

## You are an MHP but are you a Q?

### What does it mean to be a Qualified Mental Health Professional?

This question came up at a recent training. The conversation that followed prompted a discussion around QMHP's, who they are and what it all means.

**Q: With regard to the Waiver paperwork: Who signs the Family Assurance Document on the line "Approved Center Staff"...**

A: A QMHP.

**Q: "Who is a QMHP?"**

A: *Approved Center Staff and Approved Mental Health Provider* are oftentimes used interchangeably for **Qualified Mental Health Professional**...however, Per KSA 59-2946 and Appendix B of the Federal Waiver Application:

"Qualified mental health professional means a physician or psychologist who is employed by a participating mental health center who is providing services as a physician or psychologist under a contract with participating mental health center, a licensed masters level psychologist, a licensed marriage and family therapist, a licensed professional counselor, a licensed specialist social worker or licensed master social worker or a registered nurse who has a specialty in psychiatric nursing, who is employed by a participating mental health center and who is acting under the direction of a physician or psychologist who is employed by, or under contract with a participating mental health center."

So, what does all this mean? You are a Mental Health Professional if you work at a CMHC as a community based provider, but you may not be a **Qualified** Mental Health Professional as defined by the Federal Waiver Application. Check with your center's supervisor if you have questions.

This update is brought to you courtesy of the fabulous, inquisitive trainees from Intermediate Case Management Training in Chanute, KS on December 15 and 16, 2004.