



## Dr. Betty Young-On Board!

Dr. Betty Young, recently appointed president of Coleman College for Health Sciences, gave her enthusiastic support to the *Pathways Project* in meeting with Rich Rosing (Chair, HSTP), Marion Cole (Chair, Nursing Dept), Marion Coleman and Sharon Wechter in October.

The group met to bring Dr. Young up-to-date

about *Pathways* and the plans being developed specifically for both Coleman’s Nursing Department and the Human Service Technology Program. Dr. Young expressed her excitement of reaching out to the Coleman student body through marketing of the new *Pathways* initiatives.



“...We have 60,000 students; **that’s** our marketplace!”—Dr. Betty Young

### Inside this issue:

Coleman Nursing: Enhanced Psych Rotation	2
Coleman HSTP: Community Organization	2
DeBakey High School: Scientific Symposium	3
DeBakey Faculty Show Support	3
Evaluation Design & Survey Complete	3

## National Action Plan for Workforce Development

In September of 2001, a group of diverse individuals gathered in Annapolis, Maryland to discuss concerns about the national behavioral health workforce. There was broad consensus that the behavioral health field in the United States was facing a workforce crisis. That gathering led to the establishment of the Annapolis Coalition on the Behavioral Health Workforce, and a multiyear effort to address workforce issues was initiated.

With support from SAMHSA, “An Action Plan for Behavioral Health Workforce Development” has been created, outlining seven strategic goals: “expand the role of consumers and their families in the workforce, expand the role of communities in promoting behavioral health and wellness, use systematic recruitment and retention strategies, improve training and education, foster leadership development, enhance infra-

structure to support workforce development, and implement a national research and evaluation agenda. The action plan serves as a call to action and is being used to guide workforce initiatives across the nation.”\*

The *Pathways Project* used these seven goals of the Annapolis Coalition as the starting point for developing its own model.

\*(*Psychiatric Services, July 2009, 60:7, 883.*)

“...Organizing teaches as nothing else does, the beauty and strength of everyday people.”—President Barack Obama

## Coleman Nursing Department Plans Enhanced Psychiatric Rotation



The first gathering of individuals interested in the possibility of developing an enhanced psychiatric nursing rotation for Coleman Nursing students was held on October 29th at Coleman College. Participating in this initial discussion were Jennifer Johnson (Methodist Hospital), Elaine Jessup (St. Joseph Medical Center), Dorothy Harris (HCPC), Ify Ezeobele (HCPC), with Marion Cole (Chair, ADN of Coleman College), and Coleman College faculty members Dyaz Godfrey, Tyrone Sharp and Shana Westerfield, plus Marion Coleman (Network of Be-

havioral Health Providers) and Sharon Wechter (*Pathways Project*).

During this meeting, issues were explored such as the need for additional psychiatric rotation settings, high quality rotation experiences and supervision, and general concerns of how to keep those students who express interest in Psychiatric Nursing, motivated enough to pursue it as a career.

The group reached agreement to develop an enhanced rotation as a special option to a select number of Coleman

nursing students, beginning in the Summer of 2010.

Additional providers in the Houston area have been invited to join in the continuing discussion on November 19th, 3:30 pm at Coleman College.



All providers and participants in the *Pathways Project* who feel inclined to share their thoughts on this subject, are encouraged to contact Sharon Wechter at [swechter@ghahec.org](mailto:swechter@ghahec.org). Your input will be hugely appreciated!

## Coleman Human Service Technology Program Moves towards Community Organization

*“A depressed and stressed community creates depressed and stressed individuals. If we can help that community turn into a healthy one, then we will also be helping its citizens become healthy.”*

—Richard Rosing,  
Chair, HSTP

Beginning with the Spring 2010 Spring semester, Coleman’s Human Service Technology Program (HSTP) will offer a new course in Community Organization. Gaining skills in community organization will enable individuals to assist communities in identifying challenges and effective approaches to benefit community behavioral health. Students will acquire the know-how to make a difference in the world around them; to

help create a better community.

