

NFI—Origins and Purpose

President George W. Bush established NFI in 2001 to promote increased access to educational and employment opportunities and full access to community life for people with disabilities.

The Pennsylvania Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (OMHSAS) defines NFI's primary focus as:

- Mental Health and Substance Use care is consumer and family driven. The focus is on placing consumers and families in the center of planning, monitoring and evaluating services.
- Excellent mental health and substance use disorder care is delivered and research is accelerated. The focus is to improve and expand the skills of the workforce consistent with a recovery philosophy and evidence-based services.

For more information, please visit [CSP \(pa.gov\)](http://CSP.pa.gov)

The Community Support Program (CSP) Wheel

The CSP is a recovery model for People with Mental Illness and Co-Occurring Disorders. At the center circle of the wheel are eight factors that are important antecedents for recovery. Hope is the anchor point upon which recovery is based. Demonstrating respect for the consumer supports his or her hopefulness and nurtures self-esteem. When people convey trust in the consumer, it strengthens the consumer's confidence and motivation to assume increased responsibility for taking control of their own life.



Mercer County NFI Members & Participants

- ❖ **Consumers, families, and Consumer Advocates**
- ❖ Mercer County Area Agency on Aging, Inc.
- ❖ Mercer County Behavioral Health Commission
- ❖ Mercer County MH/ID Program
- ❖ Mercer County Juvenile Advisory Council
- ❖ Career Link
- ❖ Carelon Health of PA
- ❖ Children's Aid Society
- ❖ Children & Youth Services
- ❖ Community Counseling Center
- ❖ Primary Health Network
- ❖ Resolutions Recovery Center
- ❖ SWRCSP

The **Mercer County NFI Committee** advises the MH/ID Program and the local Single County Authority on the issues, strategies and priorities for development of recovery oriented mental health, drug and alcohol, and community support systems. NFI has been in existence in Mercer County since September 2004.

Our committee meets the first Thursday of each month (except July) at 1:30pm at St. John's Episcopal Church, 226 W State Street, Sharon, PA 16146

For more information on Mercer County NFI, please contact:

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Mercer County New Freedom Initiative (NFI)



New Freedom Initiative is a community partnership, advocating for each individual's journey to recovery, which will improve the health and wellness of our community.