

**HILLSBOROUGH COMMUNITY COLLEGE
SUPPORTING ACTIONS FOR ENGAGEMENT (SAFE) PROJECT
SERVICE LEARNING OVERVIEW**

SPRING 2004

Child Development

Project: *Bullying in Schools*

Instructor: Dr. Gwendolyn Parsons, Child Care Management

The bullying group interviewed professionals in the public school system and sat in on group sessions at youth services. They found that there is a 100% incidence for indirect bullying and a 20-75% incidence rate for direct bullying over the students time in public school. In regards to bullying, students who had been out of school more than ten years presented a more “shocked” response to the prevalence. However, all the students were surprised to learn that the issue of bullying was being discussed at such a high level in the school system and that formal policies were in place and that services were available to students to assist them in dealing with bullying in schools. The majority of HCC’s students became very interested in the area and their perspective and awareness was changed.

General Psychology

Project: *Violent Crimes*

Instructor: TaMetryce Collins, Psychology

The class addressing violence gathered a statistical history on violent crime for the City of Tampa (1993-2002) in the categories of murder, sexual battery, robbery, aggravated assault, total violent crime, total non-violent crime, and total crime. Overall, the murder rate and total non-violent crime as well as total crime had increased. The increased total was 1.5%; sexual battery, robbery, aggravated assault, and total violent crime had decreased. Students created a proposal that addressed a particular need of an agency that deals with the aftermath of violence. To address the effects of violence, students worked with Apple Services, a therapy center. The students adopted rooms that were used by children. They decorated and organized a large playroom, a small playroom and a small therapy room to achieve a more relaxed atmosphere. Students also worked with a woman’s domestic abuse center called The Spring. Students were involved in activities of replenishing food in the kitchen for the residents, reading to children, and /or allowed children to create a book, and developed and implemented an inventory system for the thrift store.

Introduction to Sociology

Project: *Veteran's Services & Readjustment of War Veterans*

Instructor: Walt Ellis, Sociology

Although there was one veteran enrolled in the class, most students had minimal information about veterans and services available to them. The majority became very interested in the area and their perspective and awareness was changed. Research on vets services and benefits for this on-going project was done this spring. Two consistent needs were identified: 1) more information on benefits and services accessible to the veterans and 2) more out-reach clinics so that veterans do not have to drive great distances to access services. The veterans group put together quarterly pamphlets to be mailed to members at the Disabled American Veteran's Office. The first pamphlet was due to be mailed on April 9, 2004. The students now see how serious the issue is and can begin to better understand veterans and their needs from this point forward.

Introduction to Human Services

Project: *Domestic Violence, Homelessness, Teen and Elderly Suicide, and Problems of Migrant Workers*

Instructor: Dr. William Day, Human Services

This group visited community agencies, talked with staff about the extent of the social problems they were investigating, and toured the different facilities that provide services to this group of citizens. Based on the gathered data presented to the agencies involved in this research effort, determination was then made as to how students would become involved in the agencies' efforts to provide services to these students. The class group studying the homeless reported 8,000 homeless in Hillsborough County, but this is probably an under estimate due to the difficulty in surveying this population. The class group that studied domestic violence found that 10,300 incidents were reported to the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office in the previous year. This was believed to be an under estimation again due to the difficulty in surveying this population. The most stunning piece of statistical information involved the homeless. The class that studied homelessness were very surprised to learn that 30% of those who are homeless in the Tampa area were employed full time, but at minimum wage jobs that do not allow them to meet their basic needs nor the needs of their families. The major factor contributing to homelessness was insufficient low-income, affordable housing in Tampa. The group was also surprised that many of the homeless were mentally-ill and often the victims of de-institutionalization from state psychiatric hospitals, and that many were military veterans. Services for both (non-mentally ill and mentally ill) populations are often not easily accessed primarily due to "cutbacks" in state and federal funding.

Radiation Therapy

Project: *Patients Living with Cancer, AIDS, and Diabetes*

Instructor: Karen Nelson, Radiation Therapy

The students worked on research in the areas of living with cancer, AIDS, and diabetes. Students were working with Hospice and The American Cancer Society. In examining existing services for cancer, diabetes, and AIDS patients, students reported that some services they thought were there for patients seemed to be unavailable after discharge. That is, after discharge patients seem to be on their own. More over, transitional homes appeared to lack the necessary funding to maintain the patients treatment environment. Of particular concern was the conclusion that patients were being referred to Hospice quite late in the disease stage rather than at the completion of the prognosis. This means that they had little quality time with their families and were living the remainder of their days in crisis situations; this situation also throws the family into a crisis oriented environment.

