

PATH: Preparing Adolescents to be Tomorrow's Heroes

PROGRAM Description



Program Overview

The P.A.T.H. program was created by Community Voices: Healthcare for the Underserved at Morehouse School of Medicine to transform high-risk youth. This school-based intervention was designed to increase employability and educational attainment by providing social support through life skills and career awareness training, peer and community-based mentoring, service and resource mobilization, and the promotion of cross-system coordination among youth, parents and caregivers, and the community. The key elements of P.A.T.H. are: 1) promote positive socialization and reduce maladaptive behaviors; 2) advance educational attainment by improving in-school retention and reducing absenteeism; 3) transform abilities through the provision of supportive services; and 4) highlight effective practices for reducing recidivism and youth violence.

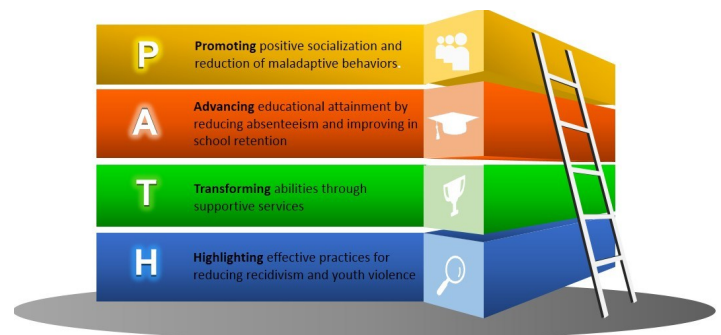
Program Objectives

- Establish a replicable model program and framework for connecting community resources and providing skills, training and educational opportunities for at-risk youth and juvenile ex-offenders
- Mobilize resources and enhance the integration of service providers
- Establish systems to support economic stability and family security
- Prevent incarceration of at-risk youth and reduce recidivism
- Disseminate program outcomes to educate policy makers, school officials and the community

Program Goals

- Recruit youth, ages 15–19, who reside in the catchment area
- Establish educational, career, and personal goals
- Provide curriculum based training focused on participant empowerment
- Create positive peer relationships and develop supportive systems

Key Elements of the PATH Program



Intervention Overview

- Six week curriculum instruction (includes life skills training, conflict resolution and decision making, review of post-secondary educational opportunities, job search techniques and navigating workforce opportunities, etc.)
- Restorative Justice Community Service
- Socialization opportunities including outings and social events to promote positive socialization
- Post-program support and follow-up to help ensure that participants maintain educational or employment retention and/or placement retention for additional career development opportunities

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2014-2016

PILOT OUTCOMES

- **Total Pilot Enrollments: 70**
 - Freshman (n=5)
 - Sophomore (n=20)
 - Junior (n=21)
 - Senior (n=17)
 - Out-of-school (n=6)
- 43% (n=30) of participants showed an increase in basic skills, including literacy and numeracy
- 57% (n=40) of participants remained in school or employed for at least 3 months
- 93% (n=65) of participants received mentoring services
- 4 youth who were out of school at the time of enrollment returned to school
- 8 participants were placed in advanced training, employment, and/or post-secondary education
- 10 out of 17 seniors obtained their High School Diploma or GED certificate
- 100% (n=70) of participants received case management services

KEY PROGRAM PARTNERS

The Center for Working Families, Inc.

- Soft skills and job readiness supports and services to enhance participants' employability and ultimate success including:
 - Resume preparation
 - Work focused career exploration
 - Interview skills training
 - Instruction on workplace expectations and workplace behavior

Carver High School and Frederick Douglass High School

- Provide referrals for the PATH Program
- Allow the PATH team to render curriculum intervention and case management services on campus during the school day

Fulton County Juvenile Courts and Georgia Department of Juvenile Justice

- Provide referrals for the PATH Program
- Coordinate planned efforts to ensure decreased recidivism rates among engaged youth
- Georgia Department of Juvenile Justice Reentry Taskforce

Peachford Hospital

- Mental health and substance abuse evaluations
- Treatment programs and services for participants based on evaluation outcome and recommendations

Provost Academy

- Referral for out-of-school youth to obtain high quality online educational services

FOR MORE INFORMATION:



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