

Compilation of Vermont's Youth in Transition (YIT) Regional Progress Reports

JANUARY TO JUNE, 2011

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Major Activities and Accomplishments during January to June, 2011

Goals for strengthening the systems of care

1: Young adult (YA) leadership is developed in VT.

Required activity:

Operate in accordance with continuing input from key stakeholders (including youth and family members) within the regional systems of care....

Addison: There is an initiative in Addison County to improve the system of corrections through the establishment of a restorative justice program. As part of this effort the Addison County Court Diversion Program sponsored a needs assessment. During this process, the Youth Advocate worked to enlist the opinions of some transition-aged youth who had some experience in dealing with corrections and court diversion. This assessment included one of the alternative high school programs as well as young adults who were directly receiving Youth In Transition (YIT) Grant services. The preliminary outcome of this needs assessment highlighted the need for more comprehensive substance abuse treatment in the area for young adults and adults alike. The results also revealed that many young adults were confused by the court process and may be uninformed about the possible treatment services available in Addison County.

Another part of this process has been identifying existing panels that could include young adults in again providing this kind of feedback. Ideas generated include encouraging youth to sit on court diversion or restorative justice boards alongside adult community members.

For trainings paid for with YIT grant funds, the Youth Advocate worked with an alternative high school program to engage youth in helping to organize and furnish the refreshments.

Bennington: Teens for Change (T4C) is our advisory group that is youth led and meets weekly to discuss issues in the community to be addressed and plan positive youth activities. There are typically 10 to 12 participants each week and the number continues to grow. The youth planned most of the activities described in this report.

T4C participants attended a town meeting hosted by VT Senator Bernie Sanders who was discussing how we can rebuild the middle class and prevent devastating cuts in federal programs that benefit our working families. T4C also attended a forum hosted by the Southshire Partnership for a Healthy Community regarding the use of medical marijuana. Guests at the meeting included Bennington Police Chief Doucette and Bennington County Senator Dick Sears. T4C members actively participated and asked questions that helped them understand the purpose of medical marijuana and the pros and cons of its use. The goal of participating in the meetings was to help the young people learn about leadership, community, and civic responsibility.

The statewide Young Adult Voice Movement (YAVM) Conference was held on May 27th and 28th. The Bennington contingent consisted of Peer Outreach Worker (POW) Katrina Hollis and 4 youth. Katrina had the honor of being presented with the first ever Young Adult Leadership Award presented by the state YIT team. Katrina was truly honored by the award. The young adults from Bennington were so proud of their "leader"!

Caledonia/So. Essex: Young adults participated in statewide events such as the Department for Children and Families (DCF) Youth Development Program (YDP) Conference held on April 5th, the Youth Town Meeting held on April 6th, and the YIT YAVM Conference held on May 27th. The Young Adult Coordinator at the state level, Matt Wolf, attended the March and May Young Adult Advisory Board Meetings to talk and educate about leadership abilities and characteristics.

Also in May, with young adults from the Living Room, the YIT Facilitator and POW planned the calendar of activities for the months of June, July, and August. These activities (tie dye, a nature walk, a pool

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tournament, and a movie day) are going well, with good participation from the young adults. .

Chittenden: The new Young Adult Navigator (YAN), Raymond Drexel was hired in March 2011 into a 30 hour/week position (to replace two former 15 hour/week YANs who left in January/February) to provide support for youth to navigate systems in the community, as well as to focus on social marketing and an online resource guide. His role is to meet with and identify youth who can work together to form an advisory board and share youth voice for all aspects of the YIT funded initiative. Raymond participated in meetings in St. Albans and Rutland about the formation of their youth advocacy boards. Chris Vaughn, JOBS Case Manager, also worked collaboratively with Raymond to develop the young adult advisory board and the Online Resource Center. Two "Chat'n'Chew" events were held at the Spectrum Drop-In Center in an effort to spark interest in participating in a youth advocacy board and the development of a broader resource mapping website project.

Franklin/Grand Isle: The Youth Leadership Team met weekly between June 2010 and June 2011. During this time, the Youth Leadership Team discussed topics that address leadership, current situations, and future goals. They used the meeting time to plan future events as well as acquire new leadership skills and abilities. The Youth Leadership Team participated in:

- Public speaking events such as *Alcohol Prevention Awareness Day* and *Mental Health Advocacy Day*.
- Training about Cultural and Linguistic Competency (CLC), Peace Jam Peer Advisors, and Illegal Substances and Detection.
- Planning the annual YAVM Conference in addition to offering a leadership workshop at both the YAVM and the Youth Workers' Conferences.
- Community meetings designed to solicit feedback from the community regarding a youth/community center in St. Albans.

