

## OMHSAS Adult Advisory Committee CSP Regional Report Summary for June 2011

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**Region:** Western

Submitted by: Sharon A. Miller, a Western Region CSP co-chair, regional CSP representative member of OMHSAS Adult Advisory Committee, *and* Director of Education & Advocacy, NAMI Southwestern PA

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- **Meeting Format:** Meetings are held on the second Friday monthly at the Tanglewood Center in Butler. Meetings commence with an educational presentation then continue with the convening of the standing workgroups and steering committee. Monthly reports are given by OMHSAS, NAMI SWPA, PMHCA and PAPSRS along with opportunities for local CSP representatives and other stakeholders to report. The convenings continue to have a strong focus on information sharing and each meeting devotes time to mobilize support to engage in specific legislative advocacy. Attendance consistently averages about 75 individuals.
- **April Budget Advocacy Activity (ongoing electronically as well through coordinating with local CSPs, DICs, MHAs and NAMI):** Since March reporting we have engaged in a letter writing campaign to targeted House and Senate leadership, Appropriations Committee members and respective legislators. We have identified “Budget Advocacy Champions” throughout the 23 county region as point persons who received WRCSP “leave-behind” materials for scheduled local legislative visits. (These visits began the week following the February meeting and continue in many districts throughout the region.) June’s meeting will include a “phone-slam” outreach to the senate.
- **Annual WRCSP Recovery Conference: Joy of Recovery Re-visited, The Power of Belief:** The May 2011 conference keynote was provided by Gina Calhoun, OMHSAS Certified Peer Specialist. Much thanks to Gina for speaking so inspirationally on the *Power of Belief*. The conference offered various workshops including a music therapy demonstration, benefits of pet therapy and a presentation by the Invisible Village Theater; a peer recovery comedy group. It was a day of networking, resource sharing and celebration. The conference attendee list totaled 77 people. The year long work of the recovery education workgroup in development and coordination of the conference is commended.
- **Seed Grant Update:** **Seed grant applications may now be submitted at any time throughout the fiscal year.** Sixteen seed grants were awarded in FY 2010-11. Interested applicants can contact CHAPS DIC for seed grant application requests. Applications will be reviewed at a minimum of twice annually. Funded projects must reflect CSP principles and be easily replicated throughout the region. The maximum seed grant amount per awardee is \$1,000. Often times seed grants are awarded in lesser amounts.
- **WRCSP FY 2010/11 Scholarship Summary:** The intent of the scholarship program is to expand opportunities for people living with mental illnesses and family members to participate in educational programs and conferences held within PA. Priority was given to the PMHCA, PAPSRS and NAMI SWPA conferences however any request for in state events will be considered.
  - **PAPSRS: 3 scholarships awarded**
  - **NAMI Southwestern PA: 12 scholarships awarded**

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- **PMHCA: 70 scholarships awarded**
- Status of Standing Workgroup Activities for FY 2010-11: Each workgroup developed one education presentation and/or a product or activity for distribution or replication throughout the region. The June meeting will focus on a status report by each workgroup. All materials developed can be acquired by contacting CHAPS DIC. The standing workgroups and designated activities as follows:
  - Anti-Stigma: MH awareness educational pamphlet project for regional distribution
  - Peer 2 Peer: research and development of a submitted seed grant for drop-in-center coalition
  - Drop-in-Center Coalition: development of regional newsletter with first edition set for distribution during the June 10<sup>th</sup> meeting
  - CFST: new survey development
  - Recovery Education: coordinated the development of the Annual WRCSP Recovery Conference held in May.
  - Psych Rehab: educational brochure developed for regional distribution
- RFP for Technical Assistance: During the June steering committee conference call, consensus reached on extending the TA contract for WRCSP through August 31, 2011 with a Request for Proposals (RFP) to be disseminated after the June meeting date. The RFP will be distributed via the WRCSP email list and any interested parties can obtain the RFP by contacting CHAPS DIC.
- PMHCA Conference: WRCSP has secured an exhibitor table for the PMHCA conference. The intent is to highlight the activities of the local community support programs within our 23 county region. Additionally we will have information and educational materials available on mental health advance directives. MHAD peer trainers will be available throughout the conference day to assist people in completing their own personal document.
- July Annual Picnic: The WRCSP picnic will be held at Morraine State Park on July 8 beginning at 10:00 AM.

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**Region:** Southeast

**Submitted by:** Mary Fala, SE Regional CSP Technical Assistant

**Date:** May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2011

**Summary of key activities of past two months:**

- **Budget:** Our focus at our June 6<sup>th</sup> meeting will be spend down. We will be awarding some more scholarships. We have been making sure the local CSP committees apply for the \$800 so that we can send it to them. We have disbursed money to the counties to be spent on transportation to the PMHCA conference. At our next executive committee meeting, we will see how much money is left now that we have had our 2011 Retreat, and we will think about how to spend any money that we have left.
- We did not have a meeting in May because we had our retreat. It was a great success. It was held at HopeWorx, Inc., which was the perfect environment for it. We hope to have our meetings at HopeWorx, Inc. in the future, although at the present time we are meeting at the Norristown Public Library. At our retreat, we had two panel presentations and discussions. The first panel featured members who have been with CSP from the beginning and who recollected the History of CSP. The second panel was composed of representatives of the three organizations that have come together for the PA Advocacy Coalition and focused on empowering retreatants to effectively advocate for current legislative needs. An OMHSAS Field Office representative spoke from the state perspective in the afternoon. I have attached the agenda. I have also attached the annual County Reports that were presented in the afternoon.
- We did not have a Regional CSP meeting in May because we counted our Retreat as our May meeting.
- In April, we met, and the minutes are attached.
- Liz Woodley came from the PMCHA and presented to us about the forensic peer support training that she is implementing throughout the state.
- We talked about ROSI/County Planning and Delaware County in particular share about how the ROSI Review Panel includes CSP member participation and that CSP members make recommendations based upon that participation for the purposes of county planning. It was good for other counties to hear about this.
- Issues that arose were mold and ventilation problems that are ignored in subsidized housing in Bucks County and which cause ongoing sickness for residents. Also, in Chester County, residents in boarding homes are afraid to say what is really on their minds to CST staff who visit them because they may pay for it after the CST staff leave the premises.
- The Advocacy Subcommittee drafted a letter asking for the introduction of a bill that would provide funding for bed bug inspection and remediation in Philadelphia and the surrounding metropolitan area since it is such a huge problem here. The letter will be sent to state and federal representatives. The Advocacy Committee also sent a thank you letter to Governor Corbett for his proposed budget.
- The Outreach Committee distributed a questionnaire to elicit feedback regarding barriers to involvement with local and/or regional CSP