

# Mental Health Transformation State Incentive Grant

## Stigma Work Group

Minutes – March 13, 2006

Convener: Jim Siemianowski

### Major Topics/Discussion Points

Group member introductions

Group convener provided an overview of the New Freedom Commission and the goal of the work group; to compile a report of recommendations concerning anti stigma/discrimination and suicide prevention initiatives that detail the assets and needs across the 14 agencies. Deadline: mid-June.

Discussed that Year 1 of the T-SIG is devoted to developing a State Plan to address the fragmentation in the mental health system. To demonstrate commitment at the highest level, this plan must involve 14 state agencies

Acknowledged that there currently exists no coordinated statewide mandate or line item budget that addresses the problem of stigma/discrimination and suicide prevention.

Discussed how to inventory current budgets and actions related to stigma/discrimination and suicide prevention. (e.g. early screening primary care, does early periodic screening involve mental health)

Discussed strategies of successful and unsuccessful public health campaigns to change public behavior/attitudes (e.g. anti-smoking campaigns, legislative initiatives, videos, local cable access, puppet shows, staff trainings, church initiatives, work books).

Discussed how to measure stigma and discrimination and how to measure the effectiveness of campaigns.

### Transformation Activities in Connecticut

1. Mainline protestant churches
2. Regional Action Counsels
3. Interagency suicide prevention network
4. NAMI - In Our Own Voice video

### Ideas/Recommendations

1. Examine all documents that outline current anti-stigma/discrimination and suicide prevention efforts across agencies
2. Identify what anti-stigma campaigns are in place in the state of Connecticut
3. Survey state agencies to assess anti-stigma/discrimination and suicide prevention initiatives

#### To do/Tasks

All committee members are to come up with 5-10 ideas for 1) defining stigma/discrimination for purposes of measurement and 2) anti stigma/discrimination and suicide prevention campaigns. These are to be e-mailed to them to Jim.

#### Next meeting

March 28, 2006, 2:00-4:00