In addition, the Youth Leadership Team promoted a positive image by hosting community dances that were substance and violence free zones attended by approximately 100 youth.

- Youth leaders also exhibited leadership through their own individual projects such as:
 - ✓ Volunteering with community services to protect animals.
 - ✓ Speaking to high school students about the dangers of addiction and the importance of suicide prevention.
 - ✓ Leading a mental health self-advocacy activist group.
 - ✓ Advocating with a local Town Clerk for more support for youth in rural areas.

Lamoille: The Criminal Justice Social Worker (CJSW) was able to attend the YIT Grant's YAVM Conference with one of the clients from our region.

Orange/No. Windsor: The Clara Martin Center (CMC) is actively developing three Transition-Aged Youth (TAY) Program forums (in Wilder, Bradford and Randolph) where youth will feel empowered to participate in discussions around their involvement in the system of care (SOC) and how the SOC can be expanded to better serve young adults in our community. This will be done in collaboration with a youth facilitator and youth leaders within each of these communities and may contribute to development of an agency-wide youth advisory board.

Orleans/No. Essex: The YIT Facilitator got the Youth Advisory Board (YAB) up and running with help from the DCF-YDP Coordinator. Our first meeting was February 23, 2011 with 10 young adults. Since that time the Orleans Northern Essex (ONE) YAB has met weekly with an average attendance of 8 young people ages 14-21. The YAB has participated in training with the UVM Extension Community Resource person about the roles and responsibilities of being a proper board.

The YAB is now working on a Youth Summit to be held on July 21st, 2011 about challenges facing

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young people and ideas on how to make things better. The young adults on the YAB are facilitating their own event. They have questions regarding transportation, housing, community engagement, substance abuse and family relationships as their topics. They hope to have input from other young people on these challenges and will try out a few of the ideas that come from the Summit.

Rutland: "YAC" or Young Adults 4 Change, a youth advisory council and leadership group, was established; it plans service learning projects and special events like the first CenterFest held on April 22nd.... CenterFest was a great success, with 70 youth and a total of 108 people participating. Of the 70 youth, 53 were ages 16-21. Over 19 partners participated in CenterFest by volunteering, setting up information tables, and donating raffle items. The event raised \$330. ...Staff brought one youth to Burlington for the YAVM Conference on May 27th.... Rutland's Youth of the Year, Sandy Killary, was selected from four outstanding nominees.

So. Windham: Youth from Windham County participated in multiple leadership opportunities throughout Vermont including attending the Youth in Transition (YIT) Conference in St Albans in December 2010, statewide CLC Work Group meetings in Burlington (Winter 2010/2011), and planning meetings for the YAVM Conference in Waterbury (Spring 2011). Three youth from Windham County participated in the statewide Best Practices Committee of the Vermont Coalition of Runaway and Homeless Youth Programs (VCRHYP) in March 2011; we were the only agency with youth represented on the Committee. We also brought two youth to participate in the Peer Services Committee of the Mental Health Transformation Grant. We have seven POWs employed in our county who receive regular leadership training along with other skill building training. Two POWs attended the YAVM conference.

So. Windsor/No. Windham: The Greater Windsor County T4C continues to meet twice a month for regular meetings. In addition, we supported through local fundraising three experiential learning opportunities during this reporting period. The group played paint ball, attended a map and compass orienteering training, and planned and held a community movie night. They also volunteered with the Springfield Prevention Coalition and local Humane Society.

During the last cycle of Young Adult Employment workshops, we offered the opportunity to two young adult graduates to co-facilitate, which worked extremely well. They provided experience and a "been-there-done-that" attitude that resonated well with workshop attendees. The co-facilitators gained valuable leadership and facilitation skills from their participation.

Washington: Eleven youth from the Washington region participated in this years' statewide overnight YAVM Conference held at the University of Vermont (UVM) in May 2011.... From a few possible candidates for the Youth Engagement Specialist (YES) position for the YIT Grant, we chose Kristen Howell. Kristen grew up receiving services both in Washington and Chittenden Counties so has a good grasp of available services, problems with services, and great ideas about how we can better the system of care in our region and develop youth leadership. She will be working with Amy Lincoln Moore, the YIT Washington County SOC Team Leader, and Matt Wolf, the statewide YIT Young Adult Coordinator, to build a youth advisory group.

2: Family/adult allies support young adults....

