Program Name: Specialized Crisis Intervention Teams for Young Adults (SCYA) Partnership

Grant Applicant: The Connecticut Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS)

Implementing Agency: Connecticut DMHAS & Advanced Behavioral Health (ABH)

Service Area: Connecticut

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Project Period: 9/30/13 - 9/30/16

FY 2013 Grant Award - $966,666 over 3 years

Project Description: The Connecticut Early Diversion program is administered by the CT Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS). DMHAS plans to implement the Specialized Crisis Intervention Teams for Young Adults (18 – 25 yr. olds) Partnership Program (SCYA). Qualifying criteria include: 1) young adults aged 18-25; 2) a danger to self or others; 3) experiencing a first episode of psychosis; and 3) in the early stages of drug or alcohol use disorders. DMHAS will build on relationships between criminal justice and behavioral health agencies that were developed in response to the creation of the CT Criminal Justice Policy Advisory Commission and add representatives from the CT Alliance to Benefit Law Enforcement (the entity that conducts Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) training in the state) and the National Alliance on Mental Illness to make up the SCYA Partnership. The SCYA Partnership will assist CITs to effectively engage young adults in appropriate treatment and prevent them from entering the criminal justice system by making changes in the training, procedures, and resources available to CITs to enhance their capacity to respond to young adults with mental health and co-occurring substance use disorders.

CT DMHAS and its early diversion partners propose to serve 225 young adults aged 18-25 with serious mental illness, or co-occurring mental health and substance use disorders over the three year grant period. For approximately one-quarter of these cases, this event will represent their first encounter with public mental health services.