



MHANYS'

Supporting Parents with Psychiatric Disabilities Initiative

The MHANYS Supporting Parents with Psychiatric Disabilities Initiative is funded by the New York State Office of Mental Health. It is currently funded for one year at a total of \$550,000 with the possibility of future funding (consistent with the original bill language). The goal of the project is to demonstrate the need for more enhanced services for this population and to create a basic infrastructure for meeting those needs. This funding will be utilized as follows:

- In April a 'blue ribbon' round table discussion will be held on the legal aspects and realities facing parents with psychiatric disabilities in New York State and around the country. Lawyers from around the country who have worked on this issue will participate in the discussion. Outcomes of states that have removed discriminatory language from state law will be examined. Location of event: Albany Law School.
- An Advisory Panel (comprised of parents) and Expert Panels (comprised of experts, parents, and providers) that will focus on the following areas: Technical assistance materials on: using the Americans with Disability Act and the Federal Rehabilitation Act to address discrimination against parents with psychiatric disabilities in New York; judicial evaluations of parenting; parental success and reduced risk to child; developmental disabilities and parental rights; Head Start support to children of parents with psychiatric disabilities; national, state, and local resources for parents with psychiatric disabilities; and, child and parent visitations.
- Outcomes also included the development of technical assistance topics of Program Data Collections and Evaluation for Mental Health Organizations; Mental Health and Child Welfare Collaborations; Clinical Supports for Parents with Psychiatric Disabilities; and a Self-Advocacy Guide for Parents.
- MHANYS will be working with New York Association for Psychiatric Rehabilitative Services (NYAPRS) and 30 agency and peer-run organizations across the state to increase supports to parents who have in the past or are currently using mental health services. Organizations will have the opportunity to participate in training and technical assistance in the following areas:
 - Facilitating and sustaining support groups for parents who have used or are currently using mental health services
 - WRAP (Wellness and Recovery Action Plan) groups for parents
 - Utilization of Advance Directives
 - Trauma-informed care and trauma recovery trainings
 - Mental health advocacy training
- Through collaboration with the Institute for Community Research and Training (ICRT) at the College of Saint Rose in Albany, the SPWPD Project has a unique and powerful set of Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) and program monitoring capabilities. ICRT will use internet surveys to engage potential program participants who are parents with a psychiatric disability. This will provide a way to capture information on service needs and gaps, and also to gain an additional source of input into the development of recommendations, technical assistance materials and training curriculums under this grant.

MHANYS' SPWPD project partners are: New York Association for Psychiatric Rehabilitative Services (NYAPRS) and the Institute for Community Research and Training (ICRT) at the College of St. Rose.

...working to ensure available and accessible mental health services to all New Yorkers