

**Working Together for Healthier Families**



*“The New Britain Project SAFE Pilot is an excellent example of how effective collaborations among sister state agencies, the provider community and families can help promote positive outcomes for those involved in the child welfare system due to substance abuse issues. We truly value the partnerships that led to the successful implementation of this pilot and look forward to continuing our work together in this area to help improve the lives of the children and families we serve.”*

*Susan I. Hamilton, MSW, JD, Commissioner, Department of Children & Families*

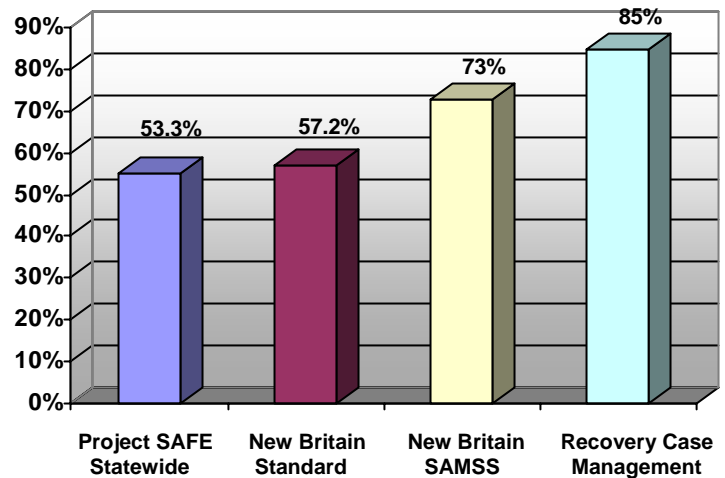
Connecticut’s Project SAFE (Substance Abuse Family Evaluation) was established nearly a decade ago as a means to assist families involved with the child welfare system when substance use may be an issue. A collaboration between DMHAS, the Department of Children and Families (DCF), and Advanced Behavioral Health (ABH),\* differences in the missions and cultures of DMHAS and DCF presented challenges to working together to address families’ service needs. The **New Britain Project SAFE Pilot** began in September 2006 in order to strengthen the collaboration between DMHAS, DCF, and ABH and improve service outcomes for families with substance use issues. Through face-to-face meetings, DMHAS, DCF, and ABH work with Project SAFE community service providers to ensure timely access to comprehensive services designed to better meet the specific needs of individual families.

\* ABH is a DMHAS and DCF funded agency that provides administrative support to the Project SAFE program.

**The New Britain Project SAFE Pilot**

- ✘ Priority access to family-centered evaluations, treatment and recovery support services.
- ✘ Innovative intervention and collaborative management strategies using a multi-disciplinary approach to increase favorable outcomes.
- ✘ Weekly Substance Abuse Managed Service System (SAMSS) meetings for case discussions with active participation from DCF, DMHAS, pilot staff, and community service providers.
- ✘ DMHAS/DCF conjoint cross-training on *Motivational Interviewing and Principles of Recovery*.
- ✘ Collaborative problem solving and resource identification.

**Connect-to-Care Comparison Data**



The New Britain Pilot brought a **significant increase in the rate at which people connect-to-care**, an important step in recovery and to child welfare case planning for Project SAFE families. Statewide, individuals receiving Project SAFE services **without** additional interventions connect-to-care at a rate of 55%. In the New Britain area, connect-to-care rates **increased** from 57% to 73% in cases that were reviewed in the Pilot’s Substance Abuse Managed Service System (SAMSS) meetings. People who receive **additional recovery case management services** connect-to-care at the **highest rate, 85%**. (Data for September 2006 to June 30, 2007.)