

DMHAS MONTHLY ACTIVITY REPORT
RECOVERY-ORIENTED INITIATIVES
Mental Health Transformation Grant

A critical component of a transformed mental health system is collaboration. Efforts by the Mental Health Transformation (MHT) team to facilitate and instill collaboration and interaction have occurred at every level: statewide, inter-departmental, intra-departmental, and individual; during the month of July.

Collaboration at the **Statewide** level was facilitated by a number of MHT activities. Final edits to the State's *needs assessment and resource inventory* were completed this month. The needs assessment and resource inventory report will support a Comprehensive Mental Health Plan which will advise state agency partners of areas of potential collaboration and improved service coordination. This will provide State citizens, across the lifespan, with an array of accessible services and recovery supports. The MHT *web page* continues to make available programmatic updates, allowing all citizens the opportunity to have access to project information. Members of the Oversight Committee have collaborated as the *Priority Setting and Implementation Staging Sub-Committee*, summarizing workgroup recommendations for the larger Oversight Committee. Oversight Committee members have engaged their stakeholders in the MHT process by disseminating surveys for feedback from their respective constituencies. MHT staff has also begun steps to bring the recommendations to Connecticut communities through *Town Hall Meetings* to be scheduled during the month of August.

The workgroup process and Oversight Committee meetings set the tone early on for inter-agency collaboration regarding the MHT. This **Inter-departmental** collaboration continues with state agency partners providing feedback on workgroup recommendations by the end of July. Collaborative relationships with state agency partners has also provided MHT staff opportunities to be involved in a number of initiatives including the *Department of Social Services' Medicaid Incentive Grant (MIG)*.

The breadth and detail associated with transforming mental health services *within* a department of mental health has been extraordinary; prompting discussion, knowledge exchange, and interaction with virtually every division within DMHAS. Such **Intra-departmental** interaction facilitates departmental coordination at a level that might not otherwise be achieved. Specifically this month, MHT staff was able to collaborate with members of the *Program Analysis and Support Division* regarding the State's Block Grant report. This also prompted aligning a previously drafted *Co-Occurring State Incentive Grant (Co-SIG) Project Plan* with MHT activities. And lastly, MHT Assistant to the Chairperson continued to work with *inpatient hospital staff* ensuring that transformation activities are consistent with recovery efforts within these settings.

Without consumer and family involvement there would be no mental health transformation. Consequently, significant effort has been put forth to identify new strategies for involving and retaining consumers and families *in meaningful ways and at every level*. Furthermore, the initiative challenges state agency partners to consider creative and innovative ways to do the same with the populations they serve. Activities to engage participation at the **Individual** level this month included: enhancement of *Oversight Sub-Committees* by inviting consumers and family members, who previously served on workgroups, to participate; continued collaboration with *consumers and peer-run service providers* to develop strategies to increase and enhance the role of consumer in a transformed system; and, encouraging consumers and family members to complete the *Stakeholder Input form*, which captures respondents' opinions about each workgroup recommendation.

Contact person:

Barbara Bugella, Assistant to the Chairperson for Mental Health Transformation
(860) 418-6738/Barbara.bugella@po.state.ct.us