



Phoenix House Texas

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Breaking Down Stigmas Around Substance Use Disorders Project Empathy Empowers With Knowledge, Understanding

Project Empathy is an innovative initiative dedicated to breaking down stigmas surrounding substance use disorders and addiction. The initiative, designed and presented by Phoenix House Texas President & CEO Drew Dutton, lies in education rooted in the latest research, neuroscience, and best practices.

“We are committed to providing community workshops and training sessions throughout Texas aimed at disseminating precise and invaluable insights for the prevention, intervention, and treatment of substance use disorders,” says Dutton. “With a special emphasis on youth, we aim to empower the community with knowledge and understanding of this complex issue.”

Project Empathy is designed to benefit a wide range of participants, regardless of their experience level with substance use disorders. Its diverse target audience includes licensed professionals, educators and school staff, legal professionals, parents, students, and community members.

The Project Empathy program caters to beginners and those with advanced knowledge of substance use disorder and addiction, ensuring that everyone can actively participate and benefit from the information.

Topics covered in the Project Empathy workshop typically include up-to-date data on substance use disorder trends in the U.S., adolescent-specific trends, treatment accessibility and barriers, the presence and dangers of stigma, the neuroscience of addiction and the adolescent brain, current models and why they fail, Positive Psychology and strength-based approaches, and the importance and power of empathy.

With more than a decade of experience in prevention, intervention, and adolescent-focused treatment, Dutton is recognized for integrating Positive Psychology into mental health and addiction practices. Under his leadership, Phoenix House Texas has distinguished itself through its evidence- and strengths-based approach to prevention. He is a recognized innovator in the realm of Positive Psychology and innovative integration into mental health and addiction practice.

Dutton holds a Master's in Professional Counseling from TCU, a Master's in Business Administration from Baylor University, and a Master's in Applied Positive Psychology from the University of Pennsylvania. He also serves as an adjunct professor at TCU and the University of Mary, teaching graduate students in the field of addiction counseling.

Since 1995, Phoenix House Texas has served hundreds of thousands of Texans, advancing a prevention-first model rooted in science, compassion, and measurable outcomes. To learn more about Phoenix House Texas, Project Empathy, and Positive Prevention programs for your school or community, email admin@phoenixhousetx.org or call 844-748-3927.