



Spartan Street Medicine

Attending Orientation

Mission Statement: Spartan Street Medicine is dedicated to bridging the gap in healthcare for our homeless community members in Lansing, Michigan. We battle the epidemic of indifference by going to the streets and shelters to meet people on their terms. Through regular and direct outreach, we aim to overcome barriers to health by fostering relationships with our patients and community partners. By striving to convey trust, empathy, and respect to all involved in our program, we hope to instill these values throughout our healthcare system.

Founder: Brianne Feldpausch, OMS-II

Advisors: Dr. Taylor Scott, D.O.; Dr. Graham Atkin, Ph.D.

What is Street Medicine?

Spartan Street Medicine (SSM) is based on the principles and strategies aligned by Operation Safety Net, which was founded by the “Father of Street Medicine”, Dr. Jim Withers. In 1992, Dr. Withers, an Internal Medicine physician, began providing care to folks experiencing homelessness in Pittsburgh, PA by going into the streets and delivering healthcare to those who needed it most - those who would not go into the hospitals, clinics, or primary care offices. At its core, Street Medicine aims to provide patient-centered respectful medical care, while leaving assumptions at the door. Spartan Street Medicine is one of three Street Medicine organizations in the state of Michigan (Detroit Street Care and Detroit Street Medicine). There are now Street Medicine programs in over 100 cities around the world, in 15 countries and on 5 continents. If you are interested in learning more about Street Medicine, please watch Dr. Withers’ 17-minute TED talk before volunteering (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0yZ-IHWLm20>).

Liability:

Information from MSUCOM (all faculty and clinical faculty are covered through MSUCOM)

Eligibility:

Information from MSUCOM

Residents

Information from MSUCOM



Program Logistics

Attending physicians have two options for volunteering with Spartan Street Medicine. Currently, these options occur on a bi-weekly basis. We are flexible and schedule around the attending physician's calendar.

1. Justice in Mental Health Organization (JIMHO) Clinics – JIMHO is a peer-run mental health organization, which provides emergency housing, a drop-in center, referrals, advocacy, and support groups for people who were diagnosed with a mental health illness at some point in their life. The SSM Clinic takes place during the Drop-In Center hours and generally runs anywhere from 2-4 hours with 30-minute post-clinic debrief session. During this debrief session, students discuss interesting cases and/or any questions, comments, concerns, or program suggestions. The JIMHO clinic is in a single room, with a divider – allowing for two simultaneous semi-private patient interactions. JIMHO is located at 520 Cherry Street in downtown Lansing with parking adjacent to the building and metered street parking available on Lenawee Street (north of the building). You may learn more about JIMHO at www.jimho.org.
2. Street Outreach with Advent House Ministries – SSM partners with Advent House Ministries for street outreach. Since 1987, Advent House Ministries has been serving those struggling with homelessness and other issues of poverty in the Greater Lansing Area. Through the federal grant program, Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness (PATH), Advent House Ministries has created a successful street outreach program. Three SSM student volunteers and one attending physician work with three PATH employees during outreach and assist with any medical needs. Advent House Ministries is located on 743 N. Martin Luther King Blvd. in Lansing and you can learn more here (www.adventhouse.org).

Expectations of Attending Physicians

Dress/Attire

Physicians are expected to dress more casually than in their normal practice. Our hope is to allow a more comfortable environment. Please do not wear a white coat, scrubs, tie, suit jacket, button down shirt, blazer, or anything that can be considered business professional. We encourage physicians to dress modestly and to wear blue jeans, khakis, T-shirts, polo shirt, tennis shoes, etc. We also ask that you please



leave expensive jewelry and/or purses in your car. While on street outreach, you will need to dress for the weather, including variable environments (i.e. walking along streets, under bridges, or in the woods) and use protection from common insects. Please wear good walking shoes as you may be walking a few miles.

