU** unique as a child advocate?

1. *Universal access to children*

Very few institutions in our society encounter children during this vulnerable period.

1. *Extensive education, training, and exposure to children's health, behavior and development.*

You share an uncommon breadth and depth of knowledge. Policy

makers need your expertise

1. *Inherently powerful voice.*

The public trusts you as authoritative and non-partisan.

## Why should WE make advocacy a part of our work?

1. The top 2 causes of child death over age 12 months are unintentional injuries and homicides.
2. The most common preventable causes of lifelong disability are unintentional injuries and inadequate prenatal care.
3. Severe health disparities persist across ethnicities and along socioeconomic gradients.
4. The most effective, best studied “vaccine” against school dropout, teen pregnancy and juvenile crime is high-quality, early childhood education.
5. Child advocacy works! Allied health professionals have been instrumental in creating state and national programs that improve child well-being, reduce child morbidity and mortality: newborn screening, infant mental health, literacy programs, family planning clinics, early intervention clinics, mobile clinics…

**OK. You convinced me. But I’m so busy. How can I advocate?**

I’m glad you asked. That’s what the next few months will teach you.

**STEP ONE: PICK A TOPIC**

**Choose a Topic to Explore …**

Answer the following questions during your first month before proceeding to step 2 where you will contact a local CBO.

1. Describe an experience (personal or professional) that helps explain your passion for this topic.
2. What is the prevalence of this problem in the U.S. and in Miami-Dade County?
3. What is the evidence behind programs PROVEN to address this problem?
4. What (if any) Mailman Center program or local community-based agencies exist to address this issue?

**\* Please address these questions in your first step to Advocacy Mentor**

***Topics must be approved by Advocacy Mentor before proceeding to step 2!***

**Suggested List of Topics (a non-exclusive list)**

# Adolescent health

Individuals with DD in the juvenile justice system

Sexuality and disability

Self-determination

Transition issues

Youth self-advocacy

**Assessment Practices**

Assistive technology (AT) practices in the schools

Infant hearing screening

Special education referral and eligibility

Assessing bilingual students

Assessing students with cognitive disabilities

Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)

Early Screening and diagnosis of autism

**Children with Special Health Care Needs (SHCN)/Disability**

Evidence based practice in ASD

Autism and vaccines

Reducing health disparities

Implementation of a Medical Home

Unmet Mental health issues among CSHNs

Coordinating transition services (hospital, home, school)

Nutrition issues

Diabetes management

Management of chronic illnesses (e.g., Sickle cell disease, HIV, cancer)

Traumatic brain injuries

School issues

Working with children who are visually impaired

Violence prevention and students with DD

Deaf education

**Early Childhood Issues**

Access to Health Care

Early Intervention

Early Literacy

Preventing obesity

Infant Mental Health

Preventing Child Abuse

Universal Prekindergarten

**Families and cultural competence**

Bilingualism

Health literacy

Haitian immigrants and access to health care

Promoting literacy for bilingual populations

Empowering parents and parent rights

Issues of domestic violence

# Poverty and Health / Health Access

Cultural barriers: racism, language

Unmet oral health needs

Underused resources

Children with disabilities in the foster care system

Medicare waiver-wait list

Working with Migrant families

Child Maltreament

**STEP TWO: CONTACT A COMMUNITY BASED ORGANIZATION (CBO)**

Find a Mailman Center program or local community-based agency that is working to address your topic of interest. For a list of Mailman Center related programs visit the website at [www.mailmancenter.org](http://www.mailmancenter.org) . It is imperative that you contact your Advocacy Mentor to facilitate contact with a community agency. Contact and make arrangements to visit the community agency to learn how the organization is addressing the issue. Find out what they are doing to advocate for your issue and where advocacy is needed on an individual, community, and policy level. ASK: What can YOU (your discipline) do to further this cause! HINT: This will lead into your 3-level advocacy plan.

Email questions and update to Advocacy Mentor before moving on to Step three.

**STEP THREE: DEVELOP THREE LEVEL ADVOCACY PLAN**

Prepare an outline answering the questions in the guideline below. Submit outline to Advocacy Mentor for feedback.

