

Six Core Strategies IX with a Massachusetts Twist

Focus on systemic and multi-level strategies for reducing the use of seclusion



Te Pou o te
Whakaaro Nui
Part of the Whire Group

Six Core Strategies Diagram: Te Pou- www.tepou.co.nz

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After nine Department of Mental Health (DMH) sponsored statewide trainings on the [Six Core Strategies©](http://www.tepou.co.nz) (6CS) to prevent violence, coercion and the use of restraint and seclusion you would think this would be old-hat to Massachusetts. But think again. The most recent training on December 2-3, 2018 held in Westboro represented a great array of cross-agency, cross-population, cross-discipline, and cross-services ever held. Several of the more than 230 participants representing not only Massachusetts, but also New Hampshire, New York, New Jersey, Rhode Island, Connecticut, Maryland, and North Carolina.

The faculty included well-known National Building Bridges Director,

Six Core Strategies training Goal
To educate and offer the opportunity for each individual attending the 2-day training to accept responsibility for using this evidence based practice they are being taught; and to prevent conflict and violence from occurring in their respective settings.

Attending the training:

Representatives from DMH
Department of Children and Families (DCF)
Department of Developmental Services (DDS)
Department of Youth Services (DYS)
Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE)
Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS)
Department of Correction (DOC)
Rhode Island Department of Children and Families (RI DCF)
Federal Veteran's Affairs
45 hospitals
25 residential schools
12 public schools (including 2 elementary schools)
Caring Together
Adult Community Clinical Services (ACCS) residential services
Teen parenting programs
STARR programs

Beth Caldwell, and recent Bridgewater Administrator and 6CS Principal Investigator, Dr. Kevin Huckshorn, in addition to leaders from Johns Hopkins, Hillside Family Services in Rochester, NY, and the New Jersey System of Care. By far the most poignant and potent comments from the 2-day training were the opening remarks by Kristi Glenn, Caring Together Coordinator of Family-Driven Practice, and the consumer panel presentations from youth advocates: Lucy Wiggin, Mateo Anderson and Olivia Chiacchia; Heidi Trainor, Director of Peer Services at WRCH; and family advocates: Madeline Bolger and Kristi Glenn who individually and collectively asked the audience to see beyond the mental illness, see the person they are working with, and see them within the context of their family and life.

Continuum programs
Correctional facility
Advocates
Family leaders
Peer leaders
and more

Rave reviews were offered by attendees who said, "This is the best training I have ever been to!" But, another out-the-door comment from a residential provider using a lot of restraint said, "Nope, I'm not buying it!" For this reason and the clear 'universality' of the problem with restraint and seclusion use across settings where people are served – you can expect there will be a Six Core Strategies Training #10 on the horizon.