Jacen Wilder

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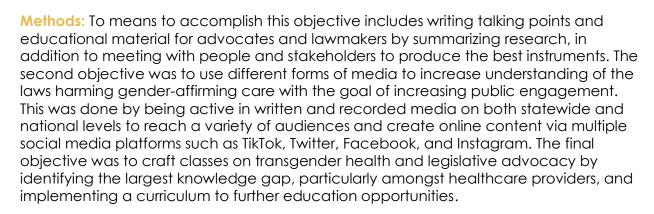
Practicum Site: Tennessee Equality Project

Practicum Site Supervisor: Chris Sanders, M.Div.

Expanding Education with Tennessee Equality Project

Introduction: This practicum experience was completed during the Tennessee General Assembly 113th session with Tennessee Equality Project adapting and adopting new projects. The goal

for this section of the practicum was to nurture and expand the education management role with Tennessee Equality Project (TEP) beyond lobbying and media response and rather focus on direct engagement and public education.



Results: Although legislative impact seemed minimal, outcomes included greater engagement from community members and other organizations with TEP. TEP became an official partner with multiple state and national organizations through classroom education, consultation, and engagement. TEP was involved in over 30 interviews in one session, with 5 being live hour-long engagements and 4 being in national publications. TEP's talking points were also quoted in the original injunction of Tennessee Senate Bill 1 which blocked access to gender-affirming care for minors. Challenges involved rapid changes in the validity of certain content in education, engagement, and time management.

Conclusions: Overall, this practicum allowed for a better connection between public health communication, engagement, and political advocacy while balancing partisan ideologies and rapid changes in content.