**Suggested Outline for Advocacy Plan Presentation**

(20 minutes for presentation; 10 minutes for discussion)

1. Why I chose this topic or neighborhood? (1-2 slides)
2. Introduce Topic (1-2 slides)

A. What is the prevalence of this problem? (U.S., Florida, and Miami-Dade)

B. What works to address this problem? [Cite evidence from the medical, public health, disability literature, not websites]

C. What local community agencies are addressing this topic?

1. Community Agency Exploration (2-3 slides)

A. Describe your community partner

B. Describe the community needs

1. My Personal Advocacy Plan for Action (3-5 slides.)

Plan At least One Major Action Planned at

Individual Level,

Community Level, and

Policy Level

V. Next Steps (1 slide)

What will you do next and by WHEN?

**STEP FOUR:** **PREPARE AND PRESENT at Friday Noon Seminar**

Thirty minutes (20 minute presentation and 10 minute discussion) will be allocated for your advocacy talk and scheduled by Advocacy Mentor. Please contact Dr. Advocacy Mentor if you have questions about when you are scheduled to present. Prepare a 20-minute presentation using the guidelines on page 4. Please note: The focus of your presentation should be the community exploration and your 3-level advocacy plan. Therefore, you should plan to introduce your topic briefly (no more than 2-3 minutes), describe your community exploration experience (approximately 5 minutes) and discuss your personal advocacy plan that includes details for how you plan to advocate for your issue (approximately 10 minutes). End you presentation with your next steps towards implementation of your advocacy plan (approximately 2 minutes). After your 20-minute presentation, the audience will be given an opportunity for questions and/or comments (5-10 minutes).

To learn more about advocacy, please refer to the bibliography and on-line resources on the following pages. These references were compiled by LEND faculty.

For questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact your Advocacy Mentor, Dr. Schladant at 305-243-4466 or [mschladant@med.miami.edu](mailto:mschladant@med.miami.edu) or Ms. Baer at 305-689-7059 or [rbaer@med.miami.edu](mailto:rbaer@med.miami.edu).

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# Key On-line Resources

\*\* <http://www.aucd.org/> Association of University Centers on Disabilities

\*\* <http://www.aap.org/advocacy.html> The American Academy of Pediatrics

<http://www.asha.org> The American Speech-Language-Hearing Association

[www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov) The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

<http://wonder.cdc.gov/data2010/> A Guide to State/National Data from Healthy People 2010

<http://www.cms-kids.com> Florida Guide to Children’s Medical Services

<http://www.doh.state.fl.us/cms/InfntToddEIPrg.htm> Florida Guide to Early Intervention Programs

OTHER CHILD ADVOCACY LINKS

\*\*Children’s Movement of Florida<http://childrensmovementflorida.org/> A non-partisan, citizen led movement to make Florida’s children health and well being a number one priority.

Administration for Children & Families

<http://www.acf.dhhs.gov>

Within the Department of Health and Human Services, ACF provides information, news, and statistics regarding welfare, child care, child support and youth programs.

Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs

<http://www.amchp.org/>

Provide leadership to assure the health and well being of all women of reproductive age, children, youth, including those with special health care needs, and their families.

Children Now

<http://www.childrennow.org>

Recognized nationally for its policy expertise and up-to-date information, Children

Now uses communications strategies to reach parents, lawmakers, citizens, business, media and community leaders, creating attention and generating positive change on behalf of children.

Children’s Defense Fund

<http://www.childrensdefense.org>

This is a private nonprofit organization supported by foundations, corporation grants, and individual donations. Its mission is to provide a strong and effective voice for all children of America, who cannot vote, lobby, or speak for themselves.

Child Welfare League of America

<http://www.cwla.org>

This is the nation’s oldest and largest organization devoted entirely to the well-being of America’s vulnerable children and their families.

Connect For Kids

<http://www.connectforkids.org>

Information/action center for those who want to act on the behalf of kids, it features "101

Things You Can Do" in your community, up-to-date news, and an extensive search-by-topic list.

Disability Advocacy Work With Networking (DAWWN)

[http://home.earthlink.net/~dawwn/](http://home.earthlink.net/%7Edawwn/)  
Disability Information for parents and kids; on education; legal support; legislative; local and national groups, agencies, and organizations; spinal cord injury; managed care; assistive technology, Deaf Community Sites and more.

Legal & Advocacy Resources

<http://www.makoa.org/legal.htm>  
Disability related legal and advocacy resources.

