



**CONNECTICUT  
WORKFORCE  
COLLABORATIVE**  
ON BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

**Minutes of: Council on Workforce Serving Children, Youth and Family in the Behavioral Health Workforce**

**Date: July 27 , 2009 Time: 3:00 to 5:00 PM Location: Shew Hall Region II Mental Health Board, CVH, Middletown**

**Members Present: Elisabeth Cannata, Dan Lyga, Kathy Carrier, Frank Gregory, Neva Caldwell**

**Others Attending: Rachel Feliciano, Lyn Lawrence, Velveta Scott, Wanda Roberson, Margaret Roberson, Lynn Roberson**

<b>TOPIC</b>	<b>REPORT / DISCUSSION</b>	<b>CONCLUSIONS / NEXT STEPS</b>
<b>1. Welcome and introductions</b>	Council members and guests introduced themselves. Guests were welcomed.	
<b>2. Approval of Minutes</b>	The Minutes of the January meeting were reviewed.	N/A
<b>3 Review of Transformation Grant Activity related to Workforce Development</b>	For the benefit of new members and guests, an overview was provided of the T-SIG activity in the state. The definition of 'workforce' was clarified as broadly including parents and other family members who are considered as front line of the workforce in providing care and support for family members who use behavioral health services.	
<b>4 Updates</b>	<p>The Collaborative is accepting nominations for a Co-Convener for this Council. The Co-Convener role consists of helping to provide structure and plans for Council Meetings and helping to coordinate follow-up as needed. Preference for the Co-Convener role will be given to a parent of a child recipient of behavioral health services, or to a young adult recipient of behavioral health services. If interested, please contact Frank Gregory.</p> <p>There is also an opportunity for an individual interested in providing administrative support to the Council. Examples of this support would include distributing Stipend Request Forms and submitting requests to DMHAS; writing up Minutes, distributing meeting announcements and minutes to council members, and other functions. There would be a stipend available for work completed outside the Council Meetings that contribute to the Council's operations. If interested, please contact Frank Gregory.</p> <p>The group was oriented to the Workforce Collaborative website (cwcbbh.com). A number of "screen-shots" were presented to illustrate various content areas.</p>	Nominations to be forwarded through Frank Gregory to the Collaborative Executive Council and Management Team.
<b>5. Council Priority Areas:</b>	Discussion focused on updating several initiatives. Given that the majority of attendees were new to the Council, updates also included brief orientation to each topic discussed.	

<p><b>Intensive In-Home Graduate Training Curriculum</b></p>	<p>Elisabeth Cannata gave a brief orientation/update for the Graduate Training initiative. The initial group of schools have each completed the course offering. Each course included guest lecturer participation by service providers and family members who had received the various models described in the course. This was identified as a key component, and one which the students reported was very valuable. One of the Council attendees had been part of the presenter group and described the family preparation, support, and experience of presenting to the graduate students. Plans are underway to identify and recruit new university participants for the next phase, and to continue supporting the course offering at the initial sites.</p>	<p>Identification and recruitment of university participants for next phase.</p>
<p><b>Parent Leadership Development</b></p>	<p>Kathy Carrier provided an orientation/update for the Parent Leadership Training initiative. Course have been offered throughout the state in both English and Spanish. The role of parents as trainers was identified as a key component of the initiative. Several themes that emerged during the May presentation were discussed. These included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parents describing leadership development as a tool to "unlearn powerlessness"</li> <li>• The need to use parent leadership development as a mechanism for helping parents use skills developed in other contexts</li> <li>• The need for opportunities to employ parents in the behavioral health system</li> <li>• The need for greater collaboration among family organizations</li> <li>• Wariness that Transformation will simply be another fad</li> <li>• The need for systems to respond to families across system boundaries, e.g., behavioral health, juvenile justice, child welfare</li> <li>• The need to disseminate information to parents and the challenges in doing so</li> </ul> <p>Brochures describing the upcoming trainings were distributed, and several parents attending the Council meeting expressed an interest in participating. During the next phase of the initiative, local parent "alumni" groups will be supported to promote ongoing support and encourage advocacy involvement of parents who have participated in the training.</p>	<p>Recruitment of additional parents for training.</p> <p>Development of local "alumni" networks</p>
<p><b>Competency Based Approach to Care: Infant/Early Childhood Mental Health</b></p>	<p>Frank Gregory provided a brief orientation/update on the Infant/Early Childhood Mental Health initiative. This is an ongoing project under the leadership of the CT Association for Infant Mental Health (CT-AIMH). The Collaborative has provided some financial support of the project. The update was based upon a status report provided to the Collaborative by CT-AIMH. Work continues to implement the competencies licensed from the Michigan infant mental health association. The goal of the first phase has been to map out what is currently in place in CT regarding the workforce competencies and build upon existing frameworks where possible. This includes identifying what training programs exist that can be used to support competency development, to develop marketing and communications tool to disseminate the competencies and engage practitioners in the project. A key component of the initiative is to expand/enhance Reflective Supervision throughout the state as a means of developing and sustaining competency development.</p>	<p>Continued collaboration with CT-AIMH.</p>
<p><b>7. Next Meeting</b></p>	<p>The next meeting will be on September 16, 2009 at Shew Hall Region II Mental Health Board, CVH, Middletown.</p>	