

THINKING OUTSIDE THE BOX AT THE 5TH ANNUAL CBH KNOWLEDGE CENTER SYMPOSIUM

By Kelly English

CBH Knowledge Center Director

Over 150 people attended the 5th Annual Children's Behavioral Health Knowledge Center Symposium on June 1 at the Worcester Recovery Center and Hospital. Christina Gunther Murphy, an Executive Director at the Institute for Healthcare Improvement (IHI) delivered this year's Gailanne Reeh Lecture, titled, "Breaking the Rules for Better Care." Her lecture shared IHI's international work with health care organizations to engage clients and staff members in identifying "rules" that should be broken to promote a better care or work experience. Attendees then undertook an activity to design a "breaking the rules" week at their own organizations.

The afternoon featured the first Massachusetts Children's Behavioral Health Innovation Award, co-sponsored by the Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts Foundation and the Massachusetts Association for Mental Health (MAMH). The award is a one-time grant of \$10,000 awarded to a non-profit children's behavioral health or social service organization in recognition of its effort to:

- Fill an unmet need or gap in the children's behavioral health care delivery system; or
- Respond to a "wicked" problem facing the children's behavioral health field through creation of an innovative program or practice.

Following a competitive application process, three finalists were selected to present their innovation at the Symposium. The three finalists were:

- Behavioral Health Network
- Boston GLASS at Justice Resource Institute
- Team 14 at Lahey Health Behavioral Services

Symposium attendees evaluated each presentation based on criteria that included:

- Innovativeness

- The potential for scale-up or spread
- The perceived benefit to youth, families, and the community

Using online voting tool, attendees then voted for their choice to win the \$10,000 award. Team Fourteen (T14) at Lahey Health Behavioral Services was selected by the audience as the winner of this year's award. T14 is a substance use counseling program for adolescents and families that has been providing outreach services in Essex County for two years with encouraging results. In early 2017, T14 launched "Reinforcers", a therapeutic adolescent substance use group blending two evidence-based models, the Adolescent Community Reinforcement Approach (A-CRA) and Adventure Based Counseling. Reinforcers' innovative and creative structure ensures engagement of youth participants with diverse learning styles and levels of commitment to change, and limits the need for group participants to self-disclose. The Reinforcers group design has been recognized by the Massachusetts Bureau of Substance Addiction Services as a unique and creative application of the A-CRA model.

To download a copy a copy of the Symposium agenda or to view the presentation slides visit the Center's website at: <http://www.cbhknowledge.center/2018-symposium>