Medical Equipment

All needed medical equipment and medications will be provided; however, you are welcome to bring your own stethoscope. Please bring your Rx pad, if you have one. If not, calling in prescription medications is an option when necessary. We do not prescribe or distribute narcotics.

Commonly Seen Medical Conditions

The average lifespan of a person experiencing homelessness is 50 years and 2/3 have a “tri-morbidity”. A study in the year 2000 by the Boston Health Care for the Homeless Program found that the leading causes of death by those experiencing homelessness were cancer, heart disease, and liver disease, with a 3-6x higher incidence than among the general population. In general, the most common issues to address are as follows: DM/HTN, infections, wounds, musculoskeletal disorders, chronic pain, substance use/abuse, mental health, respiratory issues, sexual and reproductive care, dental issues, skin and foot problems, and hunger/nutrition.

As it is our goal to help bridge these individuals back into primary care, we offer limited medications and diagnostic tools. Please be aware of the attached medications/supplements list. It is important that attending physicians consider many factors in helping their patients and that the usual treatment plan may be unrealistic in certain situations. SSM aims is to find and break down barriers to care for each unique person.

Follow-Up Care/Referrals

Follow-up care and referrals are individualized and options vary widely. We do our best to arrange referrals and encourage follow up care, if needed. We also assist in arranging insurance coverage or follow-up with their usual health care system.

Patient/Student Interactions

1. JIMHO Clinics

Note: JIMHO patrons are referred to as clients; therefore, we will respect these guidelines and use the same language.



SSM first- and second-year osteopathic medical students are responsible for ensuring JIMHO clients fill out the correct paperwork (Consent for Medical Treatment, Confidentiality and Notice of Privacy Practices). Students also obtain/document the H&P on paper charts (example attached). As we focus on providing quality patient interactions over quantity, we do not enforce a time limit, so they can vary from 30 minutes – 1.5 hours.

After the H&P, students will present the entire case (including ideas regarding the Assessment and Plan) to the attending physician. The team then reviews H&P and options with the client. Attending physicians will have the final say on the treatment plan and are responsible for documenting the A&P and signing off on the client chart. All documents will be placed in a binder and are stored under lock-and-key at Fee Hall.

While some students may be performing H&Ps, other students may be socializing/chit-chatting with other clients outside of the exam room. This is encouraged to establish trust and facilitate the client/student/doctor relationship and communication.

2. Street Outreach

SSM volunteers and an attending physician will follow three PATH street outreach workers to homeless camps, parks, bridges, and other areas known to PATH as having a homeless presence. All medications, paperwork, and medical equipment will be carried in backpacks by SSM volunteers and the attending physician. While walking, you should scan the surrounding area for people, tents, or other indicators of habitation. Upon finding a camp or person, PATH will begin their introduction and discuss housing and non-medical needs – shortly after, a SSM volunteer will introduce Spartan Street Medicine and ask if the individual(s) have any medical needs that could be attended to. From this point, the clinical encounter will begin as at the JIMHO Clinic – but in a much more informal environment.

*In cases of inclement weather, outreach is subject to cancellation by the PATH program within 24 hours of our start time. We will notify you in these cases, and we thank you in advance for your understanding.

Safety

We recognize the unpredictable nature of our work at JIMHO and on the streets during outreach; therefore, we do have some safety tips for you to keep in mind. Our street outreach partners at Advent House Ministries have been doing similar work for many years. We use their resources and safety rules to guide us. Please see their document “Safety Rules for Outreach Workers” enclosed. This document instructs our approach to safety while doing street outreach.



We so appreciate your interest in Spartan Street Medicine and encourage further questions as you have them. Please feel free to contact the SSM leadership team (spartanstreetmedicine@gmail.com), Dr. Taylor Scott, D.O. (scottro5@msu.edu), or Dr. Graham Atkin, Ph.D. (atking@msu.edu) with any questions, comments, or concerns. Thank you again for your support and interest!

****Enclosed:**

1. H&P form,
2. Available medication list, and
3. Safety guidelines