

BSHS-HCM Concentration
BHS499: Capstone
Module 1 Assignment

Background and Context

The BHS499 capstone course challenges you to synthesize what you have learned in your BSHS program's core courses to develop a plan that addresses a "real-world" topic in health care management. As you proceed through the assignments, you will have an opportunity to apply the knowledge and skills gained from your previous coursework while conducting research to interpret the issues and implications of a healthcare topic from the perspective of a healthcare manager, and developing a plan to address the issue.

Throughout the course, you will be expected to incorporate several information resources from different media (such as professional and scholarly sources, educational videos, news broadcasts and articles, consumer information sources, and interviews with health professionals) to this assignment and to evaluate the relative merits of competing resources with respect to the expectations of this assignment.

Foundation for this Assignment

Congratulations! You have been hired as Assistant Manager of a Home Health Care Agency. The agency offers a wide range of skilled medical services such as nursing care, physical therapy, occupational therapy from qualified medical professionals. The agency also provides home health aide services including assistance with activities of daily living, such as bathing and eating.

Your supervisor told you that she recently received a call from an advocate whom an employee consulted via the Employee Assistance Program because the employee felt that she had been treated unfairly after contracting an illness. She explained that a few months ago, one of your agency's home health aides, Sara, became ill. Sara had been coughing for approximately six weeks, lost weight without trying, had no appetite, was having difficulty sleeping, and had an intermittent fever. She became concerned and went to see a health care professional who diagnosed her with active tuberculosis (TB).

Sara missed a lot of time from work while completing treatment for TB. Her physician cleared her to return to work after she was no longer contagious. Upon returning to work, Sara felt isolated because her boss and co-workers refused to spend time with her. She heard that someone from the agency's Human Resources Department told her co-workers her diagnosis. The stressful circumstances at work became even worse when another home health aide started to display the same symptoms Sara had.

Your supervisor has asked you to review the entire situation and how it was handled by the agency. Over the next few weeks, you will prepare a report that details how the situation should have been handled. The final report will be presented to the agency's board of directors. It must include information about epidemiology, health statistics, public health, health communication

and advocacy, health literacy, health care delivery systems, the Affordable Care Act, ethical considerations, human resources management, legal aspects, cultural and global perspectives, and financial considerations for the organization.

Your methodology over the next few weeks will be to arrange interviews with the relevant individuals, departments, and agencies, in addition to researching professional and scholarly sources, educational videos, and news articles. You will evaluate the information you gather throughout the course of your investigation in order to determine the best course of action. Ultimately, the information will be used to formulate policies and create an employee education presentation.

In order to get weekly updates on your progress, the supervisor asked you to work on the report in sections, as follows:

- Module 1 - Apply what you learned in your *Public Health, Epidemiology, and Health Statistics* courses
- Module 2 - Apply what you learned in your *Health Behavior and Health Communication and Advocacy* courses
- Module 3 - Apply what you learned in your *Health Care Ethics, Healthcare Program Management and Human Resources Management* courses
- Module 4 – Apply what you learned in your *Health Care Delivery Systems and Cross-Cultural Health Perspectives* courses
- Module 5– Apply what you learned in your *Legal Aspects of Healthcare and Health Care Finance* courses

Module 1 Assignment tasks

In Module 1, you will establish the foundation for the report by applying what you learned from your Public Health, Epidemiology, and Health Statistics courses to do the following:

- Describe the epidemiology of tuberculosis.
- Identify three factors that have contributed to the global resurgence of TB.
- Compare and contrast statistics regarding tuberculosis globally, in the United States, and in your state (identify the state about which you are writing).
- Summarize continuing challenges to TB control in the United States.

Assignment Expectations

Length: 3 pages, excluding title page and references.

Assessment and Grading: Your paper will be assessed based on the grading rubric that is linked within the course.

Discussion question

What are the first three things you will do as you begin your investigation? For example, will you begin by doing some research about the disease? Or would you begin by interviewing Sara? Would you interview someone at the agency? If so, who? Or would you do something else? Please explain your rationale.