

Transformation Grant (May 8, 2006)

Workgroups addressing the six goals of the President's New Freedom Commission and Workforce Development are nearing the end of the initial phase of the Mental Health Transformation process with most having completed at least four meetings to date. The result of this phase is the creation of draft recommendations. A half-day retreat has been planned for workgroup conveners for Friday, May 19th with the goal of summarizing the recommendations to be presented to the Oversight Committee in early June. Workgroup membership continues to grow, even at this well-established point in the process with continued input and active participation from consumers, families and state agency partners. A recent enhancement to this process is the initiation by the Department of Children and Families to also survey family and youth advocacy groups in order to ensure feedback on the goals across the lifespan and across agencies.

The Yale evaluation team completed the first of a series of products that will guide the development of the **Needs Assessment process** and ultimately, the State's Comprehensive Mental Health Plan (CMHP), due to SAMHSA the end of September. Yale also continues their progress in the completion of consumer, family and provider focus groups and surveys. Further exemplifying the collaboration sparked by the Transformation process, is a joint Yale/DMHAS/DCF Workforce Development Retreat scheduled for Friday May 12th.

DMHAS MHT and Fiscal staff has begun the process of conducting a statewide, inter-agency **Resource Inventory** with guidance from the National Research Institute's (NRI) technical assistance contractor. This complex process was introduced to state agency fiscal representatives in a meeting held April 28, 2006. Subsequent to the meeting DMHAS Fiscal staff has met with each state agency to provide individualized technical support in establishing common reporting variables despite different data collection and storage processes. Additional support will be provided by the NRI contractor, who will visit Connecticut on March 24th to address any questions and resolve specific challenges faced by state partners during this process. Agencies have agreed to submit preliminary data by May 17th in order for DMHAS MHT staff to integrate this information into a larger Resource Inventory document which will also become part of the CMHP.