

Preliminary Findings
(Cycles 21 – 25, March thru July 2000)
Intermediate STRIVE Evaluation Report *

October 11, 2000

Georg Matt, Ph.D., Professor of Psychology,
Director, Measurement and Evaluation Group, San Diego State University; and,
Research Assistants, Julia Budinetz and Jill Stoddard

Dr. Matt and his assistants presented their preliminary findings on October 11, 2000. Present at the meeting were:

- Alliance Healthcare Foundation Program officer, Olga de la Cruz-Canon,
- Agency Consultant, Fred Colby, and,
- Mental Health Services Clinician, Gene Fischer, LCSW, MFCC.

Significant Finding

“...there is an overall improvement in the mental health of STRIVE graduates...”

Conclusion

Three week STRIVE training class, in and of itself, affects improvement in mental health of graduates.

This is an added benefit of the training class. A benefit that adds to the expressed purpose of the class, which is teaching job getting and job keeping attitudes and behaviors, (i.e. an 80% job placement rate following graduation).

Significant Finding

“...the prevalence of clinically significant symptoms of depression, anxiety and global severity remains 2 – 3 times higher among STRIVE graduates than in the general population.”

Conclusion

STRIVE graduates show unmet mental health needs. Although the prevalence of their clinical signs and symptoms declines significantly, the finding that the prevalence remains 2 – 3 times higher than the general population, means STRIVE graduates can benefit from mental health services, offered in addition to the STRIVE training class.

Note: see page 8 of “Intermediate STRIVE Evaluation Report” for source of findings reported above.

Final Report – June 2001 / Seeking Continuing Funding

The final report will be available in June 2001. This report will provide the findings of the ongoing evaluation, aimed to determine the effects of the mental health services. The services were implemented in September 2000 beginning with class cycle 27. The services will be evaluated for cycles 27 thru 32, (September 2000 through February 2001 classes). Services will continue under the current funding through May 31, 2001. We are seeking funding to continue mental health services beyond May 31, 2001.

* **Intermediate Report available upon request.**

Prepared by: Gene Fischer, LCSW, MFCC, Pathways to Success Counseling services

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