

MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF
**MENTAL
HEALTH**

News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MENTAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT RESUMES PROCOVERY PROGRAM

JEFFERSON CITY, MO, JUNE 19, 2007 - Officials in the Missouri Department of Mental Health announced today that its statewide implementation of recovery services through the Procovery™ program will resume this fall, following the completion of a successful demonstration pilot and extensive statewide foundational planning.

The Procovery™ program, developed by Kathleen Crowley, author and Executive Director of the Procovery Institute, emphasizes a hope-centered, forward-focused, and skills-based partnership of the client, the family, the service provider, and the community. It includes eight principles for resilience in healing, 12 strategies for action, and a highly structured system, known as the Procovery Circle, for group training and support.

“My support and commitment of the Procovery program as the model of recovery in Missouri is strong,” said Dr. Joseph Parks, M.D., director of the Department of Mental Health’s Division of Comprehensive Psychiatric Services (CPS). “Procovery offers succinct recovery principles and strategies that both our providers of service and the people we serve are able to operationalize regardless of setting. In addition, I have a strong belief that medical and behavioral health integration and collaboration will only benefit those we serve. Procovery operates across this spectrum.”

Evaluation of the demonstration pilot by the Missouri Institute of Mental Health noted, “Most important, it can be concluded from the evaluation of the Missouri Procovery Demonstration Program that Procovery is a promising catalyst of system transformation. The success of Procovery Circles to instill hope and a forward focus among mental health consumer members means that statewide implementation of this program could facilitate progress towards an integrated system response to growing demands from consumers for recovery-based services and supports to secure jobs, housing, and training.”

The Procovery™ program was brought to Missouri in April 2005 as an urban-rural demonstration program in the St. Louis, Farmington, Poplar Bluff, and Kennett regions. The pilot far surpassed initial expectations of eight to 12 Procovery Circles, with 1,075 staff, clients, family, and community members

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completing full-day core Procovery trainings, and more than 80 Procovery Circles established across diverse urban and rural settings. From June 2005 to May 2007 there have been more than 3,750 Procovery Circle meetings with an average attendance of 8.6 persons.

Dora Cole, director of Community Services Operations for CPS, will be leading the newly established CPS Missouri Procovery™ program development team. “The Procovery program continues to be our basis of transformation through attitude and service delivery approach,” said Cole. “The planning we have completed this past year was central to ensuring fidelity as we expand and institutionalize this innovative program. An important area of focus in the upcoming year is using Procovery as a vehicle for front-line training and retraining in recovery and engagement principles and techniques, to support both our staff and those they serve. An added element will be developing continuing education units for Procovery Circle Facilitator meetings, which provide ongoing training, coaching, and mentoring to build a continually growing base of trained facilitator expertise across Missouri.”

More information on the Procovery™ program in Missouri is available at www.procovery.com. The Department of Mental Health serves Missourians by working to prevent mental disorders, developmental disabilities, and substance abuse; by treating, habilitating, and rehabilitating persons with those conditions; and by educating the public about mental health.

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