



Joette Katz
Commissioner

DEPARTMENT of CHILDREN and FAMILIES

Making a Difference for Children, Families and Communities



Dannel P. Malloy
Governor

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**Supreme Court Chief Justice Rogers Receives Award
For Serving Families with Cognitive Limitations**

HARTFORD -- The Connecticut Parents with Cognitive Limitations Workgroup awarded Chief Justice Chase T. Rogers an Advocacy Award for her vision and commitment to fostering greater accessibility to the courts for all of Connecticut's citizens. The Workgroup, which consists of representatives from a number of state agencies, private providers and others, recognized Chief Justice Rogers on Monday for making the court system easier to navigate for individuals with cognitive limitations.



Presenter: Lucy Potter, Attorney,
Greater Hartford Legal Assistance Award

Recipient: Chief Justice Chase T. Rogers,
Connecticut Supreme Court

Department of Children and Families Commissioner Joette Katz said Chief Justice Rogers has led the court system to be far more sensitive to the needs of this special population.

"Families are without question the most important resource our children have, and that is just as true for parents with cognitive limitations," Commissioner Katz said. "Parents with special needs are every bit as important to their children. I applaud Chief Justice Rogers for her leadership in making the courts accessible to these families."

The workgroup recognized Chief Justice Rogers for leading the Judicial Branch in a multi-pronged initiative that resulted in:

- all of the court's forms and publications being translated into plain language;
- grouping forms related to the same action on the court's website;
- increasing the number of bilingual publications and resources; and
- initiating a courthouse greeter program in the New Haven Judicial District who provides one-on-one assistance to court patrons

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Presenter: Colleen Rankine, Clinical Program Supervisor,
Nurturing Families, Catholic Charities, Hartford Award

Recipient: Lisa Discher, Catholic Charities, Meriden

A second Advocacy Award was awarded to Lisa Discher, an in-home worker with Catholic Charities in Meriden. Lisa has embodied the philosophy of the Workgroup through her direct work with families with complex needs.

The Connecticut Parents with Cognitive Limitations Workgroup was formed in 2002 to support parents with cognitive limitations and their families. It is estimated that at least one out of three families in the current child welfare system are headed by a parent with cognitive limitations.

To address these issues, The Workgroup developed a training on "Identifying and Working with Parents with Cognitive Limitations," which has been offered in many communities throughout the State and has trained over 1,200 providers statewide. In addition, the Workgroup has drafted recommendations regarding the use of plain language in communicating with all parents.

Workgroup member agencies include the Department of Children and Families; Department of Social Services; Bureau of Rehabilitation Services; State Department of Education; Department of Developmental Services; Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services; Judicial Department, Court Support Services Division; Department of Correction; Department of Labor; The Connection, Inc.; Connecticut Council of Developmental Disabilities; the Diaper Bank; Real Dads Forever; Brain Injury Association; Office of Protection and Advocacy for Persons with Disabilities; and Greater Hartford Legal Assistance; Klingberg Family Centers; Oak Hill and Quinnipiac University.

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