

Funding Received

Project Overview

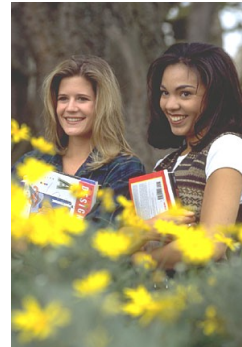
Funding has been received from United Way of Greater Houston, Houston Endowment, and the Meadows Foundation for Phase II of the *Pathways Project*. The Network of Behavioral Health Providers, in partnership with the Greater Houston Area Health Education Center, can now implement a long-term approach to increasing the number of individuals choosing to receive education in behavioral health educational programs in Houston, and ultimately joining the local behavioral health workforce. With funding in place, the hiring of a new Project Manager has been realized.



Phase Two

The implementation of a pilot expansion of *Pathways* is now set to begin in two preselected schools: the DeBakey High School for the Health Professions and Coleman College for Health Sciences/Houston Community College.

At the high school level, the emphasis will be on exposure and experience; working with Dean Bernice Shargey, we will be developing curricular materials for different grades, assessing students' level of awareness, and assessing the 12th grade behavioral health externship experiences. A high point of the Fall Semester will be a "Scientific Symposium" held on December 18th,



in

which *Pathways* will take part.

At Coleman College we will be assessing and enhancing pathways in an educational setting that does produce behavioral health workers. Dr. Richard Rosing and Dr. Marion Cole will facilitate *Pathways* in our work with students in the Human Service Technology Program (HTSP) and the Nursing Department.

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Project Manager Hired

After a long day of interviewing candidates, Dr. Dana Smith (Executive Director of GHAHEC), Dr. Marion Coleman (Executive Director of the Network for Behavioral Health Providers), and Dr. Isaac Williams (Asst. Dean of Springfield College)

chose a candidate to become the new Project Manager of the *Pathways Project*. Sharon L. Wechter began working at the GHAHEC office on August 10th; Sharon is an experienced Educator and Social Worker, and brings strong curriculum writing and marketing

skills, as well as enthusiasm and love of creativity to her work. A native Texan, Sharon and her husband, Rabbi Seymour Rossel, moved from the Northeast five years ago, and are now residing in Houston with their two bichons, Binah and Sheva.

Pathways Workforce Development Task Group



More heads are better than one...

“The Pathways Project has the potential to create, in Houston, a vision that can be shared in communities across the nation.”

—THE PATHWAYS PROJECT: A Project Proposal



Many thanks go to the individuals with whom this Project could not happen. Their generosity of time, energy and knowledge have brought us to Phase Two.

Lucindra Campbell: Professor, College of Nursing, Houston Baptist University
Ira Colby: Dean, Univ. of Houston, Graduate School of Social Work

Marion Cole: Chair, Nursing, Coleman College, HCC

Sue Davis: Director of Recovery Services, Gulf Coast MHMR Center

Debbie Drake: Asst. Exec. Director for Programs, The Women's Home

Andrea Hinckson: Director of Policy, Mental Health Assoc. of Greater Houston

Mary Koch: Health

Services Industry Liaison, Houston-Galveston Area Council

Sue Luna: Behavioral Health Project Manager, Harris County Healthcare Alliances

Pat McElliott: Community Investment Coordinator, United Way of Greater Houston

John Redd: Asst. Administrator, Patient Support, Intracare

Ann Robison: Exec. Director, Montrose Counseling Center

Richard Rosing: Chair, Human Service Technology Program, Coleman College, HCC

Joe Rubio: Vice President, Community Relations & Advocacy, Catholic Charities

Bernice Sharkey: Dean of Instruction, DeBaKey High School for Health Professions

Charlotte Simmons: Employment Manager, MHMRA

Vern Swisher: CEO, Career & Recovery Resources

Kim Szeto: Exec. Director, Asian American Family Services

Bianca Walker: Director of Behavioral Health, DePelchin Children's Center

Isaac Williams: Asst. Dean, SHS Campus, Springfield College

Staff:

Marion Coleman: Exec. Director, Network of Behavioral Health Providers

Dana Smith: Exec. Director, Greater Houston AHEC

Sharon Wechter: Project Manager, Greater Houston AHEC

Pathways' Evaluation Experts:

Dr. Ruth Buzi, LCSW, PhD., and Dr. Peggy Smith MA, PhD. are on board to design the evaluation instruments for *Pathways*.

