

# Terie Dreussi-Smith



**Terie Dreussi-Smith, M.A.Ed.**, of Taylors, South Carolina, is an educator, trainer, consultant, and author who formerly worked as a public school teacher and adjunct faculty member for several colleges. In 1996 she was one of the first professionals to adapt Ruby Payne's *A Framework for Understanding Poverty* from K–12 education to community environments and social service settings. This helped Ms. Dreussi-Smith make the transition into her role as coauthor of both *Bridges Out of Poverty* (1999) and *Bridges to Health and Healthcare* (2014). She is a full-time consultant for aha! Process, Inc., presenting and consulting up to 100 days a year. She has worked with every sector and in every type of community in her scope of practice.

The practical know-how and approach Ms. Dreussi-Smith brings to this work originate from decades of diverse front-line and middle-management positions within behavioral health, community college systems, and K–12 education. Her many years working in community youth development and alcohol- and drug-abuse prevention have given her a broader perspective and an inclination toward innovation. Her years as supervisor of prevention services offered problem-solving opportunities to engineer and design leading-edge initiatives promoting health and wellness in communities and institutions. Most of these operated within the public health model. She now leads the national Bridges to Health and Healthcare Community of Practice.

Beginning in 2009, Ms. Dreussi-Smith was approached by multiple healthcare providers and public health professionals as she adapted Bridges Out of Poverty to more closely align with health and healthcare. These conversations transferred her focus for Bridges Out of Poverty toward its implications for health systems and medical practice. She began presenting “Bridges Into Health” and worked closely with a number of healthcare providers and public health groups, which produced promising results using the Bridges lens. Today Ms. Dreussi-Smith continues her work in this area, as well as in developing new models for using Bridges Out of Poverty within every aspect and sector of the community.

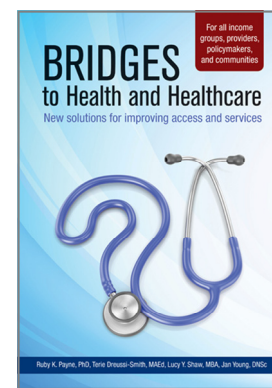
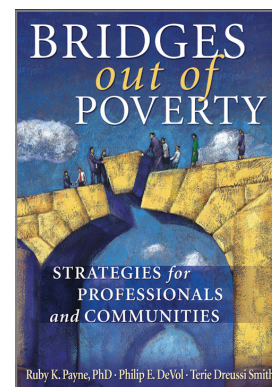
As a consultant, Ms. Dreussi-Smith's presentations for aha! Process include *A Framework for Understanding Poverty*, *Bridges Out of Poverty*, *Bridges to Health and Healthcare*, *Getting Ahead in a Just-Gettin'-By World*, *Understanding and Engaging Under-Resourced College Students*, and *Hidden Rules of Class at Work*.

She received a Bachelor of Arts in Music at Kent State University, Kent, Ohio, and a Master of Arts in Education, College of Mt. St. Joseph, Cincinnati, Ohio.

## Selected workshops presented by Terie Dreussi-Smith

Terie Dreussi-Smith presents *Bridges to Health and Healthcare*, *Bridges Out of Poverty*, *Applying Bridges Concepts*, *Getting Ahead in a Just-Gettin'-By World*, and *Hidden Rules of Class at Work*.

Terie Dreussi-Smith co-authored *Bridges Out of Poverty: Strategies for Professionals and Communities* and *Bridges to Health and Healthcare: New Solutions for Improving Access and Services*.



**With consultants and publications around the world, aha! Process helps communities move individuals, families, and entire neighborhoods out of poverty and into sustainability and growth.**



aha! Process, Inc.  
P.O. Box 727  
Highlands, Texas 77562

Local: +1 (281) 426-5300  
Toll-Free: +1 (800) 424-9484  
Fax: +1 (281) 426-8598

[www.ahaprocess.com](http://www.ahaprocess.com)