

**NEW YORK STATE PRACTICE RESEARCH COLLABORATIVE
MID-HUDSON NEW YORK PRACTICE RESEARCH NETWORK
MEETING SUMMARY
NEWBURGH, NEW YORK
DECEMBER 15, 2000**

INTRODUCTION

The meeting was attended by (9) individuals. The two most active researcher members of the Mid-Hudson PRN, Sherry Dingman and Cheryl Whitely, both professors at Marist College, were unable to be at the meeting as they were administering final exams. They did, however, play an active role in the planning of the meeting, as is reflected in the summary of the meeting that follows.

STRUCTURE

1. The Mid-Hudson PRN decided to hold meetings on a quarterly basis
2. The Mid- Hudson PRN meetings should hold its meetings in conjunction with the newly formalized Hudson Valley – Catskill Coalition of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Providers.
3. Subcommittees should be established to focus on specific issues and develop those issues to the point where there is substantive information to share with the whole group for the purpose of discussion and further action.
4. The following individual was selected to serve as the representative for the Mid-Hudson PRN to the Statewide Practice Research Collaborative:
 - Representative: George Doering
5. The Mid-Hudson PRN decided to add Consumers and Decision-Makers to the compliment of members, but left for a subsequent discussion the process for such determinations. It was concluded that a process that included training and the establishment of guidelines that will ensure that appropriate consumers who are able to make a meaningful contribution to the PRN are selected should accompany the selection of consumers. It was also decided that it would be important to add additional research members and provider members. The approach for adding additional provider members that was identified is to have existing members reach out to other providers and encourage them to accompany the existing members to future meetings. It was felt that this personal approach would be much more successful at attracting new provider members who would remain engaged, rather than attempting mass mailings or other scatter outreach which would not carry with it the personal connections. Building slowly and steadily a strong membership base was seen as much preferable to attempting to establish a large membership immediately. In terms of recruiting additional researchers, it was felt that the Marist College proposal, outlined below, whereby Marist took the lead in this initiative was a desirable strategy and could be complemented by individual current members reaching out to specific researchers they might know well enough to attempt to engage as members on a one-to-one basis. It was again felt that mass mailings or other blind outreaches to researchers were highly unlikely to produce positive results.
6. While a minority of the members have used the PRN web site and List Serve it was concluded that much more extensive use would be beneficial both to promote ease of communication among members, and also to share information of mutual interest with members of the other Regional PRNs.

SUBCOMMITTEES

1. Two subcommittees were established at the meeting, with both to report at the next Mid-Hudson PRN meeting:
 - Research Orientation and Outreach Subcommittee
 - The two Marist College professors and researchers who have been active members of the Mid-Hudson PRN, Sherry Dingman and Cheryl Whitely have developed a multi-faceted initiative to promote greater understanding of how Researchers can be more effective in the Mid-Hudson Region in understanding the needs of Providers, and how more Researchers can be enticed to participate directly in the Mid-Hudson PRN. Although their exam schedules on the day of the Third Mid-Hudson PRN Meeting prevented Sherry and Cheryl from making this presentation in person, they did

receive approval from their Dean to have this commitment conveyed in their absence at the meeting, rather than delay the initiative until the next scheduled PRN meeting. The following are the components of this initiative:

- Research Forum
 - (a) Marist College will host a full-day forum on Research to Practice issues relating to Alcohol and Substance Abuse prevention and treatment to which it will invite qualified researchers from throughout the Mid-Hudson Region. The intent will be to showcase some of the more important research that has been done, and is being conducted in this area, with a view to increasing awareness of what exists, what research that is needed is not currently available, and how researchers can be better informed and more sensitive to the needs and challenges of alcohol and substance abuse providers. The plan is to provide this forum during the Spring of 2001, if schedules permit. It is also hoped that this forum will be an excellent opportunity for Marist to reach out to other research institutions to become its partner in providing leadership among the research community for participation in the Mid-Hudson PRN.
- Research and Evaluation Consultation
 - (a) Marist has generously offered to provide the leadership in organizing a network of Researchers, some from Marist and some from other entities, who would be available to provide expert, short-term, immediate consultation assistance to Providers who have questions or problems related to Research and Evaluation. This assistance is not meant to be the initiation of new research projects, but rather helping Provider agencies quickly and successfully address immediate research and evaluation issues, when they do not have the in-house capacity to do so.
- Partnership in New Research Grant Initiatives
 - (a) Marist is in the process of submitting a grant to the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) under the Science Education Drug Abuse Partnership Award Cycle. If awarded, this grant would provide Marist with a series of resources for a number of years whereby it would provide teaching and training to undergraduate education majors, continuing education for currently licensed teachers and original basic research on alcohol and substance abuse issues. One of the opportunities of the grant is to form partnerships between provider agencies, researchers, students and teachers. Marist is collaborating with the Mid-Hudson PRN to rework a portion of its grant application to outline a series of activities that it would do in conjunction with members of the Mid-Hudson PRN. This grant application is slated to be submitted during the first half of 2001.
- The following individuals joined this subcommittee to pursue this Marist initiative:
 - Sherry Dingman, Co-Chair
 - Cheryl Whitely, Co-Chair
 - Michael Cole
 - Ellen Foster
- Computer Policy Subcommittee
 - The focus of this committee is to develop a series of model policies and guidelines which can assist agencies in maximizing the use of computers among their staff to successfully promote research to practice. This subcommittee may also address computer policy which includes incentives from appropriate levels of government.
 - The following individuals joined this subcommittee:
 - George Doering, Chair
 - Nick Roes

AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING

1. The following were identified as potential agenda items for the next meeting of the Mid-Hudson PRN:
 - Presentation by the established subcommittees.
 - Presentation of the PRC Website and Listserv.
 - Presentation regarding a draft manual of research and evaluation 101
 - Discussion of how to develop a mini-grant procedure for identifying appropriate Potential activities and participants for use of the \$ 5,000 - \$ 10,000 available to each of the Regional PRNs.
 - Richard Gelb, Director of the Recovery Center of Nyack Hospital will do a presentation of how and why some Regional Research to Practices have been successful and others not.