Dr. Ruth Buzi comes to us from Baylor College of Medicine, Teen Health Clinic. A native Israeli, Dr. Buzi graduated from the University of Houston's Graduate School of Social Work, and received her doctorate from the UT School of Public Health in Behavioral Sciences. She

is currently an Assistant Professor at Baylor, previously teaching at the U of H's Graduate School of Social Work. She has authored numerous articles on topics ranging from child abuse, young fathers and service needs, to high risk behaviors and family planning.

Dr. Peggy B. Smith is a Professor and Director of the Teen Health Clinics. Receiving her PhD from the University of Texas at

Austin, Dr. Smith began her academic career at Rice University and joined the OB/Gyn faculty of Baylor College of Medicine in 1972. She has grown a one day a week maternity clinic into a system of seven clinic sites, annually providing over 26,000 patient visits to inner city Houston adolescents. She actively conducts research and has published over 125 articles on teenage sexuality, pregnancy



DeBakey High School for the Health Professions

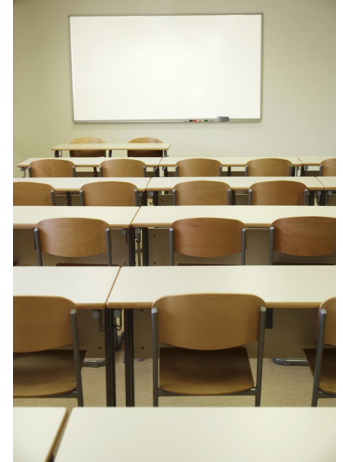
The *Pathways* curriculum for DeBakey High School is now being developed, with plans to be launched in October-November of this Fall 2009. Lesson plans, videos and professional presentations will be integrated into DeBakey's curriculum, with the ultimate goal being to increase student awareness about Behavioral Health careers, as well as change/modify students' perceptions and attitudes about the Behavioral Health professions. The primary career areas of

focus will be Psychiatry, Psychology, Social Work and Psychiatric Nursing. Ninth Grade students begin their education at DeBakey by receiving a cursory overview of medical professions. *Pathways* will bring in components on the Behavioral Health careers specifically.

Dean Sharkey has requested that *Pathways* provide a tour of a professional school for students in the Eleventh Grade, who take part in "Career Clusters," to give them a better idea of

education and training requirements.

Twelfth Graders, by request, participate each year in a twelve-week externship; students will now have the opportunity to be placed in new agencies to shadow a Behavioral Health professional. *Pathways* will also take part in the school-wide annual "Scientific Symposium," a morning-long program scheduled for December 18; professionals from the Houston community in the Psychiatric,



"It is no small task, but every great change has to begin somewhere."

—*Pathways Project Phase One Summary*

Coleman College for Health Sciences/ Houston Community College

The Substance Abuse Prevention Certification program at Coleman College is now encouraging students to enroll in a new "Community Organization" class—which will provide students with additional tools in their work with communities. *Pathways* will be encouraging students to complete this course through the provision of a 50% tuition

reimbursement. The Fall Semester will see us involved in marketing the new course to Prevention students, as well as Psychology and Counseling students at the HCC campuses.



The Nursing program is requesting assistance in establishing more clinical placements for psychiatric rotation for the Summer 2010 semester. We will be working with the Network Providers and the Nursing Student Association to both interest more students in psychiatric nursing and to insure their placement in high quality internships.



The Pathways Project

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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

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.

History of Pathways Project

The *Pathways Project* arose out of a need to address the behavioral health workforce crisis in the United States. The project is dedicated to increasing the number of individuals in Houston's behavioral health field as well as the quality of behavioral health services being delivered (please contact Sharon Wechter for a full copy of the project proposal). Phase One aimed to develop a detailed picture of the current behavioral health educational pathways in the Houston community, and a comprehensive overview

of promising practices that exist in other communities' and other disciplines' educational pathways.

The results of Phase One include the following recommendations: (1) Invest in educational programs for social service professions; (2) Dispel misconceptions about behavioral health, mental health, substance abuse, and social work; (3) Raise awareness as it relates to the shortage of professionals in social services, particularly behavioral health and nursing; and (4) Focus on increasing financial



resources directed at social service professions. "These will only be possible through the creation of networks of individuals and organization; it is no small task, but every great change has to begin somewhere."