



Base Funding Request

Fiscal Year 2012-2013

**UH Wellness (UHW) Base Funding Request
Alcohol and Other Drugs and Violence (AODV) Prevention Specialist**

There have been growing concerns nationally over the attitudes and environmental conditions that would lead to major alcohol or violence incidents. On this campus, as on other campuses, drugs, alcohol, and violence are a public health issue. On a national level, there are 1,700 college alcohol related deaths each year, almost 600,000 unintentional injuries, and almost 700,000 assaults. In addition, there are 97,000 sexual assaults reported and another 100,000 students who indicate they were too intoxicated to know if they consented to have sex. Accordingly, the National Institute on Alcoholism and Alcohol Abuse tells us this is also having an impact on students academically. Twenty five percent report academic consequences from drinking including lower grades, doing poorly on exams, missing class, and falling behind. At the University of Houston, we are beginning to have a positive impact on alcohol and violence. Fewer than 10% of our students are drinking heavily and most of our students are consuming fewer than 2 drinks per week. Among those who have participated in IMAGE, our alcohol prevention program, they are drinking less, less often, and with fewer negative consequences than their peers who have not participated. This would seem to be a strong indicator of the positive impact our programs have had on the campus culture. Even so, the small number who continue to drink too much amounts to almost 3,900 students; and other drug issues as well as violence are increasing concerns.

UH Wellness has a primary responsibility for alcohol, other drug, and violence (AODV) prevention for students. These issues are vital for a university, especially the size of the University of Houston, which will soon be increasing its residential population again. For some time, there has been a growing sense among college administrators across the country that alcohol and violence on campuses must be addressed in a more comprehensive manner. In December 2006, a student at a neighboring institution, Sam Houston State University, was involved in a murder/suicide on campus, apparently the victim of at least some level of stalking behavior. Neighboring Austin had an alcohol overdose. In summer 2010, an incident of violence at the University of Texas campus demonstrated that student fears and anxiety are local and affect the entire student population, and that concerns about how to be safe will increase. University of Houston has experienced similar occurrences in the past two years. These examples, close to home, mirror a growing concern over a wide variety of incidents involving alcohol, other drugs, and violence on campuses.

Based on the 2011 UH Wellness campus wide survey, while most University of Houston students are making good choices, close to 10% is still engaging in high risk drinking. Approximately 7% of our students have used marijuana once a month or more. Although most UH students are not consuming other illegal substances, 5% indicate having used an illegal substance (other than marijuana) at least once and 2% indicated use once a month or more. More recently, the issue of prescription medication abuse has become prominent. Almost 10% of UH students indicate they have used a prescription drug other than as prescribed at least once in the past year. In October, UHW joined with the UH Department of Public Safety to engage in National Prescription Drug Take Back. Clearly, these numbers, although seemingly small, will have a significant impact on retention and graduation rates for students at the university. Violence and safety are also key issues for our students. In the most recent wellness survey, 49% of students who responded say they feel safe only some of the time or rarely. Among their concerns, 51% report concern about

sexual assault, and 69.2% report concern about physical assault. Although most students' concerns are higher than their likely experiences, we do know that .7% indicated they have been forced to have sex without consent, or have been unable to give consent due to alcohol, in the past year. This percentage seems small, until it's calculated. This number means 238 of our students have been sexually assaulted in the past year, and this number reflects only those willing to report it, and for whom alcohol or other drugs was an issue, making the actual number likely higher.

