

Jacen Wilder (He/They)

Master of Public Health candidate eager to engage in community resilience initiatives to address and expand access to health with a focus on gender and disability-related justice and the overall empowerment of minoritized communities.

EDUCATION

Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN– *Masters of Public Health in Health Policy*

August 2022-Current

Belmont University, Nashville, TN— *Bachelor of Science in Political Science and Bachelor of Science in Public Health*

August 2018 - May 2022

RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

Vanderbilt University Medical Center- LGBT Health Policy Lab Research Assistant

December 2022-Current

- Co-lead on NIH-funded R21 study to investigate insurance coverage of gender dysphoria in private insurance claims and create the largest cohort of gender-diverse patients for medical advancement.
- Co-lead on the writing, coding, and analysis of a statewide survey for LGBTQ+ health and legislative impact.
- Provide weekly analysis expanding on current findings and evaluate health outcomes of gender minority patients to further future investigative needs.
- Assist in coordinating and developing foundational research and a longitudinal cohort to focus on gender-expansive youth mental health.

Tennessee Equality Project- Education Manager and Government Advocate

July 2021 - Present

- Developing “Trans 101” and “Trans 201” curricula to foster allyship and safety by educating on terminology, history, medical care, and laws concerning the community.
- Engaging with stakeholders on education and advocacy efforts.
- Coordinating district teams to help promote advocacy and community engagement with public policies affecting LGBTQ+ people throughout the state of Tennessee
- Providing public statements, bill updates, and public testimony regarding issues and events within the community.
- Meet with state representatives and senators to educate them on the harms of potential legislation from both a public health lens and community concern lens
- Act as FBI Community Engagement Council member representing TNEP

National Alliance for Mental Illness Davidson County- Research and Community Engagement Intern

May 2023-August 2023

- Worked with the executive director to develop program initiatives and survey needs
- Coordinated and analyzed a community survey on multicultural LGBTQ+ attitudes and mental health
- Supported and empowered the needs of the organization through community engagement.

Abortion Access Nashville- Policy Advisor

July 2022-December 2022

- Connecting with other community members to address local and state policy needs
- Strategizing with other local leaders and political stakeholders to implement and coordinate policy solutions to reproductive justice issues
- Researching and writing policies to be addressed in both metro and rural areas to address reproductive health.

Vanderbilt University Medical Center- Vanderbilt Emergency Medicine Research Assistant

May 2022-August 2022

- Engaging in interviews and qualitative analysis for this NIH-funded study about the appropriateness and quality of prehospital chest pain care.
- Analyze interviews with EMS and hospital administrators through qualitative coding using Dedoose.
- Coordinate team meetings to perform reliability checks on data analysis.

GLSEN - South Regional Freedom Fellow

October 2021- November 2022

- Educated communities in need of support for their LGBTQ+ staff, students, and families about opportunities and resources via GLSEN focusing on intersectionality and student voice.
- Researching analyzing, and addressing the needs of state and local chapters within the South, particularly with addressing drastic legislative changes.
- Provided support through regular contact with chapters, guiding the chapter accreditation process, and creating new opportunities for connection through regional meetings.

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SKILLS

Policy and Legal Research

Health Communication

Community Outreach and Advocacy

AWARDS/ HONORS

SJR 629, Honorary Resolution by Senator Yarbro- 112th General Assembly

John Williams “Heart of Belmont” Award 2022

National Forensics Association Semi-Finalist- 2022

International Forensics Association Bronze Award- 2021

Best Legislation- 52nd General Assembly

Carlisle Award- TISL 51st General Assembly

Best Senator- TISL 51st, 52nd General Assembly

PROJECTS

ACLU/TN Equality Project Collaboration- *Collaborating on education and expansion of education throughout TN and on white pages for legislative education.*

SB1292- 112th General Assembly- *original legislation requiring at least minimum wage for disabled workers, written with Sen. Yarbro, bipartisan bill.*

FBI Community Engagement Council Representative-

Educational partner for the safety of the Nashville transgender community.

U.S. Senate HELP Committee- Disability Policy Team Intern

September 2021 - January 2022

- Producing research and recommendations for short-term and long-term policy initiatives of Chairwoman Murray focusing on sub-minimum wage practices, non-profit foster care, residential abuse, and the “troubled-teen” industry regulations.
- Briefing the office of Chairwoman Murray through weekly reports on disability policy issues.
- Engaging in committee and conference meetings and reporting on actions taken to promote disability policies and educate on legal and advocacy movement fronts of defined issues.

Youth Villages of Tennessee- Summer Group Home Staff for Tallwood

May 2021-August 2021

- Participated in training involving ACEs, trauma-informed therapeutic communication, sex trafficking prevention, and licensure in Non-Violent Intervention and De-Escalation (CPI).
- Conducted daily check-ins, life skills courses, lessons, and crisis intervention with collaborative care with youth.
- Charted and reported the daily behavior of youth and worked with on-site social workers and therapists to manage youth care.

Tennessee General Assembly— Intern for Senator Jeff Yarbro

January 2021 - May 2021

- Engaged with constituents on personal legal and public policy concerns.
- Researched legislation and developed talking points, fact sheets, redlines, budget proposals, transcripts, and legal questions including childcare, public health, subminimum wage, and maternal mortality.
- Organized testimony and wrote speeches against anti-transgender legislation for the Democratic Caucus and co-authored a bill to end subminimum wage for workers with disabilities.
- Created weekly committee folders, bill tracking updates, caucus newsletters, and marked calendars.
- Chaired the internship program’s mock session and mock election committee.

Fathom PBC/STARS — Teacher

May 2019 -August 2019, May 2021-July 2021

- Through Oasis Center, was trained in ACEs, conflict resolution, and the development of inclusive education modules
- Organized daily lessons that prioritized active listening and student engagement focusing on understanding self, community issues, and entrepreneurship.
- Developed social entrepreneurship project with “at-risk” 14-16-year-olds around issues in their community
- Aided in app development to provide means of continuous learning and engagement during online learning.

Kiran for Congress, District 7 — Field Intern

May 2020 - November 2020

- Organized neighborhood teams for campaigning in rural neighborhoods, voter registration, and college student recruitment via phone banking, door-to-door social distance campaigning, and social media.
- Wrote and advocated for LGBTQ+ policy page and addressed public health issues and policy with the candidate via engaging data and research.
- Assisted in financial, data, and communication projects using programs including SPSS, Canva, and Excel.

Nashville LGBT Chamber — Legislative Intern

December 2019 - April 2020

- Tracked and reported on anti-LGBT and business-related legislation using legislative systems, attending committees, drafting arguments, and releasing weekly legislative updates for the community.
- Organized and crafted the small business response for the 2020 Businesses Against Discrimination Letter.
- Educated Chamber members and local organizations on anti-LGBT legislation

PROJECTS

SB 2603- 112th General

Assembly - assisted in legislation requiring the state to allow birth certificates to reflect one’s gender identity.

Speech and Debate Coach-

provide volunteer coaching for Belmont students in the 2022/23 season for students developing speeches and individual events.

GLSEN Youth and Young

Adult Taskforce and PD

Programming- Resource

Mapping and providing

training on K-12

inclusivity practices.

Co-Chair and Founder of

Tennessee

Intercollegiate State

Legislature LGBTQ

Caucus and TISL Chair of

Executive Council for

Diversity- Founded

caucus and council to

promote LGBTQ, POC,

and disability

representation from

colleges and in

legislation