Addison: Knowledge gained from the High-Low Exhibit...In addition to the exhibit assisting clients, staff benefited from hearing from adult allies about their experiences in supporting transition-aged youth. This came as an important reminder to provide support to helpers who do not have professional or formal affiliation.

Bennington: The Youth Outreach Program (YOP) honored the "volunteer of the year" - Ana S., a parent of a teen who is an active member of T4C. Ana has volunteered to help at every event in the last year, from the end-of-summer bash, to the holiday party, to the winter bash; we can always rely on Ana. She and her

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daughter also kicked off the United Counseling Service (UCS) staff recognition luncheon this year.

Caledonia/So. Essex: In the last 6 months there were 24 young adults enrolled in the YIT program. All of those young adults could identify at least one family member or adult ally whom they feel to be supportive. 17 of the young adults reported having a family member or adult ally with whom they have a solid enough relationship to support them unconditionally.

Chittenden: YAN Raymond Drexel attended a family support meeting where young adults spoke of ways in which parents and adult allies help them. All YIT staff have made conscious efforts (in line with the Transition to Independence [TIP] Model practices) to include informal supports - as defined by each young adult client - in the treatment process. Supports have included mentors, significant others and siblings.

Bob DiMasi, the Vermont Family Network (VFN) Transition Resource Consultant (a YIT-funded Parent Navigator), hosted several events for families of transition-aged youth in collaboration with other YIT staff:

- An event was held on March 22nd at the Milton Family Center to share information and highlight the resources for parents with young adults who are having a difficult time navigating through the transition stage of life. In attendance were two families and a college student from Johnson State College, as well as JOBS-YIT Case Manager Chris Vaughn.
- An event was held on June 2nd at the Community College of Vermont (CCV) in Winooski and was attended by approximately 50 people. At this event six panelists shared their transition stories, including where they are today and how they got there. Each panelist answered specific questions posed by the moderator, as well as questions from the audience. Panelists, current or former students at Winooski High School, included:
 - A student who graduated first in his class and went on to graduate from Wentworth College.
 - Two new Americans (former refugees): a current junior and a Johnson State College student.
 - A student from Green Mountain College who has Asperger's Syndrome.
 - A student from Saint Michael's College who uses a wheel chair.
 - A young woman who had previously been incarcerated and received her diploma from Winooski through the High School Completion Program.

This event was a great collaboration between the following organizations: VFN, Vermont Student Assistance Corporation (VSAC), the Winooski Community Justice Center, and the Winooski School District. CCV provided the meeting space for free. Food was provided.

- A transition workshop was offered at the Career Planning Conference in Randolph on May 22nd. Information was presented about the transition process - particularly for students with disabilities - and the resources available to support them. Bob provided a parental perspective about having a child with a disability to the 22 school counselors, administrators and parents who attended this event at Vermont Technical College (VTC).
- In conjunction with these family events, Bob created a power point presentation entitled "Transition Planning is a Team Event!"
- During this reporting period, Bob DiMasi supported 19 families of transition-age youth with disabilities as follows: Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD): 4, Anxiety: 1, Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD): 3, Asperger's: 1, Autism: 1, Depression: 1, Dyslexia: 1, Emotional Disability (ED): 1, Learning Disability (LD): 1, Learning Impaired (LI): 2, Mental Health (?): 1, Multiple disabilities: 1, Oppositional Defiant Disorder (ODD): 1.
- He attended 3 Act 264/Coordinated Services Plan (CSP) meetings to support 3 families. His role included explaining the Act 264 process and helping families feel comfortable with it.

Franklin/Grand Isle: At least 14 parents consciously supported YIT efforts by:

- Chaperoning (Valentine's Day Dance and other event).
- Assisting with transportation for the weekly meetings.
- Encouraging youth to continue to attend weekly meetings.
- Participating in the research study.

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- Allowing youth to attend public events.

Lamoille: We have utilized the Individual Support Plan (ISP) as a means to identify family support of some kind for clients.

Orange/No. Windsor: The TAY Summer Intensive has added a family support night which aims at sharing the accomplishments of young adults with their families, increasing communication and connectedness between youth and their identified supports. The Fresh Start Program - which aims at educating underage youth with first time drug offenses - also offers a family session aimed at increasing communication and connectedness between youth and their support systems.

Orleans/No. Essex: When young people enter the program, we identify through their family/adult ally connections on a genogram map. This is so the young people can understand how different people might support them throughout their transition to adulthood. This also helps the youth worker understand where to put some extra energy in helping the young people find good supports to guide them toward their future. The YIT Facilitator provides some mediation between family members struggling with communication.

