

Mari is proud of many projects she did while in the fellowship. Above all, she is proud of the growth she experienced within herself. Mari feels she grew in her ability to be adaptable, she notes that working in human services means meeting your clients where they are at and that means being adaptable. She also feels she learned how to apply goal setting to her work and how to use strategic frameworks in a variety of settings. Mari feels proud of the connections she made within phase two and three of the fellowship. She also feels she enhanced her abilities to talk to people both at the individual level and when leading meetings. Some of her favorite moments within the fellowship include attending the National Prevention Network in Chicago. She enjoyed learning from the youth and other leaders throughout the nation while there.

Professionally, Mari feels she feels her growth has taken place in how she leads meetings. She works to ensure meetings are goal and action based and people feel like work is happening in an effective way. She also feels growth came from moving throughout the state. This allowed her to become versatile personally and professionally. This also helped her realize that everything will work out, even in stressful times. Personally, she also saw growth in her own cultural competency, as she lived in towns different than her own and worked to build relationships with people from different backgrounds. She found building relationships while working a fulltime job to be both challenging and rewarding and notes it as another way she was able to grow. Several opportunities have come from the fellowship and Mari feels she is able to apply her time in the fellowship to multiple fields of work. Mari now works in direct service for a supportive housing agency in New York.