

**PCRI/NorTex Projects**Mental Health Screening and Treatment Initiative (MHSTI) Study Update

The MHSTI project continues with a total of 1852 probationers screened as of May 1, 2010. 1544 of these consented to the research study making the overall recruitment rate at 83.4%

The MHSTI project is an innovative way to provide routine mental health screenings and is funded by the Meadows Foundation and Byrne Foundation. Drs. Roberto Cardarelli and Christopher Mann are Principle Investigators on the project and Kristen Hahn serves as the project coordinator. The institutions involved include the Primary Care Research Institute (PCRI) at the University of North Texas Health Science Center of Fort Worth; Texas Wesleyan University; and Tarrant County Community Supervision and Corrections Department (TC-CSCD).

The goal of the MHSTI project is to provide routing mental health screenings using an innovative audio-visual computer system for probationers at the TC-CSCD. The touch screen computer survey units were installed at the TC-CSCD in August, 2009 and began processing participants on September 2, 2009. This project is a step toward developing more comprehensive mental health treatment programs for probationers and reducing recidivism.

This project has recently gained interest in other institutions across the State of Texas and the feasibility of expanding into other applications due to it's ease of use . (P.I.'s R. Cardarelli, C. Mann. Funded by Meadows Foundation and Byrne Foundation.)

The Tachygraphic Color-Organized Medication Study (TCOM)

TCOM is a research study conducted by the PCRI. The goal of the study is to assess whether an established system of medication labels increases the accuracy of identifying medications and their intended purposes. The TCOM study will be conducted in two phases: focus groups and a pre-post test.

Focus groups have been conducted during which participants provided feedback on the preliminary medication symbol system for each of the 16 different medication classifications (Phase 1). The medication labels have been refined based on these recommendations.

Currently, we are conducting Phase 2 which consists of testing the refined labels for accuracy in correctly identifying medications and their purpose. The TCOM study is projected to be completed by June 2010. (P.I.s: R Cardarelli & C Mann; Funded by: the American Academy of Family Physicians Foundation)

North Texas Participant Registry Project (NRP)

The JPS Polytechnic Clinic and the JPS Grand Prairie Clinic joined the ranks of the NRP recently. The Registry currently includes a total of 17 clinics, made up of UNT Health Science Center Clinics, Parkland, and JPS. Patients place completed cards inside a secured ballot box at each of the registry clinics to sign up for participation in ongoing and future studies conducted by NorTex. 772 participant subjects are currently enrolled. (P.I. R. Cardarelli).