Rutland:

So. Windham: Staff from Youth Services drove youth to attend the statewide meetings/events in which they participated. Family and adult allies are included in team meetings whenever possible. A genogram and sociogram are included in our intake process to identify potential adult allies. Our on-call crisis team supports youth in identifying adult allies who might be natural supports.

So. Windsor/No. Windham:

Washington: In June the region participated in a Local Interagency Team (LIT) training on the role of parent representatives....We held a "Family Roundtable" discussion/meal for Washington County families in April. Our goal for these roundtable discussions is to empower family members to support their young adults and to assist in creating family and youth advisory capacity for the YIT grant. The 1st meeting's topic was "Secondary Transition in Special Education" presented by John Spinney of the Dept. of Education (DOE). Fifteen family members attended; all thought the presentation was helpful. The SOC Team Leader Amy Lincoln-Moore will continue this format quarterly with the following training topics requested by the families:

- 1) SOC – What services are available beyond school?
- 2) Guardianship Issues – What to do, when is it appropriate, and how to determine?
- 3) VR services - What are they and how do I get them for my young adult?

3: Workers use caring practices known to be helpful for young adults and families.

Required activity:

Provide cross-system case management and individualized service plan development, ensuring that young adults are engaged in planning for their own futures....

Addison: On April 1st 2011 the Counseling Service of Addison County (CSAC) hosted a Motivational Interviewing (MI) training that was paid for in part by YIT funds. Care providers, teachers, and other adults who come into contact with transition-aged youth were trained to use the MI framework in order to help young people enact change. The training was free for Addison County community members and, as such, was well attended. Over 130 community members attended from a wide variety of settings. Feedback from the event indicated that attendees were enthusiastic about improving their relationships with transition-aged youth through the MI framework. If this interest continues, there may a second training scheduled so community members can talk about their experience with attempts to utilize the MI approach.

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In May and June 2011 Addison County participated in the TIP evaluation and training. Staff members from the CSAC YIT, JOBS, and Hill House (a transitional living program for young adults and adults with serious and persistent mental illness) programs were represented. This training validated the CSAC manner of teaming with other programs and community partners through a SOC to help young adults. It also highlighted the need to improve the manner in which we give young adults with severe impediments to successfully transitioning to adulthood the ability to play a part in determining their own futures.

Bennington: The Youth Outreach Program (YOP) staff - along with JOBS and Transitional Living Program (TLP) staff - participated in the TIP model training in June.

Caledonia/So. Essex: The YIT Facilitator continues to make it the first priority to provide cross-system case management, individualize services for young adults in transition, and ensure that young adults are engaged in planning for their own futures. Local agencies such as the DCF Economic Services Division (including the Women, Infant, and Children – WIC program), Gilman Housing, Northeast Kingdom Learning Services (NEKLS), and Northeast Kingdom Community Action (NEKCA) all continue to be helpful to the participants engaged with the YIT program.

Chittenden: All staff from both the YIT initiative and JOBS Program studied the TIP model and completed the TIP online training modules. In June, staff attended the 2 day TIP training lead by Dr. Hewitt “Rusty” Clark and received certification for completing the TIP training.

The JOBS Case Managers provided case management and individualized treatment plan development driven by goals identified by each young adult client. Of note:

- Used breathing and meditation exercises with youth.
- Consistently provided choices and respected cultural and spiritual beliefs in direct service, case management and in development of individualized plans of care and goal setting with all clients.
- Focused on employment to increase the overall well-being and independence of clients.
- Provided support for job searches, writing cover letters and resumes, application submission, following up with employers, outreach to employers, advocating for special training and on-the-job needs.

Since beginning in March 2011, the YAN has worked with 23 young adults and helped them fill out over 40 job applications, acquire food stamps, change social security payee information, start the process towards emancipation, navigate the legal system to work out retail theft charge, connect youth to homeless shelters in the area, complete Medicaid paperwork in order to get insurance, complete resumes, and assist in getting driver's permits.

The Leadership Team discussed ways to enhance young adults' transition plans since many teams do not re-convene after the young person's initial crisis. The Team decided it made most sense to submit a list of transition questions to the Act 264 State Interagency Team (SIT) Coordinator Melissa Bailey and advocate that the questions be included in the Coordinated Services Plan (CSP) since there is a greater chance of system change if new items can be folded into an existing document.

