PATHWAY PROGRAM COLLABORATION SURVEY

Introduction –

The California Social Work Education Center (CalSWEC), hosted by the University of California, Berkeley's (UCB) School of Social Welfare, is conducting a research study to learn more about how the Pathway program is working. Pathway is a distance---learning program that provides financial and educational support for students living in rural and remote regions of California who are county agency employees. The researchers leading this study are Dr. Jeffrey Edleson, Dean of UCB School of Social Welfare, and Dr. Sandhya Hermon, Director of Research and Evaluation at CalSWEC.

As part of this research study, CalSWEC would like to invite you to participate in a survey for supervisors, managers, project coordinators and instructors affiliated with the Pathway program. The purpose of this survey is to gather information that will help us understand what is working well with the program, ways that the program might be improved, and the role of inter---agency collaboration among Pathway partners and affiliates.

The survey is estimated to take about 15---20 minutes to complete. There are no expected direct risks or benefits to you if you choose to participate in the study. Although you may not directly benefit from participating, findings will help us understand how the Pathway collaboration is working and improve its ability to serve students throughout California.

A risk factor for participating in any research study is an unintended breach of confidentiality, including ones that may occur during online communications such as this survey. To address this, every reasonable effort will be taken to help facilitate confidentiality of data collected during the study. Data will be stored on a secure server managed by UC Berkeley's Information Technology Services, and only CalSWEC IV---E research personnel will have direct access to the data. No supervisors, agency administrators, or faculty who teach within the Pathway program will have direct access to the data or have knowledge about who does or does not participate in the study. Study findings will only report aggregate data, and no individual participant will be identified in any reporting of findings.

Participation in this research is completely voluntary. Your opinions are important and we hope that you will share them with us. Whether or not you choose to participate will in no way affect your employment or result in a penalty or loss of benefits to which you are otherwise entitled. You have the right to decline to participate, or to stop participating at any time after beginning the study.

If you have any questions about this research, please contact either Jeffrey Edleson at jedleson@berkeley.edu, or Sandhya Hermon at 510.642.9272 or by email at sandhya.rao.hermon@berkeley.edu.

If you have any questions about your rights or treatment as a participant in this research project, please contact the University of California at Berkeley's Committee for Protection of

Human Subjects by phone at 510.642.7461 or by email at subjects@berkeley.edu.

Thank you for your time and consideration!

1. What is your role or affiliation with the Pathway program? (Choose all that apply)

    -   I am a supervisor or manager at a tribal agency with students in the program
    -   I am a supervisor or manager at a county agency with students in the program
    -   I am a project coordinator with the Pathway program
    -   I teach courses in the Pathway program
    -   I am a task supervisor who works with student interns in the Pathway program
    -   I am a field instructor who works with student interns in the Pathway program
    -   Other: _____

2. How well do you understand the Pathway program? In other words, how well do you understand the goals of the program, how it works, and what the program offers?
    a. If you know the program well, please describe how you learned about the program:

3. What do you see as some positives or benefits of the Pathway program?

4. In what ways might the Pathway program be improved?

5. Thinking of Pathway students who enter the program with none to little experience in the child welfare field, how prepared do you think students are to work as a child welfare social worker, upon completion of the program?

    -   More than adequately prepared
    -   Adequately prepared
    -   Not quite adequately prepared
    -   Not at all prepared

    Please elaborate on your response above:

6. Thinking of Pathway students who enter the program with prior child welfare experience, in what ways have you noticed a difference in their practice? (Choose all the apply)

    -   Acquisition of new knowledge related to child welfare practice
    -   Deepening of existing knowledge related to child welfare practice
    -   Acquisition of new skills related to child welfare practice
    -   Refinement of existing skills related to child welfare practice
    -   More integration of social work values in working with children and families
    -   None of the above

- Other: _____

Please elaborate on your response above:

Inter‐‐‐campus collaboration –

The remaining questions are intended to help us understand the degree to which the Pathway program has helped, hindered, or not influenced greater inter‐‐‐agency collaboration. The questions have been adapted from a scale specifically created to conceptualize and assess collaboration among agency partners. Please refer to the citation below for more information.

Thomson, A.M., Perry, J.L., & Miller, T.K. (2009). Conceptualizing and measuring collaboration. *Journal of Public Administration Research and Theory, 19*(1), 23‐‐‐56.

Select whether you agree or disagree with the following statements in regards to your agency's role with the Pathway program. Please respond to any or all questions that are relevant to your experience with the program and skip over any questions that are irrelevant to you.

5 – Strongly agree
4 – Agree
3 – Neutral
2 – Disagree
1 – Strongly disagree

Governance – These questions relate to ways in which collaboration may have occurred related to the management of the program, such as in making decisions or problem solving.

1. Partner organizations take my organization's opinions seriously when decisions are made about the Pathway collaboration.

2. My organization brainstorms with partner organizations to develop solutions to mission‐‐‐related problems facing the Pathway collaboration.

Administration – These questions relate more to the implementation and oversight of the program, such as ensuring the program is accessible and available as needed.

3. As a representative of my organization in the Pathway collaboration, I understand my organization's role(s) and responsibilities as a member of the collaboration.

4. Partner organization meetings accomplish what is necessary for the Pathway collaboration to function well.

5. Partner organizations (including my organization) agree about the goals of the Pathway collaboration.

6. My organization's tasks in the Pathway collaboration are well coordinated with those of partner organizations.

Organizational autonomy – These questions are intended to help us understand how each agency partner views the role(s) that each agency plays in the collaboration.

7. The Pathway collaboration hinders my organization from meeting its own organizational mission.

8. My organization's independence is affected by having to work with partner organizations on activities related to the Pathway collaboration.

9. As a representative of my organization, I feel pulled between trying to meet both my organization's and the Pathway collaboration's expectations.

Mutuality – These questions are intended to gather information related to coordination and interaction among agency partners.

10. Partner organizations (including mine) have combined and used each other's resources so all partners benefit from collaborating.

11. My organization shares information with partner organizations that will strengthen their operations and programs.

12. What my organization brings to the Pathway collaboration is appreciated and respected by partner organizations.

13. My organization achieves its goals better working with partner organizations than working alone.

14. Partner organizations (including mine) work through differences to arrive at win--win solutions.

Norms – These last few questions relate more to attitudes and social or cultural norms that may have been established among agency partners in collaborating with one another.

15. The people who represent partner organizations in the Pathway collaboration are trustworthy.

16. My organization can count on each partner organization to meet its obligations to the Pathway collaboration.

17. My organization feels it worthwhile to stay and work with partner organizations rather than leave the Pathway collaboration.

You've reached the end of the survey. Thank you for your time and assistance!!