

Mental Health Transformation State Incentive Grant
Update: November 2006

A survey of members of the Mental Health Transformation (MHT) Work Groups in Phase I of the initiative was completed by eighty-one of approximately 150 Work Group members (54%). The survey consisted of 41 items to gather information about participant experience. Highlights of the outcomes include that 90% of respondents rated the quality and location of the work group meetings either good or excellent; more than 75% rated the overall experience with the MHT Work Groups as either excellent or good; and more than 90% stated that they intended to participate in the implementation phase. Results clearly indicate the need for increased youth, consumer and family involvement.

Results of the October 26 Mental Health Transformation Town Hall Meeting have been compiled and analyzed. Eighty-four of the 147 participants completed feedback forms providing demographic information and responses to a range of questions regarding the meeting format and the use of technology as a means of eliciting participant input. Of particular interest from the Town Hall meeting feedback forms is that 39 (46%) respondents expressed interest in learning more about how to participate in a Work Group and 44% of respondents strongly agreed with the statement, "I would attend another web based Town Hall meeting."

The Implementation Phase of the Mental Health Transformation initiative began in full force in November with Work Groups re-convening throughout the month. The work of the groups will be to identify strategies to implement the initial area of focus identified over the summer by the Oversight Committee priority setting process. Work Groups will assess whether they have the appropriate stakeholders at the table, invite new participants (with concerted effort directed at increasing youth, consumer and family representation) and work with the group to devise a plan outlining activities and resources necessary for implementation.

The Center for Mental Health Services (CMHS) Annual Grantees meeting for Mental Health Transformation was held in Arlington Virginia from November 13th through 15th. A team of Connecticut MHT representatives attended including the Commissioner of the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, MHT project staff, two members of the Oversight Committee, two representatives from the Department of Children and Families, and the member of the evaluation team. The team gained new knowledge of a variety of innovative ways to engage consumers and family and sustain MHT efforts long-term.