Franklin/Grand Isle: All youth referred to YIT have an initial meeting with the Youth Coordinator to work on goals related to getting their primary needs met before joining the Youth Leadership Team. This assessment period allows appropriate referrals to be made to other services. As a result many youth also participate in JOBS, TLP or other youth-based services for extra support in areas of transition. The following are examples of ways that the providers have worked to support youth and meet them “where they are at” in order to make accessing services possible:

- ✓ Many youth do not have any means of transportation and live in very rural communities beyond public transportation. The Youth Coordinator assists youth on a daily basis with accessing appointments and resources they need from the various services in the community.
- ✓ Many times youth are in difficult situations and are too ashamed to access services such as Planned Parenthood, Economic Services, local emergency shelters, the hospital, and/ or substance abuse

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support groups. The Youth Coordinator assists youth by attending these services right alongside them.

- ✓ During this last period we had 2 youth experience sexual assaults; the system of care made itself available in the way of resources, advocacy, education, and seeking out support groups in the community that could offer wrap around care for the youth overcoming such an experience.
- ✓ On several occasions the Youth Coordinator facilitated youth obtaining medical care for sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) and provided education to the Youth Leadership Team about safe sex and STDs.
- ✓ One youth suffered from domestic abuse and homelessness. This individual was being stalked and abused. We connected her to a local women's agency that provides services to women who are being harassed and/or abused by former partners. Currently she has a place to live as well as gainful employment and is doing very well because of the SOC made available during her time of need.

Lamoille: The Behavioral Health and Wellness Division of Community Health Services of Lamoille Valley (CHSLV) has provided close clinical supervision for the Criminal Justice Social Worker (CJSW) and Peer Outreach Worker (POW) positions during the life of the grant. This is to ensure the Self-Sufficiency Matrix and Individual Support Plan (ISP) are used to engage youth.

Orange/No. Windsor: **To date** the YIT Navigator has met with 43 young adults and offered services to 19 clients who are actively enrolled in the program....The day-to-day work of the TAY Program includes identifying the individual interests and needs of each young adult and, in turn, providing "bridges" to local resources to meet those needs. We continue to engage and facilitate young adults in future planning and goal setting across relevant transition domains including employment and career, educational opportunities, living situation, personal effectiveness and wellbeing, and community life functioning. We continue to focus on individual strengths, interests and goals in order to promote engagement and motivation....Young adults are in many ways in the "driver's seat" in developing their individual service plans and goals.

Orleans/No. Essex: On any given day a young person in crisis with need for support can walk into our agency and any youth worker will be able to help him/her and provide support and information. In addition, each youth develops his/her own plan of care.

Rutland: Worker use of caring practices is accomplished by continued training. Four YIT staff participated in the TIP group interview and in the training in Burlington June 8-9th with other YIT and JOBS partners from across the state.

So. Windham: All youth in case management undergo a thorough intake process through multiple meetings, conversations and assessments including a psycho-social assessment. Youth who are eligible for services from more than one agency are referred appropriately. As needed, inter-agency meetings are held to collaborate on planning and care with agencies such as VR, Health Care and Rehabilitation Services (HCRS), and the Department of Labor (DOL). A variety of TIP strategies are used in our approach including a strengths-based focus, In-vivo teaching, and support in identifying and evaluating options (e.g., as with SODAS).

So. Windsor/No. Windham: The YIT Grant and the JOBS program staff continue to participate in all TIP program events and trainings. Over this reporting period we completed TIP modules and attended a two day advanced TIP seminar. In addition, a group of community partners meet on a bi-weekly basis to conduct informal case reviews to make sure we are collaborating and not overlooking ways to assist young adults in our region.

Washington: So that young people receive the services they need, case managers often "share" clients in true wrap-around fashion.... Flex Funds through the YIT Grant have helped young adults meet some of their

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needs. A payment voucher request form is completed by the SOC Team Leader when funds are needed and approval is signed off by Michael Curtis of Washington County Mental Health Services (WCMHS). During this reporting period, vouchers were used for gym memberships to encourage healthier living and reduce stress; cell phones and cards to help contact potential employers and landlords; and clothes for employment and maternity.

4: System of care partners gain cultural & linguistic competence (CLC)....

Addison:

Bennington:

Caledonia/So. Essex: The YIT Facilitator continued the process of educating herself about CLC by attending the following training events:

* "Gender Identity, Harassment and Creating Positive Communities for Youth," on February 17, 2011 in Montpelier.

* "Retooling Youth Programs for Racial Equity," on March 17, 2011 in Montpelier.

