

The Connecticut Mental Health Transformation Initiative
Early Mental Health Screening Workgroup
March 22, 2006

Convener: Dianne Harnad

Major Topics/Discussion Points

- Members of the Workgroup were welcomed by the convener, and everyone introduced themselves.
- Handouts included in the packets were reviewed.
 - The initial set of handouts, e-mailed to members prior to the meeting, included: the charge and scope of the transformation project and this Workgroup, an overview of the Oversight Committee, the essentials of transformation, the transformation project table of organization, and the Workgroup goals.
 - The set of handouts presented at the meeting included: information on Goal 4 of the New Freedom Commission report, the CMHS policy and practice analysis of the current state of school based mental health services, and a PowerPoint reviewing the work group and its process.
- The charge of this Work group:
 - Everyone must have the opportunity to provide feedback throughout the process.
 - The Workgroup needs to pull together materials, resources, and data, and put together a final report of the workgroups recommendations for presentation to the oversight group by the middle of June.
 - Three things to keep in mind throughout the process:
 - The recommendations need to encompass the lifespan (from child to seniors)
 - The grant focuses on infrastructure enhancements, improvements, developments, NOT services
 - This is an interagency process throughout Connecticut
 - The Workgroup will create a list of recommendations based on Goal 4 and present it to the Oversight Committee by June. That Committee must develop a comprehensive mental health plan to SAMHSA by September 30th. SAMHSA will review and approve it, and then disperse funds over the next four years.
- Yale's role in the evaluation:
 - There will be a statewide needs assessment conducted in year one, which will help inform the workgroups about what's happening in the state, the needs, and barriers of the process.
 - Will be at the community level, provider and agency level, and consumer level.
 - Since October, the evaluators have been collecting documents and reports about what has already happened in Connecticut for each of the 6 goals, which will be given to the workgroups as a place to start.

- The process will be mutual and require continuous feedback from workgroup to evaluation team and back.
- Evaluation outcomes:
 - SAMHSA has presented some general guidelines and drafted some indicators.
 - SAMHSA requires certain outcomes from all of their funded projects.
 - The final outcomes to be evaluated are being reviewed and decided upon with SAMHSA's help.
- Because the Workgroup cannot include everyone who could contribute to the process, it is essential that members talk to others about what's happening, and then bring back information.
- People who are volunteering to be on the Workgroup, and must travel to the meetings using their own funds, will be reimbursed. That process is currently being developed.
- The workgroup did an Affinity Diagram to brainstorm preliminary recommendations.

Transformation Activities in Connecticut

N/A

Ideas/Recommendations

- Workgroup members were directed to the President's New Freedom Commission report and other CMHS materials for information on the purpose and process of transformation
- The book, *Deep Change*, by Robert E. Quinn was recommended as a good source of information about the deep changes necessary for transformation.
- The importance of including private sector participants (businesses, etc.) and primary care physicians in the Workgroup was discussed.
- The relationship of Goal 4 with Goal 5 was discussed: screening people for signs of mental illness will require that more services are available.
- Using the NAMI measures for infrastructure development as part of the evaluation was discussed.

To Do/Tasks

- Including physicians in the workgroup process

Next Meeting (place and time)

- April 5, 2006 from 10am-12pm at Court Support Services Division (CSSD), Wethersfield, Connecticut

