

**PCRI/NorTex Projects****PCRI / NORTEX PROJECTS**

*This list represents ongoing and recently completed projects occurring at the Primary Care Research Institute (PCRI) at the University of North Texas Health Science Center. Projects specific to the North Texas Primary Care Practice-Based Research Network (NorTex) are listed separately.*

**PCRI PROJECTS****The Mental Health Screening and Treatment Initiative (MHSTI)**

The Mental Health Screening and Treatment Initiative (MHSTI) is a collaborative, multi-institutional project developed by investigators from the Primary Care Research Institute (PCRI) at the University of North Texas Health Science Center at Fort Worth (UNTHSC), Texas Wesleyan University, and Tarrant County Community Supervision and Corrections Department (TC-CSCD).

The goal of the MHSTI project is to provide routine mental health screenings using an innovative audio-visual computer system for probationers at the Tarrant County Community Supervision and Corrections Department (TC-CSCD). The touch screen computer survey units were installed at the TC-CSCD in August, 2009 and began processing participants on September 1, 2009.

After each participant completes a survey, a report card is generated for their Licensed Chemical Dependency Counselor that details the participant's mental health status. Since implementation of the survey units, 821 probationers have been screened. Eighty three percent of probationers have consented to release their survey responses to the PCRI researcher and we are almost half way toward our goal of 2000 participants in the first year of funding.

This project is a key step toward developing more comprehensive mental health treatment programs for probationers and reducing recidivism. We plan to apply for more funding to ensure the sustainability and growth of this project in the future. (Co-PIs: R Cardarelli & C Mann; Funded by: the Meadows Foundation and the Byrne Foundation)



**A technician demonstrates the innovative, touch-screen, survey units recently installed and implemented in the MHSTI project.**

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