

Central Massachusetts Respite Project (CMRP)

...a collaboration between families, colleges, and
community agencies...



Supported by
The Health Foundation of Central Massachusetts

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Purpose of Presentation

- To share the Central Massachusetts Partnership's (CMP's) vision of developing a new and unique respite program for Children & Youth with Special Health Care Needs (CYSHCNs) in Central Massachusetts.
- To recruit college and community partners who share the vision and provide money for grant development.
- To secure funding for year 2 and 3 of the project.

About the CMP

- The CMP brings together parents and professionals to improve systems of care for CYSHCNs (Children & Youth with Special Health Care Needs). The CMP is the central regional affiliate of the statewide Massachusetts Consortium for Children with Special Health Care Needs.
- **Mission**
To facilitate family-centered and coordinated care for CYSHCNs through education, awareness, and community partnership.

Membership

- Parents
- Advocates
- Researchers (CMMHNI's)
- Health Care Providers (pediatricians, psychologists, social workers, nurses)
- Community Representatives (Seven Hills Foundation (CCM's)
- State Agencies (DPH; DMR; Mass Rehab.)
- Education (Quinsigamond Community College) and Social Service Providers



CMP

- Originally developed at UMASS Memorial Children's Medical Center in June 2002 to foster the "Medical Home" model of care within that institution and our community, in fulfillment of the goals of the US Healthy People 2010.
- Over time, the CMP goals and mission evolved to encompass broader issues involving active collaboration between parents and health care professionals throughout our region.

CMP continued

- In October 2004, the CMP formally affiliated with the statewide Massachusetts Consortium for Children with Special Health Care Needs.

CMP's Vision: Develop the CMRP

- To develop a family-centered respite program that is free to families with CYSHCNs, regardless of their eligibility for commercial or state-funded services.
- Develop a partnership between families, community agencies, and institutions of higher education.
- Students enrolled in degree-earning programs at a college partner institution will be the providers and will be trained by Seven Hills Foundation prior to providing respite services to families.

Respite: The Need

- In an article published in 2000 (Perrin, Lewkowicz, and Young, *Pediatrics*), respite services were considered an unmet need by 41-45% of parents surveyed in Central MA, the second highest percentage.
- In a 6/2006 DPH survey, “Identifying and prioritizing family needs”, Central MA results indicate 76% of parents needed help to fund respite services, 30-36% stated help was needed to find and train respite workers.

What is the CMRP?

- *An internship program* for students enrolled in college to learn about the human services field while providing respite services to CYSHCNs in Central Massachusetts.
- *The college students* are enrolled in degree-earning programs and work in the CMRP as part of a course requirement. They are not paid, they earn credits.
- *Students* are provided with at least 40 hours of training and are supervised by Seven Hills Foundation. Trainings include CPR, First Aid, and attendance at meetings with Seven Hills Family Services staff with families, The Department of Mental Retardation, and various Seven Hills Managers.

What is the CMRP? (cont'd)

- *Colleges* recruit students into their courses, and credential and supervise them as they do for all students (Quinsigamond Community College has partnered with CMRP *creating a course* that will require a CMRP internship).
- *Seven Hills Foundation*, in collaboration with colleges and families, will provide ongoing administrative support, train, and match students with families.
- *Families* are eligible for CMRP respite services if they have a CYSHCNs, demonstrate a need for the services, and are willing to provide onsite training to student interns.

Benefits of CMRP

- **Family**

Receives respite services without depleting limited insurance and personal funds.

Receives respite services from staff trained in CPR/first aid and supervised by Seven Hills Foundation and the student's respective college.

Joins in the mission to educate college students to the Human Service Field and to the needs of children with special health care needs.



Benefits of CMRP

- **Family (continued)**

Increases earning power (potentially). May allow parents, as the primary caregivers, relief from their role in providing all the care for their child (children) with special health care needs.

Improves family functioning and satisfaction.

Benefits of CMRP

- **College Student**

Understand the impact of special health needs on children and youth (development, learning, play, relationship with others, etc.).

Understand the impact of special health needs of children and youth on primary caregivers (parents) and families.

Earn credits toward degree.

Allow a new opportunity to blend theory with practice.

Understand the role of community agencies with CYSHCNs.



Benefits of CMRP

- **College Student (continued)**

Enhance personal resume and career objectives.

Test out a career interest.

Learn the personal and community benefits of providing services to others in the community.

Provide business and administration majors real-life experience in support of a nonprofit agency.

Benefits of CMRP

- **Agency**

Assists in the development of a new potential work force.

Increases ability to meet the needs of CYSHCNs and their families by providing respite to underserved families.

Enhances collaboration with community resources and families.



Benefits of CMRP

- **College**

Provide a new setting (homes/community) for “real-life” learning.

Provide a new population (CYSHCNs/families) for real-life learning.

Increase number of students interested in enrolling in field placements, practicums, and independent study courses.

Benefits of CMRP

- **College (continued)**

Allow a new opportunity for students to blend theory with practice.

Provide business and administration majors real-life experience in support of a nonprofit agency.

CMRP Steering Committee

Celia Brown, Director CMRP and
Seven Hills Disability Resources & Advocacy, Seven Hills Foundation

Leslie Courtney, Family Health Supporter in Pediatrics, UMASS Medical
Center, and parent of child served by CMRP Project Fall 2007

Barbara Donati, CMP Co-Chair, Family TIES of Massachusetts Central
Regional Coordinator, Project Coordinator/Family Participation Director of
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Gail Epstein, M.S. Ed Social Worker, UMASS Medical School Community
Case Management

Michelle Forsman, Seven Hills Family Services Area Director for Worcester
and Metrowest, Seven Hills Foundation

Steering Committee Cont'd

Jane June, Instructional Dean for Health Care & Human Services,
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Jean Kennedy, Associate Professor Human Services,
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