



## PbS E-Newsletter



# Pennsylvania's Level 3 SMSTU

[www.pbstandards.org](http://www.pbstandards.org)

Located in Franklin County, South Mountain Secure Treatment Unit (SMSTU) is one of Pennsylvania's eleven state operated facilities that participate in the PbS project. SMSTU provides secure programming for adjudicated males as well as treatment services for youths with sexual offenses. Many of the youths housed at SMSTU exhibit aggressive behavior as well as lengthy histories of difficulty adjusting to other placements.

As the State Coordinator, I appreciate this opportunity to highlight SMSTU as a model PbS facility. Starting with candidacy in April 2007 and culminating thus far with the achievement of Level 3 status, SMSTU's team has vigorously embraced PbS as an opportunity to enhance efforts to provide safe and effective programming for troubled youths. Attention to the integrity of the data collection and improvement processes and coordination of PbS with other efforts is the result of progressive leadership by Director Jamey Welty and a highly conscientious PbS team.

SMSTU maintains a vision of con-

tinuous improvement and utilizes PbS data to identify specific actions and changes that will have the greatest impact on enhancing the safety and effectiveness of the facility. Bi-annual outcome data provides the necessary information to drive the development of facility improvement plans (FIPs) toward correcting concerns regarding reported incidents as well as addressing the changing needs of the facility's population. SMSTU's integration of PbS into the management of the facility and the treatment of youths allows for ongoing improvements in the safety and effectiveness of the facility and its programs.

After a recent data collection cycle, the PbS team identified a need to address a critical safety area based upon suicidal

comments/ gestures by youth, and, in response, developed an FIP. Although SMSTU had zero incidents of suicidal behavior with injury across the data collection periods, the PbS process and FIP format prompted the team to proactively address the safety issues. This is just one example of how the team at SMSTU has used PbS as the catalyst for continual positive change. We believe that as more staff join the PbS process, the positive results from SMSTU's continual striving for the highest standard will be used a model from which to learn.



**Pictured: Dr. Michael Brady, Steve Harris, Jamey Welty, Cynthia Spencer and Kimberly Morgan**

### Coaches Corner - Barbara Chayt

South Mountain Secure Treatment Unit (SMSTU) exemplifies PbS goals and the expectation of continual improvement on behalf of youth. This facility continues to do great work with the FIP process by formulating effective action steps and using updates and comments to enhance communication, the development of a solid team approach, and attention to data analysis in combination with changing needs. SMSTU's preventative approach to managing risk and improving outcomes is a model for other programs.

### Data Collection Timeline

**April 1-30, 2009:** Data Collection

**May 8, 2009:** Data Entry Closed

**May 11, 2009:** Draft Reports Available

**May 22, 2009:** Draft Period Ends

**May 26, 2009:** Final Reports Online