

Urban Initiatives...Successful Engagement & Recovery Interventions

Substance abuse is one of the primary contributors to preventable deaths, a major factor in the incarceration of 80% of individuals in the prison system, and costs American businesses between \$50 and \$100 billion each year. A Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services report in 2000 revealed that 40% of all patients in general hospitals required treatment due to complications related to alcohol abuse, and that nearly one-half of the 19,467 cases of family violence resulting in arrests were due to alcohol and other drugs.

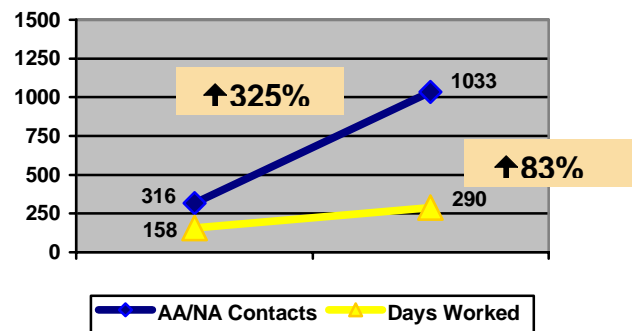
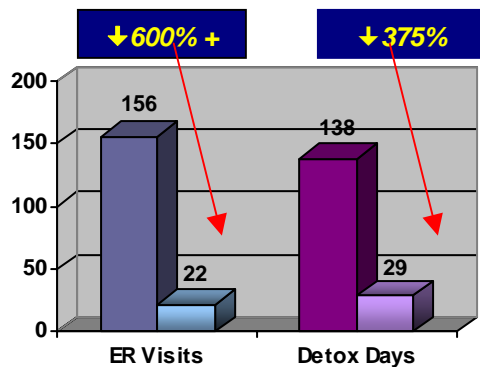
The Urban Initiative Projects (UIPs) in New Haven and Bridgeport were implemented as one of the direct responses to the above alarming findings. The mission of both UIPs is the same— help people with substance use and psychiatric disorders, for whom traditional treatment services have not been effective, to engage in recovery. Both programs share a belief in recovery as an on-going journey where pitfalls and setbacks are inevitable. Both UIPs began in 2001 and include outreach, engagement, and case management services and are *collaborative partnerships among multiple agencies*.

The programs differ. Bridgeport's focus is on **stable housing**; New Haven's is on **employment**. Both are consistent with a recovery focus...improved management of one's illness and better quality of life in the community in spite of the illness.

BRIDGEPORT URBAN INITIATIVE

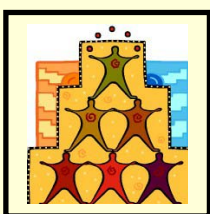
As individuals are more effectively engaged in treatment, they may be admitted to temporary beds at Prospect House. They may also enter longer-term supportive housing located on Poplar Street. Service partners include DMHAS' Southwest CT Mental Health System, Regional Network of Programs, Inc. and Chemical Abuse Services Agency, Inc. For people transitioning to Poplar Street, the following occurred: (Compares the month preceding admission & the month preceding discharge).

- ER visits decreased from 156 to 22 = **↓600% +**
- Detox days used decreased from 138 to 29 = **↓375%**
- AA/NA contacts increased from 316 to 1033 = **↑325%**
- Days worked increased from 158 to 290 = **↑83%**



NEW HAVEN URBAN INITIATIVE

Individuals participate in specialized engagement activities at the **Taking Initiatives Center (TIC)** which offers an array of groups including assistance with employment. Service Partners included Columbus House, Inc., Easter Seals Goodwill, Inc., Marrakech, Inc., Apt Foundation, Inc., South Central Behavioral Health Network, Empower New Haven, and DMHAS' Connecticut Mental Health Center. As a result of involvement in the New Haven UI Program:



- 540 people have participated in activities at the TIC
- 100 people have engaged in employment-related activities
- 45 people have found jobs using employment providers
- 700 people have been transported from city shelters to the TIC

