

## **SHEILA KENNEDY AWARDED AT STEPHANIE MOULTON SYMPOSIUM**

Sheila Kennedy started working as a volunteer for the Metro Boston Recovery Learning Community (RLC) in 2008 . She has been with the Peer Support Line since that time and is now the Program Coordinator with a lead role. Sheila is responsible for scheduling staff for a seven day per week operation as well as training and mentoring staff. Sheila and the other staff members respond to callers during times of crisis offering a supportive ear, helping to improve their safety and well-being. She and her team connect them with resources, other supports and avenues to treatment. Sheila spends many nights a week responding to callers with compassion and care.

Sheila has been a catalyst for promoting the culture of safety at the Boston Resource Center. She has been the impetus for bringing several safety trainings to the community at the center, developing a buddy system for staff at the Boston Resource Center, and working with the Campus Police Officers at the Mental Health Center to promote a safe environment

Sheila has been an integral part of the support line from day one. The Peer Support Line has expanded its hours of operation and increased the contact hours tenfold under Sheila's leadership. In addition, she has fostered a relationship with the Boston Emergency Services Team (BEST) to coordinate responses to individuals in crisis to ensure the most appropriate response.

We consistently hear stories of how Sheila and her staff go the extra distance necessary in order to build relationships with callers and work with them for as long as it takes to help them overcome their challenges. This commitment impacts the safety of the callers and those who interact with them in a variety of community service settings in a way that we feel honors the legacy of Stephanie Moulton.