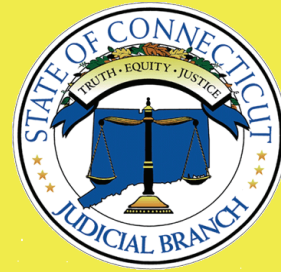


CSSD Chronicle

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Cathy Foley Geib Receives the “Champions for Change” Award at Washington, DC Conference



Cathy Foley Geib, CSSD Manager of Clinical and Educational Services

Cathy Foley Geib, CSSD Manager of Clinical and Educational Services, received the Champions for Change Award at the Sixth Annual *Models for Change* National Working Conference held on December 5 and 6, 2011 in Washington, DC.

The conference is designed to bring together judges, prosecutors, defenders, policy makers and juvenile justice system professionals who have been working through the *Models for Change* initiative to develop and institutionalize sweeping reforms that improve outcomes for youth who come in contact with the juvenile justice system.

Models for Change is funded by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, and is the centerpiece of MacArthur’s \$130 million effort to support rational, fair, and effective juvenile justice systems that recognize the developmental differences between juveniles and adults. It is active in 16 states, and is organized into four core states, three Action Networks, and a National Resource Bank. The systems reform work in the four core states—Illinois, Louisiana, Pennsylvania, and Washington—focuses on strategic issues, is implemented at state, county, and local levels, and is coordinated by a designated in-state organization called a “lead entity.”

The Action Networks are peer-to-peer forums for sharing information and strategies to accelerate change in three issues common to juvenile justice systems nationwide: disproportionate minority confinement; mental health; and juvenile indigent defense. The action networks are coordinated by a member of the National Resource Bank, and are active in all four core states, as well as 12 additional partner states, which includes Connecticut.

Under Foley Geib’s leadership, Connecticut has been a *Models for Change* MacArthur grantee under the Mental Health Action Network for the past several years. Connecticut’s receipt of MacArthur

funds allowed for the creation of a public-private collaboration of stakeholders that included staff from the *Court Support Services Division* (Dr. John Chapman, Forensics Supervisor; Julie Revaz, Manager, Programs and Services; Geoff Scales, Juvenile Probation Supervisor II; and Dr. Lou Ando, Project Coordinator); the *Department of Children and Families* (Dr. Bert Plant, Director of Community Behavioral Health Programs; Michael Williams, Regional Administrator; Antonio Donis, Program Director, Juvenile Justice; and Bill Rosenbeck, Superintendent, CT Juvenile Training School); Attorney Martha Stone, Executive Director of the *Center for Children’s Advocacy*; and Merva Jackson, Executive Director from *African Caribbean American Parents of Children with Disabilities (AFCAMP)*, a parent advocacy organization.



Cathy Foley Geib (third from right, front row) with several members of Connecticut’s *Models for Change* Action Network

Over the last four years, Foley Geib and her team accomplished the following for Connecticut’s court-involved youth:

- Developed and implemented a school-based diversion initiative that

provides mental health crisis intervention to divert youth from arrest.

- Created and piloted a mental health training curriculum for juvenile justice professionals which is now used at the Connecticut Juvenile Training School, and will be made available to network providers through the CSSD and DCF Training Academies.
- Implemented the MAYSI mental health screening instrument in adult probation to screen 17 year olds, and at Department of Correction (DOC) facilities serving transferred youth.
- Strengthened the network of parent advocates and trainers in the state and piloted a strategy for jointly training parents and juvenile probation staff in parent-system engagement.
- Under the leadership of the Honorable Christine Keller, Chief Administrative Judge for Juvenile Matters, supported the drafting of a juvenile competency statute which is anticipated to pass in the Connecticut General Assembly's 2012 legislative session.
- Piloted the Crisis Intervention Team-Youth Version (CIT) curriculum. CIT is a collaborative partnership between police officers and mental health workers to de-escalate crises in the community and divert the mentally ill to treatment and away from arrest. The CIT curriculum will be used to train 100 police officer this spring.

In her acceptance speech, Foley Geib thanked her Action Network peers along with a host of others—from judges to her young son, Hugh—for their help in making the award possible. “I certainly didn’t earn this honor alone,” Foley Geib said. “I have had the privilege of leading a team of incredible people, both in their commitment to the work and their ability to work together for a common goal, each contributing his or her strengths and perspectives for a more effective system.”

Previously recorded congratulatory messages from Judge Keller, CSSD Executive Director Bill Carbone, Dr. Bert Plant, and Attorney Martha Stone were shown as part of Foley Geib’s award presentation. CSSD’s Dr. John Chapman, who also attended the awards ceremony, echoed the praise regarding Foley Geib’s accomplishments. “Perhaps most importantly, Cathy’s work has kept parents in the forefront of the work with juveniles,” Chapman said, “creating a bridge between families and the courts that is essential to recovery for everyone involved.”



To read about the *Models for Change* champions from each of the core states and Action Networks please visit the Champions for Change page on the [Models for Change public website](#).

To read more about Cathy Foley Geib, and to access the video tribute shown at the awards conference, click [here](#).

Cathy Foley Geib can be reached at CatherineFoley.Geib@jud.ct.gov.

The CSSD Chronicle is a regular publication of information and news about the Court Support Services Division. Questions or comments on this edition, or suggestions for future articles, can be directed to Linda.Grzeika@jud.ct.gov