

NETWORK NEWS

10 FERRY STREET, SUITE 333, CONCORD, NH 03031 • WWW.NHCOURTDIVERSION.ORG • MAY 2016

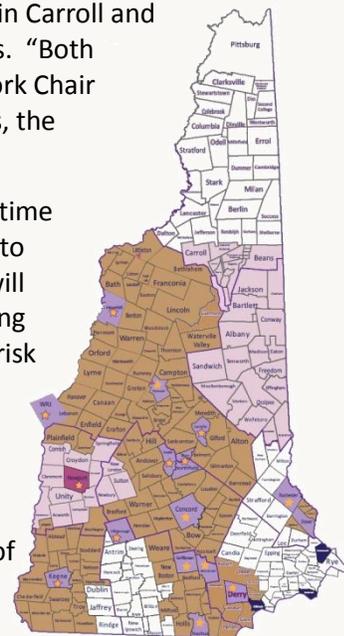
NEW PARTNERSHIPS SUSTAIN DIVERSION IN CARROLL AND SULLIVAN COUNTIES

Thanks to support from the Governor's Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention, Treatment and Recovery, its Prevention Task Force and the Bureau of Drug and Alcohol Services, youth in Carroll and Sullivan Counties have access to juvenile court diversion services for an additional 15 months. "Both programs' host agencies were eliminating diversion due to lack of state funding," said Network Chair Nicole Rodler. "Given the positive outcomes and leadership shown by the program directors, the Network was committed to helping find a solution."

Due to juvenile diversion's impact reducing substance misuse among teens arrested for first time offenses, the Commission stepped forward with a \$137,500 grant to give the programs time to reorganize their infrastructure while continuing to serve at-risk youth. The 15-month grant will enable Lance Zack to firmly establish White Mountain Restorative Justice as a 501(c)(3) serving youth in Carroll County, leveraging his years of connections and experience working with at-risk populations. In addition to juvenile court diversion services, Lance is also offering alternative sentencing for adults, and mediation with a variety of clients including victim/offenders, businesses and families.

Committed to ensuring its youth continue to benefit from high quality juvenile diversion services, Sullivan County stepped in and added Newport area's Alecia Farquhar to its roster of employees. Vice Chair of the NH Juvenile Court Diversion Network and member of the Strategic Planning and Accreditation Committees, Alecia brings more than three years of experience managing family-centered programs for at-risk families.

The remainder of the grant will provide technical assistance and data collection through Community Health Institute.



GOVERNOR'S SUMMIT PRESENTATION

Network Chair Nicole Rodler and Coordinator Betsy Houde presented at the first NH Governor's Summit on Substance Misuse May 10th in Manchester. The Summit was designed to encourage participants to reach beyond their professions and understand and learn from their peers in prevention, intervention, treatment, and recovery supports.

Given the data collected in the 2015 YRBS, holding teens accountable through juvenile court diversion may be a better option than releasing them with a warning and expecting parents to impose consequences. For example:

- 26.8% of teens don't have clear rules
- 50% aren't informed about the danger of substance use
- 30.7% have family members struggling with substance use disorder.

Further, early recidivism data shows that of 12 youth referred to a court diversion program in 2012 for a *substance-related offense*, 66% were arrest-free one year later and 50% remained arrest-free after three years.

BUILDING AWARENESS OF DIVERSION

Multiple professionals throughout New Hampshire have learned about the NH Juvenile Court Diversion Network this past year, as well as the effective work happening on the ground to divert first-time offenders from court. Thanks to the following groups for taking the time to learn about us!

- Governor's Commission Prevention Task Force Members, Traci Fowler, Chair
- NH's Substance Misuse Prevention Coordinators covering all 13 regions of the state, Valerie Morgan, Prevention Administrator, Bureau of Drug and Alcohol Services
- Safe Schools Healthy Students State Management Team, Mary Steady, Administrator, Office of Student Wellness, NH DOE
- Ten newly-appointed police department Prosecutors, NH Police Standards and Training

CAPACITY-BUILDING IMPROVEMENTS

Thanks to 18-months of effort by our Strategic Planning Committee and Community Health Institute, the State Advisory Group on Juvenile Justice awarded a grant to subcontract with a Coordinator. The Network secured Betsy Houde in November 2015. Since that time, we have strengthened our capacity to serve member programs in several areas:



- Opened office space in visible Concord location and centralized Network materials and resources.
- Secured \$5,000 cash flow/seed funding grant from Cogswell Benevolent Trust.
- Developed ability to serve as grantee for direct services funding through creating Scope of Services and Subcontracts for Alcohol Fund grant.
- Enrolled in electronic payments with State of NH.
- Partnered with Plymouth State University (Alisha) and Rivier University (Kristen) for student interns.
- Recruited a committee to develop membership tiers enabling the Network to expand its membership to non-accredited programs and interested people.
- Updated bylaws to reflect recommended changes.
- Awarded second year of SAG Coordinator grant to start in July 2016. Efforts are underway to secure sustainable funding for the position.
- Developed and conducted multiple presentations on the benefits of juvenile diversion.
- Began collecting and analyzing recidivism data.

Stay tuned for more exciting information as we continue to develop our capacity!

WORLD AFFAIRS COUNCIL BRINGS 19 OFFICIALS TO LEARN ABOUT DIVERSION

The US Department of State international professional development exchange program reached out to the NH Juvenile Court Diversion Network to meet with 19 judicial officials from different countries throughout the world in March. Interested in learning more about juvenile justice programs and services available for at-risk youth to prevent them from getting involved in the justice system, these leaders heard about New Hampshire's programming from Nicole Rodler, Diane Casale and Betsy Houde.

Countries represented include:

- | | | | | | |
|-----------|-----------|------------|--------------|---------------------------|-------------|
| • Algeria | • Greece | • Kuwait | • Montenegro | • Palestinian Territories | • Tanzania |
| • Eritrea | • India | • Malaysia | • Namibia | • Romania | • Thailand |
| • Georgia | • Jamaica | • Moldova | • Nigeria | • Sierra Leone | • Venezuela |

According to Tim Horgan, Associate Director of the World Affairs Council of New Hampshire, "The [judicial officials] felt you were a shining example of how this work should be done and took many great ideas from this."

The Network appreciates these types of opportunities to showcase the deep levels of collaboration across systems, communities and the entire state. Located on the campus of Southern NH University, more information can be found at www.wacnh.org.



WHAT'S NEXT?

In the coming year, the Network will be working on:

- Completing our first video showcasing the impact of Juvenile Court Diversion for first time offenders.
- Analyzing the results of our Recidivism Study to determine how to ensure young people have the greatest chance for success when participating in diversion.
- Exploring the benefits of Screening, Brief Intervention and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT) as an evidence-based practice to incorporate into accredited programs.
- Updating our CHALLENGE curriculum to meet standards of Community Health Institute's Expert Panel.

YOUR FEEDBACK IS IMPORTANT

NH Juvenile Court Diversion Network's goals include

- increasing visibility of accredited diversion programs
- increasing referrals around the state for youth that are eligible for diversion and
- helping to sustain accredited juvenile diversion programs



If you have suggestions as to how we can be more effective, please contact:

Betsy Houde, Coordinator
Email: BetsyNH@aol.com
Mobile: (603) 315-9272