



Chilean Officials Learn About MST from NY Providers

Local human service providers, including staff from The Children's Village, the Jewish Board of Family and Children's Services, and New York Foundling, recently provided valuable international technical assistance when they met with high ranking officials from the government of Chile to share insights into the uses and benefits of Multisystemic Therapy (MST). Chile has been utilizing MST for one year and was seeking input from U.S. experts in use of the evidence-based program model.

Among those making the trip from Chile were Juan Cristobal Lira, Undersecretary for Crime Prevention; Mayor Carolina Leitaó of Penalolen; Judge Gloria Negroni; General Marcia Rainmann, Director of Family Protection; and Rodrigo Andres Pantoja, Director of Criminal Prevention.

Seasoned bilingual therapists from CV, JBFCS, and NY Foundling, along with the developer of the MST model and local officials from the NYS Office of Children and Family Services, NYC Administration for Children's Services, and Westchester DSS talked about the success of MST. With few exceptions, the 2-day meeting was conducted in Spanish.

In addition to a technical discussion of MST implementation and operations, a fam-



The Children's Village's Paul Schiller, Asst. VP for Evidence Based Community Programs (3rd from L.); Daphne Torres, Clinical Coordinator (4th from l.); Regis McDonald, Senior Vice President for Programs & Policy (c.); were among those who joined officials from Chile and representatives of MST Services.

ily who received MST services from The Children's Village and graduated some time ago addressed the group in Spanish.

Children's Village Social Worker Curtis Dick, one of the most senior MST practitioners, was particularly moved when a family he had worked with presented on their experience. "It was totally unscripted and I wasn't expecting it to be so emotional," he said. "It was so authentic and emotionally raw. It made me feel proud and it validated the hard work that we do in MST."