

Ijeoma Achara, PsyD

Dr. Achara has worked extensively in the behavioral health field. Currently she consults with state and local government entities as well as provider organizations regarding the provision of recovery oriented care and the development of recovery oriented systems of care. Prior to her consultation activities, Dr. Achara served as the Director of Strategic Planning at the Department of Behavioral Health and Mental Retardation Services (DBH/MRS) where she was responsible for leading the transformation of Philadelphia's behavioral health system into a recovery oriented system of care. Her responsibilities were broad in scope, and in addition to managing the change process, she developed strategies to increase the leadership of people in recovery, changed clinical practices in the system, developed peer based recovery support services, identified and modified policies that were inconsistent with a recovery orientation and developed new initiatives that advanced the transformation process.

Before her work in Philadelphia, Dr. Achara served on the faculty at Yale where she worked with Connecticut's Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS) to conduct research targeting health disparities, cultural competency and the provision of recovery oriented care. Dr. Achara also supported DMHAS' recovery transformation efforts and the development of culture specific substance abuse treatment programs in Connecticut.

Dr. Achara has extensive experience in both child and adult behavioral health. In addition to the systems level work that she currently engages in, Dr. Achara has worked as a provider in various settings including hospitals, community treatment centers, and schools across the country.