Students currently enrolled in the Substance Abuse Prevention program are also being encouraged to enroll in the new course. This acknowledges that today’s Certified Prevention Specialists not only treat individual clients, but also need to work with whole communities.

All students completing the “Community Organi-

zation” course during Spring 2010 semester can qualify for a 50% tuition rebate, thanks to a special grant through the *Pathways Project*.



## “Scientific Symposium” Presenters at DeBakey High School

The following individuals have agreed to represent *Pathways* as speakers at DeBakey’s “Scientific Symposium” on Friday, December 18th.

**Dana S. Smith** has been with the Greater Houston AHEC for 15 years. She is currently the Executive Director and is responsible for general oversight of the non-profit, staff management, and development of program

partnerships. Dr. Smith holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Psychology from Spelman College, a Masters in Public Administration from Texas Southern University and Masters and Doctor of Philosophy degrees in Social Work from the University of Houston. Her work history includes participation in numerous health initiatives including childhood illness and disease pre-

vention research and public health awareness programs.

**Sylvia Gonzalez**, is originally from New York, where she received a Bachelors of Science in Neural Science from New York University, and her M.D. from the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Columbia University in NY. She became a board-certified Pediatrician,

but soon came to realize that she really wanted to become a psychiatrist. She came to Houston and completed a psychiatric residency at the Baylor College of Medicine. She completed a fellowship at the Houston Galveston Psychoanalytic Society during residency, and is on the board of the Houston Group Psychotherapy Society. Currently she is a hospital psychiatrist at the Methodist Hospital.

## DeBakey’s Faculty Show Support of *Pathways*

Bernice Shargey, Dean of Instruction at DeBakey High School, organized a faculty meeting on October 21st to orient teachers to the *Pathways Project* history and goals, and the curriculum created for the school. Teachers showed their interest in the project

and are now working together with Sharon on connecting the *Pathways* lessons with their class schedules and their curriculum.

All 9th-12th Grade students will participate in pre-and post-test surveys, and each grade’s lessons will relate to its

curriculum themes and format.

In addition to the class lessons, the *Pathways* curriculum will include a Houston-area college field trip, to provide 11th grade students with information about education programs leading to Behavioral Health careers.



## Evaluation Design & Survey Complete

Dr. Peggy Smith and Dr. Ruth Buzi of the Baylor Teen Health Clinic have developed a survey questionnaire to be used for pre-test and post-test purposes at DeBakey High School. The survey will evaluate students’

awareness and knowledge of the Behavioral Health fields, as well as their attitudes toward and interest in pursuing Behavioral Health careers. The instrument was crafted with input from Marion Coleman and Sharon

Wechter, and reflects the goals and objectives of the *Pathways Project*.



## The Pathways Project

Sharon L. Wechter, LMSW  
Project Manager  
Greater Houston AHEC  
5959 West Loop South, Suite 560  
Bellaire, TX 77401

Phone: 713.592.6411, x 12  
Fax: 713.592.6415  
E-mail: [swechter@ghahec.org](mailto:swechter@ghahec.org)

[www.  
ghahec.org](http://www.ghahec.org)

The mission of the **Network of Behavioral Health Providers, Inc.** (the Network), a non-profit organization, is to serve its members, promote the advancement of effective behavioral health services, and advocate for people in need of supports in the greater Houston community. Network members represent all aspects of mental health and substance abuse service provision including public agencies and for-profit and non-profit private organizations providing the full range of behavioral health services from prevention to crisis intervention to long-term residential care and recovery management.

**Executive Director:**  
Marion Coleman, Ph.D.

**The Greater Houston Area Health Education Center (AHEC)** is a non-profit organization that seeks to improve the health of our population, especially the underserved, by creating partnerships with and among community and academic organizations.

**MISSION**

Improve the health of the communities we serve (Harris, Ft. Bend, Waller and Montgomery counties) by developing a quality health workforce and helping address health needs.

**VISION**

Optimal health for all people.

**Executive Director:**  
Dana S. Smith, Ph.D., LMSW, MPA



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