



Advocacy and Action for Connecticut's Mental Health

KTP Legislative Priorities 2015

The **Keep the Promise (KTP) Coalition** was founded in 1999 after the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in *Olmstead v L.C.* that the community integration mandate of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ACA) means that persons with psychiatric disabilities have the right to live in the most integrated community setting.

The CT Legal Rights Project convened a meeting of stakeholders to discuss building a comprehensive system of community services and housing for persons of all ages who have mental health conditions and that has led to a dedicated coalition of advocates being in the forefront on issues for over 15 years.

EXPAND SUPPORTIVE HOUSING FOR FAMILIES, CHILDREN & ADULTS

Increase supportive housing, a model shown to reduce hospital expenses, promote self-sufficiency and prevent homelessness. Ensure adequate housing subsidies and services for Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS) clients discharged from hospitals and released from correctional facilities to provide stability and prevent re-institutionalization.



PROVIDE AGE APPROPRIATE SERVICES FOR YOUNG ADULTS

Hold Department of Children and Families (DCF) and DMHAS accountable for providing timely supports and services, including peer mentors, for young adults with mental health needs, including those experiencing their first episodes of mental health conditions.

STRENGTHEN AND EXPAND SCHOOL BASED HEALTH SERVICES

Increase access to mental health services for children by increasing the number of school based health centers, school social workers and school psychologists; promoting supportive school environments through mental health training and education of school personnel; and establishing and improving partnerships/linkages between schools and communities in order to provide comprehensive and coordinated services and referrals for children.

ENSURE ACCESS TO INTEGRATED HEALTH CARE SERVICES

Monitor and influence the implementation of new state models for delivering and reimbursing health care services to ensure they promote the integration of primary care and behavioral health services and provide assistance with navigating the system to ensure access to services.



CLOSE THE COVERAGE GAP BETWEEN PUBLIC & PRIVATE INSURANCE

Identify mechanisms to provide persons with commercial insurance access to proven, cost-effective non-medical services, such as case management and peers, to support community living and prevent unnecessary hospitalization.

ADVOCATE FOR SYSTEMIC CHANGE

Advocate for systemic solutions, rather than short-term fixes, relating to the implementation of recommendations made in mental health plans and reports issued in 2014, including system solutions for how we pay for and deliver mental health services to children and adults.

PROMOTE WELLNESS, SELF-DETERMINATION AND SELF-SUFFICIENCY

Offer individuals with mental health conditions a diverse range of proven, cost-effective services to meet their needs and objectives, such as Peer Bridger, Wellness Recovery Action Planning (WRAP), Advance Directives, In-Home or Home-Like Respite and Residential Services, and Supported Education and Employment.



PROTECT CIVIL RIGHTS AND ENCOURAGE FULL COMMUNITY INTEGRATION

Ensure persons with mental health conditions have an equal opportunity to full community integration by protecting their equal access to housing, education, employment and opposing coercive measures that would restrict individual rights and self-determination.

CREATE INCENTIVES TO EXPAND WORKFORCE CAPACITY

Explore opportunities, such as loan forgiveness, to encourage mental health professionals to work in Connecticut.



Keep The Promise (KTP) Coalition Member Organizations

Access Independence (formerly Disabilities Resource Center of Fairfield County)
Advocacy Unlimited (AU)
African Caribbean American Parents of Children with Disabilities (AFCAMP)
Aids Connecticut
American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of Connecticut
Bridge House
Bridges Open Door
Center for Children's Advocacy, Inc. (CCA)
Child Health and Development Institute of CT (CHDI)
Children's Behavioral Health Advisory Council
Chrysalis Center, Inc.
City of Bridgeport Office for Persons with Disabilities
Collaborative Center for Justice
CT Association of Centers for Independent Living (CACIL)
CT Association for Community Action (CAFCA)
CT Association of Foster and Adoptive Parents (CAFAP)
CT Association of Mental Health Clinics for Children
CT Association of Non Profits (CAN)
CT Association of School Based Health Centers (CASBHC)
CT Association of School Psychologists (CASP)
CT Business Leadership Network (CBLN)
CT Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics
CT Coalition to End Homelessness (CCEH)
CT Community Providers Association (CCPA)
CT Council of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry
CT Early Childhood Alliance
CT Family Resource Center Alliance
CT Federation of Educational & Professional Employees
CT Hospital Association (CHA)
CT Juvenile Justice Alliance (CJJA)
CT League of Women Voters (CLWV)
CT Legal Rights Project, Inc (CLRP)
CT Occupational Therapy Association
CT Psychiatric Association (CPS)
CT Voices for Children
CT Women's Consortium
Corporation for Supportive Housing (CSH)
Disabilities Network of Eastern CT (DNEC)
Discovery Center
District 1199 New England Healthcare Employees Union
Eastern Regional Mental Health Board (ERMHB)
FAVOR
Fellowship Place
Friendship
Focus On Recovery United (FOR-U)
Genesis Center-We Can Clubhouse
Gilead Community Services
Independence Center
InterCommunity, Inc/Common Ground
Journey Home
Laurel House
Lighthouse
Mental Health Association of CT (MHACT)
Milford Child and Adolescent Service System Program
National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Connecticut
National Association of Social Workers (NASW)
North Central Regional Mental Health Board (NCRMHB)
Northwest Regional Mental Health Board (NWRMHB)
Office of the Child Advocate (OCA)
Padres Abriendo Puertas
Partnership for Strong Communities (PSC)
Penobscot Place
Prime Time House
Protection & Advocacy for Individuals with Mental Illness Advisory Council (PAIMI)
The Reaching Home Campaign
Region II Regional Mental Health Board (Region 2 RMHB)
Reliance House
Salvation Army
Second Wind Clubhouse
Southwest Regional Mental Health Board (SWRMHB)
Stamford Youth Services Bureau
State Board of Mental Health & Addiction Services
Team Time Clubhouse
Team Works
True Colors—Sexual Minority Youth and Family Services
United Action Connecticut (UACT)
Valley Social Club
Village for Families & Children
Welcome Arms
Yale Child Study Center

Coalition Co Chairs

Attorney Jan VanTassel, (CLRP) and Abby Anderson (CTJJA)

Adult Committee Co Chairs

Paul Acker (FOR-U) & Attorney Jan VanTassel

Adult Committee Vice Chair

Kristie Barber (Region II RMHB)

Children's Committee Co Chairs

Abby Anderson & Ann Smith (AFCAMP)

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**KEEP THE PROMISE COALITION IS GENEROUSLY SUPPORTED BY
THE MELVILLE CHARITABLE TRUST, THE CONNECTICUT HEALTH FOUNDATION & THE TOW FOUNDATION**

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