A. BRIEF OVERVIEW OF AGENCY SETTING
Home & Community Based Services (HCBS) is a department within Care Management Services at Community Medical Center. While we are a department of the hospital, we are independently funded through a contract with the MT DPHHS to provide case management services for individuals with physical disabilities and/or severe disabling mental illness.

B. DESCRIPTION OF CLIENT GROUP
• People with physical disabilities and/or mental illness – deemed disabled by Social Security
• People with traumatic brain injuries
• Financially eligible for Medicaid
• Meet nursing home level of care (LOC) criteria
• Reside in service area (Missoula, Ravalli and Mineral Co.)
• Can be served in the community at a reasonable cost

C. LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES
Students will assist western Montanans with physical disabilities to live in the least restrictive setting by providing case management, education, advocacy and coordination of in-home services. Case managers also monitor quality of services while ensuring that community resources are used in the most cost-effective manner.

Each HCBS client is assigned a social worker and nurse who meet with them as needed -- at least every six months -- to develop and review a service plan. The social work case manager, along with the individual, requests input from that person’s family, physicians, therapists, caregivers and advocates concerning home care needs.

D. EXPECTATIONS OF STUDENTS
We are looking for students who can work independently with little supervision but utilize supervision time productively and effectively; students must be detail-oriented, possess good time management skills, have strong written and verbal communication skills and the ability to multitask. They must be dependable, accountable and reliable to their clients and colleagues and have good follow through. They will be treated as a member of the case management team and expected to demonstrate compliance with the responsibilities and requirements of our program. Most importantly, they must be creative, resourceful, open-minded, compassionate and have a great sense of humor! HCBS offers a very rewarding practicum experience and we welcome and appreciate the involvement and contributions of UM students.