Legislative Issues Papers

[www.childrens-week.org](http://www.childrens-week.org)

National Association for the Education of Young Children

<http://www.naeyc.org>

Promotes national, state, and local public policies that support high quality early education programs in a range of settings.

National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities

[www.nacdd.org](http://www.nacdd.org/)

Policy Links

The National Institute of Child Health and Human Development

<http://www.nichd.nih.gov>

Its mission seeks to assure that every individual is born healthy, is born wanted, and has the opportunity to fulfill his or her potential for a healthy and productive life unhampered by disease or disability.

National Resource Center for Health and Safety in Child Care

<http://nrc.uchsc.edu>

Funded by the Maternal and Child Health Bureau, Dept of Health and Human Services, this site has the child care licensure regulations for each state. Also available are health and safety tips and full-text resources.

Newsletter on Special Ed. Law

<http://www.wrightslaw.com/>  
This web site pertains to educational law and advocacy and is an informational source for parents, educators, and attorneys.  Law libraries can be accessed through the site and consultations are offered.

Office of Early Learning

[www.schoolreadiness.org](http://www.schoolreadiness.org/)

Legislative Updates

TASH Home Page

<http://www.tash.org/>   
TASH, an international association of individuals with disabilities, advocates civil rights and justice for the disabled.  Site includes membership information, publications, and links, as well as information concerning current government legislation.

UNICEF

<http://www.unicef.org>

Founded in 1946, UNICEF advocates and works for the protection of children’s rights, to help the young meet their basic needs and to expand their opportunities to reach their full potential.

The Urban Institute

<http://www.urban.org/>

A nonprofit policy research organization investigating the social and economic problems confronting the nation and government policies and public and private programs

designed to alleviate them.

Zero to Three

[www.zerotothree](http://www.zerotothree/)

Policy Center

**FEDERAL ADVOCACY LINKS**

Child Welfare League of America

<http://www.cwla.org/advocacy/2001legagenda.htm>

Check out a comprehensive overview for child activities of federal budget and policy proposals, background information recommendations in the areas of child care, health care, ensuring economic protection for kids, etc.

Congressional Quarterly

<http://www.cq.com>

Access to news and information on government and politics.

Thomas Site (Library of Congress)

<http://thomas.loc.gov>

This site is packed with legislative resources: text of bills and major legislation

congressional committee reports- even historical documents.

US House of Representatives

<http://www.house.gov>

This service is provided to assist you in finding and contacting Members of the United States House of Representatives. Please note that the contact information accessible through this service is provided by each Member office.

Write your representative

<http://www.house.gov/writerep/>

[www.votingvixen.com](http://www.votingvixen.com/)

For women in their 20’s and 30’s who are NOT (yet) politically active

US Senate

<http://www.senate.gov>

The Senate’s World Wide Web server contains detailed Senate information, including e- mail addresses a Web sites for each Senate member.

**STATE ADVOCACY SITES**

Annie E. Casey Foundation

<http://www.aecf.org>

The "Kids Count Data Book" online: plenty of state-specific data. Highly recommended.

Florida CHAIN

[www.floridachain.org](http://www.floridachain.org)

A statewide network organization dedicated to improving the health and wellbeing of Floridians, especially disenfranchised constituencies.

Florida Developmental Disabilities Council

[www.fddc.org](http://www.fddc.org)

Public Policy and Advocacy

Florida Children’s Campaign

[www.Iamforkids.org](http://www.Iamforkids.org)

Governor’s Budget

[www.myflorida.com](http://www.myflorida.com)

National Center for Health Statistics

<http://www.cdc.gov/nchswww/>

Good Data on health. Broken down by region. Great links to other sites.

To Track Florida Bills

[www.leg.state.fl.us](http://www.leg.state.fl.us)

On line Sunshine

Piper Resources

<http://www.statelocalgov.net/>

A set of links to state and local government agencies, including executive branch agencies.

Project Vote Smart

<http://www.vote-smart.org>

Biographical information on state senators, representatives, and governor. Also political information (e.g. State Constitution) and voting information. Excellent list of links to state government agencies.

*This module was adapted from the Pediatric Advocacy Training Module for PL-1 Residents by Lee Sanders, MD, MPH.*