



About the CHCP

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Let's Work
Together!

The Centre serves as a hub for linking students, faculty and the community in interdisciplinary service-learning, community-based research and health promotion projects. The goal of the Centre is to develop partnerships that promote healthy communities. The Centre is expanding its reach to the entire College community over the next year. Currently all Faculties are directly involved in projects or project plans.

To share our work, we will publish three newsletters per semester. For more information visit our website at www.douglascollege.ca/chcp

Update on the Tri Cities Intercultural Workplaces Project

On March 23rd 2010 the Tri Cities Intercultural Workplace Project (TIWP) held its first Organizational Dialogue. Forty five representatives from Tri Cities human services agencies and from the government gathered at Douglas College to learn about resources and tools to enhance workplace cultural competency and provide a place for sharing of ideas on the topic.

TIWP is a demonstration project funded by the provincial government to foster inclusive, welcoming and vibrant communities in BC. Internationally-trained human service workers will gain Canadian workplace experience while the agencies will develop a range of intercultural strategies to integrate internationally-prepared workers into the workplace. The Centre is responsible for the evaluation component of the project.

For more information, please contact chcp@douglas.bc.ca



Breastfeeding Support Services

By Kathie Lindstrom, Health Sciences Continuing Education

The Art of Breastfeeding Support services located in the Centre for Health and Community Partnerships at Douglas College is making a difference for many women and their families.

This support is provided by Fraser Health Community Health Nurses and Volunteers. The information and hands-on help are invaluable to new parents but even more important is the respect and support provided to women to help them reach their breastfeeding goals.

When I asked one of the nurses, Mercedes McLean, what she most enjoyed she said: “by being there for women we hope to facilitate their own growth in mothering and breastfeeding, helping them to see that they are the “true experts” not the nurses or anyone else. We try to instil a sense of confidence and belief in themselves. We know from research that confidence in the ability to breastfeed is key; unfortunately many of the Moms we see have very little confidence in their ability. Giving them encouragement to trust in themselves, their ideas and beliefs, and to listen to the wonderful ways their babies communicate with them, helps them to regain a sense of confidence and to feel empowered as a Mother.”

The Breastfeeding Support Services are available at Douglas College every Tuesday and Thursday from 1:30 - 3:00 pm. Mothers and babies who avail themselves of these services, present with a wide variety of challenges and are very grateful for the skilled nurses who see them. As mothers are waiting to be seen, they can enjoy the common seating area to visit with other mothers and compare babies and stories! The average number of mothers attending varies between 6 and 10 per day.

Students who attend are from Douglas College (first priority) BCIT, Kwantlen Polytechnic University and occasionally from UBC. The number of students is limited so as not to overwhelm the mother but generally most are willing to have students observing.

The benefits of having this service at this location was articulated well by one of the nursing staff: “The location is central, the facility is fabulous as are our partners and the staff! The partnership with Douglas College is great in that it is a “win - win” for public health, the college and the community. It provides us with a wonderful facility and fabulous supportive staff, we provide the college with an opportunity for students to observe and the community sees a connection between the college and health care.”

And by one of the students: “The Tri-Cities breastfeeding clinic at Douglas College is a warm and welcoming place for breastfeeding mothers, fathers and infants. I found the public health nurses to be caring, knowledgeable and accessible to all who attended the clinic. Women who want support during this vulnerable time in their mothering are well supported at this site.”



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Multicultural input into Alzheimer's Screening Tool

Kymerley Bontinen and Patricia Juvik, Health Sciences faculty members are working with Dr. Claudia Jacova and Dr. Sarah Le Huray (UBC) on an on-line screening tool for Alzheimer's disease for various ethnic groups. Their role is to coordinate a Cultural Advisory Panel to ensure that a computer based assessment tool of memory and cognition is a culturally valid test. They have recruited health professionals who work with members from different cultural groups to facilitate focus groups to provide feedback regarding the design and use of the screening tool. Kymerley reflects on her involvement in the project:

"When I first came across the CHCP email on Groupwise in December 2009 seeking faculty interested in Alzheimer Disease research to partner with UBC School of Medicine, I allowed myself no more than a brief moment of hesitation, understanding from my past that I have developed a pattern of avoiding opportunities when I consider them for too long. From my education and background, this seemed like the "now or never" opportunity presenting itself.

Going through the familiar motions of self-doubt, I reflected back to a session conducted by Marina Niks in May 2008 that encouraged faculty to embrace opportunities for scholarly activity and take comfort in knowing her role was to provide support. After meeting with Marina and Patricia Juvik from HCSW, everything fell into place. When I initially responded to the request, I had not even considered how professionally rewarding it would be to work with a faculty member from another Health Sciences department. Roles were defined and responsibilities were delegated. With defined tasks, the experience became manageable and in fact, enjoyable and exciting. The biggest change I have experienced in connecting with individuals from diverse ethno-cultural backgrounds is found within the quality of my relationships with patients as a nurse and students as an instructor."

In May 2010, CHCP and UBC will host the first of three meetings of the cultural advisory group at Douglas College David Lam Campus. For more information please contact the Centre at chcp@douglas.bc.ca

Health Literacy

Douglas College will host the Second Health Literacy Roundtable in early June 2010. This Roundtable will focus on the development of a Health Literacy Strategy for BC with input from the health and literacy fields and from a variety of sectors.

More information will become available shortly on our website at www.douglascollege.ca/chcp.



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More CHCP Projects!

We are working on a number of other projects... here are three of them:

Homelessness in the Tri Cities

Faculty interested in the topic of homelessness met on March 31st to learn about project and research opportunities with CHCP. We continue to build our involvement and relationship with the Tri-Cities Homelessness Task Group. There are opportunities for student community service learning projects. Please contact us at chcp@douglas.bc.ca if you want more information.

PoCoMo Meals on Wheels and Alcohol and Drug Education Services

Two groups of Marketing students have just concluded successful Community Service Learning projects with these two organizations.

Let's Work Together!

Provide your students with a transformative learning experience!

Enrich your research experience and promote healthy communities!

Work with College faculty and students to meet your agency's goals!

Contact us to talk about a project and become involved in the Centre.

We can help you define the project's goals, support you with grant application processes, work with Finance to manage grant funds, match faculty and students to agency projects, and oversee projects, assisting as required. We offer consultation and logistical support.

See our website at www.douglascollege.ca/chcp and contact us at chcp@douglas.bc.ca



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