As UH Wellness has taken seriously its commitment to prevention and education, we have made great strides in creating a better climate within which students would make healthier, safer decisions. We have implemented a campus wide social norms and personalized feedback small group intervention that is evidence based to address the issue of alcohol abuse on campus. Our peer educators have worked hard to assist us in our efforts. This semester, one of our interns and our peer educators is giving presentations on sexual assault prevention. We have also implemented training for our peer educators to form two new groups, One in Four: The Men's Program and One in Four: The Women's Program, both aimed at the prevention of sexual assault from a peer based model. These are major steps in moving forward on these issues. Maintaining these peer programming efforts is challenging, however, given the limited staff and growing responsibilities experienced at UHW. Our resources are limited and our overall work load is challenging. The need for attention to these peer educator programs is clear, yet they compete with other challenges. Our total contacts for FY11 surpassed 40,000, during a year when our staffing was down by .5 FTE. Significant time is required to supervise and train students who are willing and able to be involved in our programming. All students benefit from a healthy campus environment, and we do all of this with only 2.0 FTE staff, student employees, and student volunteers, but the demand is increasing each year. UH is currently revising its Sexual Assault Policy in response to the recent federal recommendations, with an emphasis on prevention. The Substance Abuse Prevention Committee is also recommending the creation of an AODV prevention specialist. Additionally, the Texas legislature has mandated student leaders be trained in alcohol, drugs, and violence issues. Clearly, this will increase the demand and stress on a system already heavily taxed. UHW currently has an additional staff member focused on alcohol prevention, but this is a grant funded position and will disappear next summer, making the challenge even greater.

We are requesting a base funded position (1.0FTE) AODV position. This individual would assist us in coordinating prevention activities on campus and would help us in coordinating our student groups that address these and other issues. Having a full time, permanent position designated for this purpose would allow the program to grow and continue to document the effectiveness of programming. UHW has made great progress in prevention, and we have utilized research driven programming. We have done this through the use of graduate students and grant funded positions, trying not to place an undue burden on the SFAC budget. However, we realize the time has come we must have more assistance to continue in this effort, critical to the safety of our students, and the retention and graduate rates for the university. We believe with the increasing AODV issues affecting college campuses, the increasing residential campus community at UH, and the growing demand on the Wellness staff to coordinate and implement AODV programs, it is a justified request. We appreciate the long standing support of the committee and hope our commitment to accountability will allow you to give this request strong consideration.

1.0 FTE Salary (\$40,000) & Benefits (\$11,120) + Admin Charge (\$3,834) = **Total Request \$54,954**



Base Funding Request

Fiscal Year 2012-2013

**UH Wellness (UHW) Base Funding Request
Salary Discrepancy from Administrative Realignment**

This past spring, the Division of Student Affairs (DSA) underwent a major administrative realignment, with some units within DSA moving to Academic Affairs. Learning and Assessment Services (LAS), the department to whom UH Wellness reported, was a part of this realignment. When LAS was moved from the Division of Student Affairs, UH Wellness stayed, currently reporting to the Dean of Students (DOS) office. This move resulted in UHW's salary and benefits budget for FY 13 being insufficient (if it is based on the former structure).

To explain, the director position for UHW was paid .5 from UHW and .5 from LAS. When UH Wellness moved from Learning and Assessment Services to Dean of Students, the salary for the director position for UHW changed from being .5 in UHW to being 1.0 in UHW. Although there is some lapsed salary to cover a portion of this discrepancy, it is not sufficient to cover all of it.

The combination of salaries for the Director and Outreach Coordinator is \$117,900. The combination of our benefits is \$37,751. This means our total anticipated salary and benefits of full time staff for FY 13 is \$155,651. The salary and fringe budget for FY 12 was \$135,964. This results in a difference of \$19,687, which will impact the FY13 budget cycle. We are requesting a base funded adjustment of \$19,687 to compensate for this administrative change.

Base Augmentation Request \$19,687 + \$1477 (admin charge) = \$21,164



One Time Funding Request

Fiscal Year 2011-2012

**UH Wellness (UHW) One Time Funding Request
Salary Discrepancy from Administrative Realignment**

This past spring, the Division of Student Affairs (DSA) underwent a major administrative realignment, with some units within DSA moving to Academic Affairs. Learning and Assessment Services (LAS), the department to whom UH Wellness reported, was a part of this realignment. When LAS was moved from the Division of Student Affairs, UH Wellness stayed, currently reporting to the Dean of Students (DOS) office. This move resulted in UHW's salary and benefits budget for FY 12 being insufficient.

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Base Augmentation Request \$19,687 + \$1477 (admin charge) = \$21,164