**HILLSBOROUGH COMMUNITY COLLEGE
SUPPORTING ACTIONS FOR ENGAGEMENT (SAFE) PROJECT
SERVICE LEARNING OVERVIEW**

FALL 2004

Meeting Special Needs of Children in Groups

Project: *Bullying*

Instructor: Dr. Gwendolyn Parsons, Child Care Management

Students examined the role of bullying at the preschool level and then prepared instructional kits to address the issue. The students had to assess the need, work with early childhood teachers in the community, and work with resource staff at local libraries and family resource centers. Students shared children's books which addressed the issue of bullying/aggression in early childhood and then developed a resource packet for teachers and a children's book to help young children deal with bullying. Instructional packets included activities (lesson plans), a book and music list, creative activities, puppets, family resources, etc. Kits were made available to early childhood centers and public programs in the community.

Honors Introduction to Sociology

Project: *Veteran's Issues*

Instructor: Walt Ellis, Sociology

The purpose was to determine what veterans saw as strengths and weaknesses of various services and benefits offered to them by governmental and non-governmental agencies. Students visited the James A. Haley Veterans' Hospital to learn about available services and the needs of veterans who were seeking and receiving those services. Students received an orientation to prepare them for their future service work with the veterans. This class investigated the readjustment of war veterans into society. The students exhibited an increased appreciation of veterans and their sacrifices and the concern that medical and psychological services be timely and available if and when the veterans needed them. The students developed a five-page summary of their work with veterans. This paper was distributed to the various veterans' agencies in the Tampa area. The personal contacts which students made with the different veterans' organizations will be beneficial as Professor Ellis' students complete the future phases for the project in the coming semesters. The next phase calls for the development of an HCC Vets' Website.

Principles and Practices of Radiation II

Project: *Emergency Health*

Instructor: Karen Nelson, Radiation Therapy

Emergency agencies were contacted to see what happened with patients during Florida's hurricanes. Radiation Therapy students developed brochures about living with cancer, diabetes, and HIV/AIDS during an emergency situation (where to go, what to do, how to get medicines, etc.). Brochures were created so that patients would know proper procedures for future emergencies. These materials were then distributed to various clinics and hospitals.

**HILLSBOROUGH COMMUNITY COLLEGE
SUPPORTING ACTIONS FOR ENGAGEMENT (SAFE) PROJECT
SERVICE LEARNING OVERVIEW**

FALL 2005

Teaching Diverse Populations

Project: *Bullying*

Instructor: Dr. John Bertalan, Political Science

Students will teach/tutor reading to first and second graders at University Community Ministries, P.C.A.T. (Parents and Children Advance Together), and Sulphur Springs Elementary School to improve the child's reading level. These children have been identified by school officials as reading below a desired reading level and display low academic achievement. This course deals with multi-cultural education and students that are being tutored are ethnic minorities.

Meeting Special Needs of Children in Groups

Project: *Bullying*

Instructor: Dr. Gwendolyn Parsons, Child Care Management

Students will participate in storytelling activities for young children. Students will explore the use of sign language with young children and integrate their knowledge with storytelling activities. Students will work in groups to produce and illustrate a children's story. Story books will be laminated and provided to child care agencies and local children's programs.

Freshman English II

Project: *Bullying*

Instructor: Dr. Stephen Lambert, English

Students will be studying the incidence of bullying and are discovering it to be most prevalent in the middle schools. Students plan to create and present to local public school students a booklet or PowerPoint slide show presentation containing suggestions for reducing incidents of bullying.

Principles and Practices of Radiation Therapy II

Project: *Health*

Instructor: Karen Nelson, Radiation Therapy

Students will prepare presentations to be given at local public middle and high schools to share with those students how their lifestyle and decisions that these young people make can impact the likelihood of their contracting certain various illnesses in their lifetime.

Honors Introduction to Sociology**Project:** *Veterans Issues***Instructor:** Walt Ellis, Sociology

This is part of a multi-semester study of Veteran's Benefits and veterans' satisfaction regarding those benefits. This semester students are continuing to interview veterans and asking about their experiences with the VA and other organizations that provide benefits. Information that is obtained will be provided to appropriate administrators and departments of HCC. In addition, students will be developing a website for veterans currently attending or planning to attend HCC. Research will be conducted at James Haley VA Hospital, the Vets Center, Vietnam Veterans of America, VFW, American Legion, Jewish War Veterans, Florida Department of Veterans Affairs, and Hillsborough County Department of Veterans Affairs. It is expected that students will gain a deeper understanding (and at a personal level) of veterans' sacrifices, need for benefits, and access of those benefits. Students can expect to see sociological concepts as they truly apply to real world experiences and not just as words in a textbook

