



WHO WE ARE

The New Hampshire Mental Health Council (MHC) is a private, non-profit organization providing collaborative leadership and advocacy to support the promotion of good mental health and the effective treatment of mental illness. The organization was formed out of the 2005 Legislative Commission to Develop a Comprehensive State Mental Health Plan and uses the *Fulfilling the Promise* reports produced by the commission as a blueprint for our work.

OUR MISSION

*To provide innovative leadership to transform the mental health system of care into a well integrated, accessible, and high quality service delivery system. This transformation is based on the conviction that **mental health is fundamental to the overall health and positive functioning of individuals, families, and communities.***

OUR INITIATIVES

The MHC has select four primary areas of focus for our work. These priority areas include the following:

Community Supports: This workgroup was developed to address both supportive housing and employment issues but and has selected supportive housing as the starting point of their work. The goal of the Community Support workgroup is to increase financial and state policy investment for supportive services within affordable residential settings and other community-based settings for persons with mental illness, including those with co-occurring disorders.

Integrated Care: The goal of the Integrated Care Workgroup is to support greater integration of mental health, primary care, and substance use treatment services in New Hampshire. One of the primary overarching principles in *Fulfilling the Promise* is the belief that good mental health is an essential component of overall health and this workgroup is critical for engaging that message in the health care arena.

Public Policy: The goal of the Public Policy Workgroup is to increase policy changes and implementation that tie back to the recommendations set forth in *Fulfilling the Promise*. This is achieved by developing productive relationships with key policy makers at the state and national levels around issues of mental health and providing education to increase awareness of mental health related issues. This workgroup also provides support to the two subject-focused groups to identify public policy changes that support those efforts.

Criminal Justice: The transition of this Workgroup from the productive efforts made during the work of the Commission to the new formation of the council is underway. The MHC strongly supports the improved awareness and integration of mental health issues into various levels of the criminal justice system including diversion, treatment, re-entry, and police training.