



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Cutchins Staff Member Recognized for Leadership in Trauma-Informed Care at Statewide Department of Mental Health Provider Forum

NORTHAMPTON, MA — Cutchins Programs for Children and Families is proud to announce that Rudaun Graham of Three Rivers, the organization's Clinically Intensive Residential Treatment Program (CIRT), was recognized at the 26th Annual Department of Mental Health (DMH) Restraint & Seclusion Prevention Initiative Provider Forum on May 5, 2026, in Westborough, Massachusetts. He is one of two recipients from across the state to receive the Department of Mental Health's Deborah Janssens Award, who was described as a highly respected leader in the behavioral health field with a strong calling, who performed many roles, and had a great many talents and virtues.

This annual statewide forum brings together mental health professionals, providers, advocates, and leaders dedicated to reducing and preventing restraint and seclusion through trauma-informed, relationship-based approaches to care.

Rudaun Graham was recognized for his longstanding commitment to the evidence-based Six Core Strategies framework and for his leadership in advancing the Building Bridges philosophy within Cutchins' Clinically Intensive Residential Treatment Program at Three Rivers. Both the Six Core Strategies and Building Bridges are international initiatives that are implemented to strengthen partnerships among youth, families, and providers, emphasize the necessity of trauma-informed care, foster more compassionate systems of care, and reduce the use of restraint and seclusion.

Graham has been with Cutchins for 22 years and currently serves as the Director of Building Bridges & Outreach at the Three Rivers Program. He is dedicated to creating healing-centered

environments grounded in dignity, safety, compassion, relationships, and the voices of youth and families.

Tina Champagne, the Chief Executive Officer of Cutchins Programs for Children and Families shared, “Rudaun embodies the type of leadership and care that exemplifies the vision, mission and values of Cutchins Programs for Children and Families, while remaining humble and always prioritizing the needs and goals of others. We are so proud of him and thrilled that he has been given this very special, distinguished honor and recognition by the Department of Mental Health.”

The forum also included a presentation by Tina Champagne, an internationally recognized trauma-informed care expert, known for her pioneering work in sensory modulation, trauma-informed mental health care, and the Six Core Strategies. Her efforts have transformed behavioral health systems nationwide and internationally by promoting trauma-informed care, sensory- and body-based approaches, and a focus on relationships, safety, and recovery. Three Rivers, part of Cutchins Programs for Children and Families, is a clinically intensive residential treatment program serving children ages 6 - 12 with complex emotional, behavioral, and trauma-related needs. The program emphasizes trauma-informed care, family engagement, therapeutic relationships, and evidence-based practices to help children build a sense of safety, regulation, and resilience.

At Cutchins, trauma-informed care is rooted in the understanding that healing occurs through relationships, compassion, and community. The organization is committed to advancing compassionate, evidence-informed practices that support children, youth, and families throughout Western Massachusetts and across the state.

For more information about Cutchins Programs for Children and Families, visit cutchins.org.

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(Left to Right: Dr. Tina Champagne, CEO of Cutchins Programs for Children and Families, Rudaun
Grahm, Director of Building Bridges and Outreach at Three Rivers, and Charlene Zuffante,
Deputy Commissioner of Child, Youth, Family Services, Department of Mental Health)