

**New York State Practice Research Collaborative
Mid-Hudson Practice Research Network
Meeting Summary
Newburgh, New York
Friday – February 8, 2002**

Introduction

This meeting was attended by 19 individuals, which included 16 practitioners and 1 policymaker. The following is a summary of the discussions and outcomes of this meeting.

Mini-Grant Activities

- Jeff Skaar provided an update on the Mid-Hudson Mini-Grant activities that included a two-day conference at Marist College in November 2001.
- In January, a follow-up meeting was held to discuss continuation of the Mini-Grant activities and the partnership that has developed between Marist and the providers. They discussed looking at developing a staff assessment tool to help identify training needs and readiness. Cheryl Whitley is contacting Texas Christian University (TCU) who is working with the PIC with their agency readiness scale. It was suggested that it might be an interesting to compare the TCU agency readiness scale and the proposed staff assessment tool, which looks at readiness from the top down, and the proposed staff survey, which would look at the needs of the staff directly. The first phase of collecting the survey will be followed with a review of the results and developing plans for future projects
- Follow-up training from the November conference is underdevelopment and should be held prior to the end of April. Plans include a day long training with two or three workshops.

PRN – Marist Partnership

- The PRN is looking at creating a formal relationship with Marist that would allow programs participating in the PRN to utilize the resources available at Marist College. When developed programs would be able to utilize Marist's state of the art Library.

Mid-Hudson Issues

A discussion was held to identify what issues that needed to be addressed by the PRN, these included:

- Gambling
 - Some programs are already seeing problems with gambling in the populations they serve. With the possibility of casinos coming to the region the need for treatment and prevention of gambling problems will be critical.
- Prevention
 - Prevention programs need to look at effective models of prevention and the development of core competencies for Prevention Professionals

- Lesbian, Bisexual, Gay, and Transgender Population
 - What works and is effective for this population and the need for services in the region.

PIC Guidance Document

- The draft PIC Guidance Document was distributed to the participants. Programs were asked to review the document, which provides guidelines, questions and suggested areas of review in developing a provider – researcher collaborative research project
- What does collaboration mean and what are the key concepts? Participants discussed the concept of collaboration to assist in the development of the PIC Guidance Document. Key concepts for both researchers and providers included:
 - Development of mutual respect and understanding. There needs to be time spent learning and understanding the “other” side.
 - Identification of common needs and goals
 - Development of a shared vision
 - Maintaining Identity and recognition of efforts

Updates on Researcher-in-Residence and Mini-Grants

- Mid-Hudson participants were encouraged to submit a brief (no more than 2 pages) request to develop a RiR proposal to the PIC.
- A new round of Mini-Grants will be coming out shortly. Participants were encouraged to begin to develop ideas for the next round.

Institute for Professional Development in the Addictions

- The IPDA will be hiring an Information Specialist through the New ATTC for our region (IRETA).
- IPDA will be holding a series of workshops on Education and Workforce Development. These will include:
 - Cognitive Disabilities and Substance Abuse
 - Psychiatric Disabilities and Substance Abuse
 - Technology and Learning
 - Assessing the Impact of Training and Education of Staff on Programs.

Membership

- The importance of maintaining and increasing membership in the Mid-Hudson PRN was discussed. Since there have been limited responses to mailings for new membership, it was suggested that the PRN look toward having members pursue personal contacts with individuals.
- A listserv for the Mid-Hudson PRN has been developed by ASAP. Members can utilize it as a stand alone electronic mail service or, if they choose, my post meeting and training information, share files, and/or utilized on-line chat services. For more information go the PRC website (<http://www.asapnys.org/PRC/PRC.html>) or directly at the Mid-Hudson PRN site (<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/MHPRN>)

Alternate Meeting Location

- The PRN is looking at other meeting sites and locations to help reduce the cost of the meetings as well as be inclusive of Marist College. A number of programs volunteered their space.

Upcoming Conferences

- The NIDA Blending Conference is being held in NYC on March 14th and 15th. Members from the PRN are encouraged to attend. On the Friday of the conference, representatives from the PRNs and other groups are meeting to discuss how they may continue the discussions that were started at the conference as well as to look at possible projects with researchers.
- The ASAP Annual Conference will be held in Syracuse, October 27 – 30, 2002. ASAP is asking to hear from coalitions and groups, such as the Mid-Hudson PRN, for suggestions on presenters and topic areas. Ideas can be sent to Jordan Gobrect at the ASAP office.

Next Meeting Date

- The next meeting date will be schedule to be able to have Marist representation participate. A notice will be sent out to members.