Texas Healthy Homes Training Center

Nancy Crider

A partnership between The University of Texas School of Public Health and the City of Houston Department of Health and Human Services
University of Texas School of Public Health

- The University of Texas School of Public Health (UTSPH) is part of The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston and is located in the Texas Medical Center.
- UTHSCH School of Public Health operates M.P.H. programs in Dallas, San Antonio, El Paso and Brownsville and Austin. Additionally, UTSPH offers a 16 hour graduate Certificate in Public Health.
- UTSPH provides outreach education and technical support to local health authorities and includes an Office of Public Health Practice, the Texas Public Health Training Center (TPHTC) and the Southwest Center for Occupational and Environmental Health (SWCOEH).

Texas Public Health Training Center

- One of 14 Public Health Training Centers, funded by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA).
- Partnership between the University of Texas School of Public Health, the University of North Texas Health Science Center, School of Public Health, Fort Worth, TX and Texas A&M University, School of Rural Public Health in College Station, TX.
The priority audience is public health personnel employed in local and state public health agencies. Targeted in the wider circle of influence are those who provide essential public health services in the non-profit, education, social service, corporate and other sectors.
Houston Department of Health & Human Services

- Progressive health department serving 2.1 million of the 4.1 million residents of Houston Harris County
- The Houston Department of Health and Human Services (HDHHS) functions as the health safety net for the City of Houston, providing health and social services to low income residents from culturally-diverse backgrounds.
- HDHHS provides disease prevention and community support services through a departmental network of 8 community health centers and 8 multi-service centers located strategically throughout the city. HDHHS has established community referral networks for those individuals and families requiring additional health care or program support beyond its focus.

Houston Department of Health & Human Services

- Through its Division of Environmental Health (EH) HDHHS has established an infrastructure to enforce local, state and federal environmental laws on consumer health, air and water quality, lead ordinance, and occupational health and radiation control within the city limits.
- EH has received Rounds Three, Five, Ten and Demo HUD grants for Lead-Based Paint Hazard Control Programs (LBPHCP) and has provided lead hazard reduction to over 1,404 housing units, trained over 167 unemployed/underemployed individuals to be state certified lead hazard reduction workers and screened over 170,000 children. Also, since inception of the LBPHCP approximately 26,651 individuals have received lead management-in-place education.
Houston Department of Health & Human Services

- HDHHS also administers the City's Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program (CLPPP)
- In 2003 the LBPHCP and CLPPP grant organizations were consolidated, moving CLPPP to the Division of Environmental Health (EH)
- In 2007, HDHHS assigned four Environmental Investigators III, certified lead inspectors from the Bureau of Occupational and Radiation Hazard Control (BORHC). The new staff added indoor air quality inspections experience and complements the healthy homes approach.
- Member of the State Asthma Coalition and manages the “BREATHE” Grant that provides Environmental Education through the Houston schools.

Essentials for Healthy Homes Practitioner Course

- Lead Inspectors
- Neighborhood Services & Leaders
- PH Nurses
- Environmental/Occupational Health Medical Residents
- Houston Housing Authority
- Texas Dept of State Health Services Personnel
Healthy Home Specialist Exam

- Offered by the training center in conjunction with the Essentials Course.
- NEHA Certification
- Candidates have included
  - Lead Inspectors; PH Nurses
  - University Faculty and Graduate Students
  - Community Advocates (Mothers for Clean Air)

Making the Connection Between Housing and Health

- Half day course designed to introduce participants to the National Center for Healthy Housing Seven Principles of Healthy Housing.
- Professional meetings i.e. Texas Public Health Association
- Early Childhood Education Orientation and continuing education programs.
Integrated Pest Management

- Education for Public Housing Personnel, Property Managers, Maintenance Staff and Pest Control Operators
- Technical Advice to Selected Elderly Housing and HUD Section 8 Housing Staff and Tenants

Certified Promotora/CHW Training Site

- *Texas DSHS Promotora/CHW* Training and Certification Program that meets the standards and guidelines established by the Texas Department of State Health Services as set forth by the Texas Health and Safety Code, Chapter 48 and the Rules Regarding the Training of Promotores or Community Health Workers, 25 TAC 146.1-146.10.
Environmental Education for Promotoras and Community Health Workers

- Targeted environmental education to Promotoras/CHWs working on the Texas-Mexico border and selected metropolitan areas with high numbers of medically underserved populations.

Launching A Healthy Homes Initiative

- ASTHO/NACCHO Pre-Conference
- Collaborative effort with Alameda County Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program, a NCHH training center partner.
Partnering Key to Success

- Partnership with National Center for Healthy Housing (NCHH) -
- Provides up to date materials & technical assistance;
- Prepares new trainers by networking with established training center partners the trainer
- Convenes expert panels to develop curriculum.
- Supports funding initiatives

Resources Provided by NCHH

- www.healthyhomestraining.org
- Summary of State and Local Codes
- American Housing Survey
  - National and Large MSAs
  - 7-page summaries
  - Interior-Exterior Relationships
- Assessment Tools
- Videos and Pamphlets
- Listserves
- Integrated Pest Management
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- Videos and Pamphlets
- Listserves
- Integrated Pest Management
Launching a Healthy Homes Program National Healthy Homes Training Center and Network
Launching a Healthy Homes Initiative – Seven Principles

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