

## **Chittenden County Youth in Transition (YIT) Program**

In April 2010, Chris Vaughn was hired to work full-time at Spectrum Youth and Family Services as the YIT J.O.B.S. (Jump On Board for Success) Program Case Manager for rural populations along with Hina Rizvi to work part-time as the YIT J.O.B.S. Program Case Manager for multi-cultural populations. Due to the consistent positive feedback that was received regarding the J.O.B.S. Program, the YIT J.O.B.S. Program Case Manager positions were created with the purpose of serving young adults where services and transportation are limited as well as to introduce these services to a culturally diverse setting where they have the opportunity to accept them. Hina and Chris are currently working on developing a steady caseload. The J.O.B.S. Program uses the evidence-based TIPS (Transition to Independence Process System) Transition Model to serve young adults, ages 16-21 years old, who have an emotional or behavioral disability to help them in the areas of obtaining and maintaining employment and education. If interested please contact, Chris Vaughn at 802-324-4170 or Hina Rizvi at 802-324-1160.

In June 2010, Annie Wohland, who worked for the HowardCenter Child, Youth & Family Services (CYFS) as the YIT Young Adult Facilitator for Chittenden County since July 2009, and Michelle Paquette were hired to work part-time at Spectrum Youth and Family Services as the YIT Young Adult Navigators to “provide assistance to young adults ages 16 to 21, within the target population, to secure information and connect to existing community services and resources, to ensure an informed and successful transition to adulthood.” The Young Adult Navigators will act as a referral source to connect young adults in this target population to existing community services and resources that they are not already receiving. Young adults will be identified through referrals from service providers in Chittenden County or have the option to self-refer. The hope behind creating the Young Adult Navigator positions was that they would be able to use their similarity in age-range as an advantage to relate more to this target population and for them to feel more apt to listen to their direction. The ultimate goal is for clients to receive all of the services and supports in order to meet their needs to ensure an informed and successful transition into adulthood. Annie and Michelle are currently working on meeting with service providers and education personnel in the community to inform them of the services they offer and welcome any referrals. Annie will work on writing a brochure for service providers in collaboration with the YIT Parent Transition Resource Consultant and Michelle will work on writing a brochure for young adults in collaboration with the YIT J.O.B.S. Program Case Manager for rural populations. If interested please contact, Annie Wohland at 802-864-7423 Ext. 429 or Michelle Paquette at 802-864-7423 Ext. 428.

In May 2010, Gloria Mahoney was hired to work part-time at Vermont Family Network (VFN) as the YIT Parent Transition Resource Consultant to “provide assistance to caregivers/parents of transition-age young adults within the target population, to secure information and connect to existing community resources and services to receive support for themselves and to ensure their child’s informed and successful transition to adulthood.” Gloria is currently working on meeting with service providers, education personnel and parents in the community, particularly Milton so far, to inform them of the

services she offers and welcome any referrals. Gloria is also working on planning a parent information session at the Milton Family Center in September where parents can discuss transition-age services available to them and their children ages 16-21 years old as well as any issues involved. If parents are interested, a parent support group could be established. The Young Adult Navigator positions and the Parent Transition Resource Consultant position are very similar to each other with the difference that one is targeted towards supporting young adults and the other is targeted towards supporting parents. If interested please contact, Gloria Mahoney at 802-876-5315 Ext. 228.

**-Written By, Annie Wohland, YIT Young Adult Navigator for Chittenden County**