**HILLSBOROUGH COMMUNITY COLLEGE
SUPPORTING ACTIONS FOR ENGAGEMENT (SAFE) PROJECT
SERVICE LEARNING OVERVIEW**

SPRING 2005

CLINICAL PROCEDURES I, II, AND III

Project: *Bullying*

Instructor: Dr. William Day, Human Services

Students enrolled in the Human Services Program gained increased knowledge and awareness of several agencies in the Tampa metropolitan area that provide services to children at risk, many of whom have been victims of bullying or who have themselves engaged in bullying type behaviors. These students developed the skills necessary to moderate forums and hosted/moderated their own issues forum on “Bullying in the Hillsborough County (Tampa) Schools”. Attendees were identified and invited because they worked with children in local schools and in social service programs, and included HCC students and faculty. Participants left with a better understanding of the dimensions of this problem.

CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

Project: *Health*

Instructor: Dr. Gwendolyn Parsons, Child Care Management

Students in Early Childhood Education course visited the Circle of Love Center, which is part of the local hospice program. The Center provides counseling services to children and their families who are dealing with acute grief due to the death or impending death of a significant other. Students studied developmental issues pertaining to “loss” and how these relate to childhood aggression; then used various media forms e.g. children’s literature, prop boxes, and art work to address unmet needs. It was noted that numerous children’s centers do not have sufficient resources for very young children (toddler/preschool) especially relating to bullying. Dr. Gwen Parson’s students developed packets for teachers to assist teachers in discussing issues of bullying and anger management with young children. It was reported that these resources reduced the level of aggression within the classroom and have served as effective learning/teaching models for other teachers.

HONORS LEADERSHIP

Project: *Bullying*

Instructor: Tametryce Collins, Psychology

Honors Leadership students found over 3,200,000 web sites that provide information on bullying, definitions, prevention techniques, programs, etc. Many of these resources provide referrals to other agencies. These students conducted research on the various aspects of bullying and found that as many as half of all children are bullied at some time during their school years. These students developed presentations to inform and engage elementary age school children about bullying. The students hope that by talking to students about bullying at an early age, the number of bullying incidences could be greatly decreased.

PATHOLOGY OF MEDICAL/SURGICAL DISEASES

Project: *Health Issues*

Instructor: Karen Nelson, Radiation Therapy

The students in Radiation Therapy course made several visits during the semester to the Westshore Senior Center, a county operated day program for elderly citizens. The students presented information sessions on health issues relevant to the seniors such as breast cancer, skin cancer, and prostate cancer. Radiation Therapy students incorporated the information they garnered about health concerns of senior citizens into brochures and handouts. Additionally, they engaged in actual student/client dialogues. Radiation Therapy students developed displays and hand-on demonstrations for teaching senior citizens to conduct various health self exams such as breast self-exam. Student groups presented power point presentations to seniors about various health concerns such as hand washing techniques, skin self examination, breast cancer self examinations, and prostate awareness. The students' presentations helped to alleviate the fears of many of the elderly by providing the seniors with current medical information and by providing them with a forum for sharing their anxieties. Further, during the student-lead discussions, the seniors talked about their personal issues in dealing with serious illnesses. From these discussions, the students developed an increased sensitivity for the high level of stress experienced by families who have members afflicted with cancer, and the students became aware of the difficulties that many families face in caring for their elderly members. The seniors were provided with valuable health information and the students developed much more empathy for elderly patients.

HILLSBOROUGH COMMUNITY COLLEGE
SUPPORTING ACTIONS FOR ENGAGEMENT (SAFE) PROJECT
SERVICE LEARNING OVERVIEW
PROPOSED

SPRING 2006

COURSE: Teaching Diverse Populations

PROJECT: *Bullying*

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. John Bertalan

COURSE: Introduction to Human Services

PROJECT: *Bullying*

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. William Day

COURSE: Honor's Introduction to Sociology

PROJECT: *Veteran's Issues*

INSTRUCTOR: Walt Ellis

COURSE: Freshman English II

PROJECT: *Bullying*

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Stephen Lambert

COURSE: Pathology of Medical and Surgical Diseases

PROJECT: *Health Issues*

INSTRUCTOR: Karen Nelson

COURSE: Family and Early Childhood Education

PROJECT: *Bullying*

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Gwendolyn Parsons

COURSE: Freshman English II (2 sections)

PROJECT: *Bullying*

INSTRUCTOR: Diana Yeager