

**From:** Keenan, Elizabeth <keenane1@southernct.edu>  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 21, 2013 4:16 PM  
**To:** SIM, OHA  
**Cc:** Rofuth, Todd W.; Rodriguez-Keyes, Elizabeth; Broce, Robert S.; Rakfeldt, Jaak; Michaelsen, Diane E.; Steve Karp  
**Subject:** Comment on CT Healthcare Innovation Plan

Victoria Veltri, Healthcare Advocate:

Thank you for putting this draft of the CT Healthcare Innovation Plan out for comment. Faculty in the Department of Social Work at Southern Connecticut State University commend you on the development of the Advanced Medical Home (AMH) model for primary care practice. Framing care around whole-person assessment implemented with person-centered planning and coordination will include consumers in important decision-making processes while also addressing many of the obstacles and barriers that interfere with health, recovery, and overall well-being.

We are greatly concerned, however, that social workers have not been explicitly identified as one of the significant roles needed to successfully implement AMH. There are three reasons why we are requesting that social workers be explicitly named in the final version of this document:

1. Our professional education centers around a biopsychosocialspiritual understanding of each individual. Social workers routinely conduct whole-person assessments and utilize those findings to construct whole-person plans.
2. Our professional education prepares us to work in interdisciplinary teams, to collaborate with professionals and paraprofessionals, to construct multidimensional treatment plans, and to coordinate the implementation of those plans with others.
3. As noted in this draft, person-centered, family-focused, community-based care is already taking place with the CT Behavioral Health Partnership. DMHAS has also utilized intensive case management and evidence-based practices with a range of adolescent and adult clients. Social workers are the leading providers of these services in Connecticut, particularly in the areas of mental health and behavioral health.

We therefore formally request that you add social workers to the list of "Roles needed to implement the new capabilities and processes" on p. 45 of the draft document. More specifically, we are requesting that social workers not be limited to behavioral health, but rather, be included as professionals who can conduct the whole-person assessments, construct whole-person plans, and coordinate the implementation of those plans.

Thank you for considering our request. We look forward to hearing about further developments and wish you success with the grant proposal.

Elizabeth Keenan, Ph.D., LCSW, Professor  
Todd Rofuth, Ph.D., Professor and Department Chair  
Robert Broce, Ph.D., LCSW, Assistant Professor and MSW Coordinator  
Elizabeth Rodriguez-Keyes, Ph.D., LCSW, Associate Professor and BSW Coordinator  
Diane Michaelsen, LCSW, Director of Field Education and MSW Admissions

Jaak Rakfeldt, Ph.D., LCSW, Professor and MSW Coordinator of the Co-Occurring Disorders Cohort Program

Elizabeth King Keenan, Ph.D., LCSW  
Professor, Department of Social Work  
Chair, University Curriculum Forum (UCF)  
Southern Connecticut State University  
101 Farham Avenue  
New Haven, CT 06515  
203-392-5108  
203-392-6580 (fax)  
[keenane1@southernct.edu](mailto:keenane1@southernct.edu)