

Transformation Grant (June 6, 2006)

The Connecticut Mental Health Transformation project staff hosted **visitors from SAMHSA from May 8-10, 2006**. While in Connecticut the Project Officer, Pat Shea, the federal Technical Assistance Contractor, Carol Bianco, and the Senior Executive for Transformation, Diane Abbate met with:

- workgroup conveners to learn of their process and progress in the development of recommendations for the Comprehensive Mental Health Plan (CMHP);
- a variety of state and consumer run programs including: Focus on Recovery United, Inc., Columbus House, and Riverview Hospital;
- the Yale evaluation team, who provided an update on the needs assessment and shared preliminary analyses of a statewide telephone survey assessing citizen's attitudes regarding mental health issues and services;
- the Oversight Committee at the State Capital;
- Workgroups 2 and 4 at Middlesex Community College.

The May 9 **Oversight Committee** highlighted progress toward completion of the needs assessment and an update of Workforce Transformation workgroup recommendations, the Review of reports document and telephone surveys conducted to date. Much of the meeting was dedicated to the guests from SAMHSA who provided an overview of the Mental Health Transformation State Incentive Grant (MHT-SIG) Initiative at the federal level.

The MHT SIG Assistant Chairperson and the Program Manager attended the DMHAS **Recovery Conference on May 16th and 17th** featuring a **MHT-SIG resource table** where program flyers and pens were distributed to the over 400 conference participants.

Conveners meetings (May 2, 8, 19) were held to facilitate the completion of workgroup recommendations. Key to this effort was a half-day retreat for workgroup conveners on Friday, May 19th. The goal of the retreat was to summarize the recommendations to be presented to the Oversight Committee in early June

A productive and informative **workforce development retreat**, "Workforce Issues in Children's Behavioral Health Planning" was hosted by Yale/DMHAS/DCF on Friday May 12th. Over 40 attendees actively participated in planning groups. The day featured an overview of Connecticut's MHT-SIG by the Project's Chairperson and Assistant to the Chairperson and a presentation by Larke Huang, Senior Advisor on Children, Office of the Administrator, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration (SAMHSA).

The **Resource Inventory process** continues with the DMHAS fiscal team providing individualized guidance to state agency partners as they compile information on mental health expenditures and service numbers. A visit on May 24, by the National Research Institute Technical Assistance contractor, Noel Mazade, provided additional insight and expertise to state agency partners as they complete this important phase of the initiative.