

DeBakey 2009-2010 Survey Results

The post-test survey results at DeBakey High School were evaluated and interpreted this June 2010 by Drs. Ruth Buzi and Peggy Smith of Baylor College of Medicine. In doing so, it was important to keep in mind the purpose of the Pathways Project: to create a model demonstration project aimed at increasing the numbers of individuals choosing and receiving education in the various fields of behavioral health service provision.

The goals specific to the High School curriculum were to increase awareness and knowledge of behavioral health issues and careers, and to positively impact attitudes and intentions regarding behavioral health issues and careers. As reported earlier this year, pre- and post-curriculum test surveys were administered to all 9th, 10th, and 11th grade students with the 10th grade serving as a comparison group. Major findings were as follows:

The project did have an impact on knowledge, attitudes, and intentions as 9th and 11th grade students exhibited increased knowledge of behavioral health careers while 10th graders exhibited none.

Knowledge about behavioral health professions increased in both grades nine and eleven, with the largest increases in careers for social worker and psychiatric nurse.



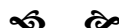
The spread of career choices increased in the post-test results. It is possible that exposure to the intervention broadened student awareness of behavioral health occupations, in addition to the most frequently chosen occupation of physician.

The program increased awareness of health professions among program participants. However, beliefs about individuals with mental illness and substance abuse changed only slightly. Also, the desire to choose professions, particularly social work and psychiatric nursing, did not increase following

program participation.

The Transtheoretical model provides a possible explanation for the subsequent spread of career choices from pre-test to post-test findings. Individuals who initiated participation in this project could be described as in 'pre-contemplation' and unaware of the spectrum of career choices. Subsequent to participation, students learned that there were various options and moved into the 'contemplation stage'. However, as the final decision for a career had not been made, they were not ready to move into the 'action' stage.

Our plan is to expand and replicate the curriculum for all four grades at DeBakey for the upcoming school year 2010-2011. We have received strong support from Principal Lazenby and Dean Sharkey for the continuation of Pathways at DeBakey High School!



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Review of New A.D.N. Psych Rotation



This summer saw the launching of the new collaborative Psychiatric Nursing Rotation model, presented by the Pathways Project and HCC Coleman College's A.D.N. Program. Eight students were selected from those who applied for the new rotation.

A primary goal of the rotation's structure was to enable students to understand the journey of the client from crisis through stabilization into long-term follow up. Thus, students began the

rotation with two weeks of intake experience at Ben Taub and the NeuroPsychiatric Center, followed by three weeks of inpatient care at St. Joseph's and HCPC, ending the rotation with two weeks of outpatient with MHMRA. From student and preceptor post-rotation surveys, it appears that our primary goal was met.

A second goal of the new model was to develop students' ability to facilitate a therapeutic com-

munication. Students and preceptors alike addressed the fact that students seemed more comfortable interacting with patients than students in the regular rotation. This group of students also displayed a greater interest in psychiatric nursing, with some expressing interest in pursuing a psychiatric career.



Check out the
Pathways Project
Blog:

www.bit.ly/duoPAh

HSTP Internship Site Expansion

Rich Rosing, Chair of the Human Service Technology Program of Coleman College/HCC, is very enthusiastic about obtaining new internship sites for his students. HSTP offers four different types of types of internships within this department 1) Certified Substance Abuse Prevention Specialist Internship, 2) LCDC Internship, 3) General Human

Service Internship, and 4) the CHW Internship.

Members of the Network of Behavioral Health Providers have been contacted to provide new internship sites for the department. To date, Catholic Charities and Fort Bend Council on Alcohol and Drugs have responded to the request. Interested agencies

should contact Sharon Wechter or Rich Rosing at richard.rosing@hccs.edu or 713-718-5540.



NAO Conference Presentation

The National AHEC's mission is to "enhance access to quality health care, particularly primary and preventative care, by improving the supply and distribution of healthcare professionals through community/academic educational partnerships." In keeping with

the mission, the theme for this year's conference held in Las Vegas, June 20-24, 2010, was "AHEC's role in Healthcare Workforce Development: Pipeline to Retention." The Pathways Project's goals fit in perfectly with this year's confer-

ence theme, and was accepted for a Poster Presentation; the poster, presented by Greater Houston AHEC's Executive Director, Dr. Dana Smith, received a lot of viewing traffic and interest in our model.



**National AHEC
Organization**

Connecting students to careers,
professionals to communities,
and communities to better health.

Houston Area High Schools Sign On!

In addition to DeBakey High School, three more schools have agreed to adopt the Pathways high school component: S.P. Waltrip, John H. Reagan and Lee.

Both Waltrip's and Reagan's students are grouped within academies. Waltrip's Health & Human Resources Academy offers a college preparatory program to enable students to continue their education in health care, education and pub-

lic service. Reagan's Health Science Academy is committed to giving students skills and knowledge necessary to begin a career in the medical fields. Students in all four grades at Waltrip and Reagan will be taking part in the Pathways Project.

Lee High School's Principal, Ms. Xochitl Rodriguez-Davila, has requested that Lee's Seniors take part in the project for this school year,

2010-2011; upon evaluation of their performance in the program, we will determine whether to include the Ninth through Eleventh Graders for the next year, 2011-2012.



Funding Renewed for 2010-2011

The United Way of Greater Houston and the Meadows Foundation have both decided to renew funding for the Pathways Project for 2010-2011! Marion Coleman and Sharon Wechter presented before a United Way funders committee on June 17th, and as of

the beginning of August, we were notified that the \$30,000 requested had been granted. The Meadows Foundation award is an increase from \$25,000 for the first pilot year to double that for \$50,000 this year.



Texas Behavioral Health Institute Conference

The 2010 Texas Behavioral Health Institute was held in Austin this summer, with the theme "Roads to Recovery." It was planned to promote best practice knowledge to those who battle addictions, compulsive behaviors, and other mental health disorders. Thus,

we were pleased to have our Pathways Project workshop proposal accepted for presentation.

The workshop on July 21st, led by Sharon, was met with interest by participants from DSHS and other institutions around the state.



The Pathways Project

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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

Dr. Dana Smith at the National AHEC Conference, Las Vegas, NV

