

Mental Health Transformation State Incentive Grant
Update: March 2007

Meaningful involvement from consumers/family and youth is a high priority in the transformation process. In March 2007, the Oversight Committee approved the **formation of a Consumer/Family/Youth Advisory Council**. The Advisory Council will assist all other Committees and work groups and will bring a collective voice of consumers and families to the process. Each Oversight Committee member has been asked to designate consumer/family/youth representatives from their constituency to ensure a broad range of input from those who utilize both the public and private mental health treatment system in CT as well as recovery oriented services such as those provided by other state agencies such as employment, education, and benefits. The responsibilities of the Council include:

- Embedding consumer, youth and family input at every level of Connecticut's transformation effort.
- Representing the perspectives of a variety of consumer, youth and family serving agencies and programs across the many diverse agencies comprising the Oversight Committee regarding Transformation planning and activities.
- Serving as a vehicle to communicate Transformation efforts to consumers/youth/family members across the Oversight Committee agencies and programs and the State.

In an effort to cultivate relationships between, and encourage involvement from mental health service stakeholders including youth, individuals in recovery and their families for active and meaningful participation in the Mental Health Transformation process, project staff have requested permission to fill **two new part time positions: a Consumer and Family Liaison and a Youth Liaison**.

These positions will provide targeted outreach, support and linkages to mental health service stakeholders including youth, individuals in recovery and their families serving on the Mental Health Transformation Initiative committees, Work Groups, other State Agency Boards/Councils and community-based advisory bodies. The Liaisons will perform a variety of functions related to ensuring youth, consumer and family recruitment, retention and involvement in transforming the state's mental health service system.

An article on meeting the challenges facing Connecticut's Mental Health Workforce was authored in collaboration with Ct's Workforce Transformation staff from Yale's Department of Psychiatry and accepted for publication by [Mental Health News](#). The article provides an overview of Connecticut's Transformation Initiative and illustrates strategies recommended by the Workforce Work Group (#7) to strengthen the existing

work force. The article notes that, “workforce development is an essential ingredient of reform in this transformation initiative.” To read a copy of the article and other relevant information on addressing the concerns of the mental health workforce see *Mental Health News*, Spring 2007, vol. 9, no. 2.