

**New York State Practice Research Collaborative
Mid-Hudson Practice Research Network
Meeting Summary
Newburgh, New York
Friday – November 16, 2001**

Introduction

This meeting was attended by 11 individuals, which included 2 researchers, 7 practitioners and 2 policymakers. The following is a summary of the discussions and outcomes of this meeting.

Activities

- *Knowledge Transfer in the Real World – Dr. Cheryl Whitley*
Dr. Whitley presented a summary of findings from a project she recently completed which looks at barriers to implementing change – if staff don't perceive that they have the time for change or new projects, they will not have the motivation to engage in either learning or application of new technology/techniques. Training and research must fit into the staff's definition of their role in the agency. Jeff Skaar suggested that we must listen to what staff are saying they need to know and then use this as a basis for future PRN focus or a first regional project. Then, research the success of the transfer of information.
- *ASAP Conference – PIC, PRC, PRN*
- *Statewide PRC – Susan Adair* reported out on the meeting at OASAS in Albany on November 29, 2001. Much of the meeting revolved around the impact of the September 11th bombing of the World Trade Centers and the trauma that has caused. Anxiety has increased, relapse has increased and as a result there is an increase in the need for helping people cope. This is in direct opposition to the inability to provide funds to support this increase. In addition to the need for help for clients, there are also staff issues to be considered, like burnout from the increased demand. Staff also have suffered from the impact on their personal lives and where do staff go to get help and relief? Research on disaster trauma is usually concerned with natural disasters like fire, flood, or earthquake, however, this was intentionally caused and has many more significant implications. There was a brief discussion of the achievements of year one of the grant and discussion of goals for year two. We must focus on how we develop relationships with academic institutions.
- *How to build relationships with academic institutions – Paul Cauldwell* from Syracuse University (SU) mentioned that researchers usually go after funding. What we must then deal with is what is the incentive for researchers to get involved here. Universities tend to be entities unto themselves; it is difficult to break down the walls. What are the inducements? The place to look to is to establish relationships with young

researchers. One suggestion was to make the rounds at local institutions (like LeMoyne, Colgate, Hamilton) to develop relationships. Paul will be our link with Syracuse University, but there are not many addiction researchers there. This may be a treatment/prevention issue since prevention seems more interested in research and draws in more disciplines. Paul is willing to coordinate a visit by members of the PRN and get SU faculty to commit to the project. There are monthly brown bag meetings held at the SU School of Social Work, maybe we can get an inroad there. Applied social norms theory research on college drinking stays within colleges. We need to look to make connections. Paul indicated that the interest in collaboration may be greater than the ability to participate, but not from lack of interest. Dayna Maniccia suggested that we not forget about grad students as a resource. **Paul, Barry, Elaine, and Rick will work together to coordinate a brown bag within the college of human services and health professionals at SU.**

- *Mid-Hudson PRN/Marist seminar* – Barry reported that four action items were identified at the seminar (1) identify areas of interest, describe what's been done and translate into practice language (2) improve the quality of web site communication (3) begin to identify projects for new research (4) increase ability to identify the capacity to answer questions.
- *Web-based Communications* – Can we develop site-based support for the Central PRN? Susan Adair suggested that Community Alternatives (CA) might be able to serve as the base. CA has access to an IRB. Susan will check to see if they can develop a listserv and are willing to be identified as the host site. Marsha said that she will discuss this with ASAP as this is a role they performed. **Marsha and Susan will work together to resolve the need for this service.**
- *Researcher-in-Residence* – a new announcement will be coming out at the beginning of 2002. We should work to get something together for that.
- *Partnering Guidance Document* – Many excellent suggestions were made to revise this document. They will be incorporated and shared with all PRNs.
- *Future Direction of the PRN* – It was felt that quarterly meetings were not enough to keep things moving. The group will seek to meet at least every other month or perhaps monthly. **The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, February 8, 2002 from 2-3:30 p.m. at Prevention Network.**