

Harris County
HCPHES
Public Health & Environmental Services

Umair A. Shah, M.D., M.P.H.
Executive Director
2223 West Loop South
Houston, Texas 77027
Tele: (713) 439-6000
Fax: (713) 439-6080

Rita Obey
Director
Office of Public Information
2223 West Loop South
Houston, Texas 77027
Tele: (713) 439-6246
Fax: (713) 439-6362

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Contact: Rita Obey
713.439.6293

Martha Marquez
713.439.6193

**Harris County Public Health & Environmental Services (HCPHES)
Honored for Excellence in Public Health**

Houston, Texas (July 9, 2014) – Harris County Public Health & Environmental Services (HCPHES) was honored with a Model Practice Award and two Promising Practice Awards at the 2014 annual conference of the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO).

The Model Practice Award places HCPHES in special company with a select group of health departments that exemplify a forward thinking, proactive attitude toward protecting and promoting the health of communities across the nation.

“We are proud to receive the NACCHO Model Practice Award and the two Promising Practice Awards. These awards are evidence of our commitment to develop innovative public health programs designed to improve the health of Harris County residents,” said Dr. Umair A. Shah, Executive Director of HCPHES.

The HCPHES CHoosing and Maintaining Programs for Sex education in Schools (CHAMPSS) was one of 22 local health department programs to receive NACCHO’s prestigious Model Practice Award.

The CHAMPSS project assists Harris County Independent School Districts (ISDs) in adopting, implementing, and maintaining an evidence-based program designed to reduce the teen pregnancy rate by changing risky sexual behaviors such as lack of condom/contraception use or early sexual initiation.

The Healthy Living Matters project and the Core Tour were recognized as Promising Practices. Healthy Living Matters is a Houston/Harris County Childhood Obesity Prevention Collaborative directed by HCPHES that focuses on curbing childhood obesity through policy change. The HCPHES Core Tour empowers its executive team to make better decisions for the department by allowing them to spend a separate day with each division to experience all aspects of the department.

HCPHES is the local public health agency for the Harris County, Texas jurisdiction. It is involved in a wide variety of public health activities aimed at improving the health and well-being of the Harris County community. For more information, please contact HCPHES at www.hcphe.org.

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