* "Class Shouldn't Determine a Youth's Future – Thoughts on Leveling the Playing Field," on April 14, 2011 in Montpelier.

Chittenden: The part-time clinician position focusing on work with multicultural youth was refilled in December 2010 after the departure of former staff (Hina Rizvi) in October 2010. The new staff, Linda Li, was trained and began making connections in the community as well as serving clients starting in January 2011. Linda supported approximately 20 young adults with various cultural backgrounds (from Nepal, Bhutan, Somalia, Congo, and Kenya) and maintained a caseload of 12 young adults. She was able to refer a young woman to counseling through the Connecting Cultures Program and the Spectrum Counseling Program. Linda established working relationships with interpreters, both locally and through phone interpreting services, and made significant connections in the Winooski School District through referrals by the Winooski High School nurse. Additional efforts included extensive work with Refugee Resettlement and facilitating a parents' support and resource night for the Association of Africans Living in Vermont (AALV), where there was a strong turnout and several resulting referrals. Linda also attended a Train-the-Trainers workshop for interpreters working with mental health agencies. She left on maternity leave at the beginning of June and will return to her position in September.

Chris Vaughn gained increased CLC through interaction with representatives from the AALV and Refugee Resettlement during Creative Workforce Solutions (CWS) meetings. He also gained competence in regard to Nepali, Vietnamese, Somali and Chinese cultures through direct service work with a Vietnamese client and through explanations given by Linda Li.

Bob DiMasi gave two presentations in January and February to the AALV about VFN and YIT services and resources. He also attends the monthly Refugee Immigrant Service Provider Network meeting to keep current on the New American population in Vermont and the agencies serving them.

In addition to the activities described above, the YIT brochure was translated into Somali and Arabic and is being translated into 4 other languages.

Franklin/Grand Isle: On May 19, 2011 Northwest Counseling and Support Services (NCSS) hosted two CLC trainings by the statewide YIT CLC Coordinator Mercedes Avila - one for NCSS staff and one for YIT community partners. Overall the participants totaled 40+. The community partners included St. Albans police, social service agencies, Caring Communities, high school staff, the Community Justice Center, VFN, and other youth and women's advocacy groups.

Lamoille:

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Orange/No. Windsor: Mark Mitchell, YIT case manager, is involved with the state-level YIT CLC Work Group and provides expertise and insight into Native American cultures. Cate Beaton, TAY Coordinator and YIT supervisor, provides expertise and insight into Latina Culture and the bicultural experience in America. The TAY Team consistently gains and evaluates input from youth as to where services can be best accessed by youth. The Team reaches out to youth in their preferred environments including teen centers and homeless shelters. Youth are encouraged to share their culture in a safe environment free of judgment, and staff is encouraged to ask youth questions about their language and culture.

Orleans/No. Essex:

Rutland:

So. Windham: Youth from Windham County attended statewide CLC Work Group meetings. Youth Services also planned an all-staff training day about CLC (with statewide YIT CLC Coordinator Mercedes Avila) to happen in July 2011.

So. Windsor/No. Windham:

Washington:

5: Local communities (including young adults) change their perceptions of young adults and of mental health issues, reducing stigma....

Addison: In February of 2011 the Youth in Transition Program worked alongside the Addison County Parent Child Center and the VCRHYP to host the High-Low Exhibit. Over 150 community members attended the exhibit during its 2-week tenure in downtown Middlebury. While the event generated a small sum of donations that were funneled for direct program use, the benefit of the exhibit is better highlighted by the community response. Community members spoke of how struck they were by the exhibit and of profound realization of the challenges faced by young adults around the state and in Addison County.

Staff of the Youth & Family Program at CSAC were encouraged to use the exhibit with their client populations. Clinicians reported that bringing clients to the exhibit opened up conversations that had previously been unexplored. Many clients felt validated by the exhibit, citing that the stories featured in the exhibit echoed their own.

Bennington: T4C worked with the Southshire Partnership for a Healthy Community and engaged in a "Sticker Shock" Campaign. The T4C group went to local stores who sold alcohol and put stickers on alcoholic beverages which stated the offense for serving minors alcohol. The T4C group passed this information to other teens in the community.

In February 2011 the T4C group hosted a Winter Bash at the Moose Lodge. There was a D.J., food, prizes, and X Box Kinect. Aarons Rental donated a 52 inch TV so the young people could play the X Box Kinect and others could cheer them on. There were more than 50 community youth at the event. There were many new faces in this fairly diverse group of young people. One particular young adult who attended was in a wheel chair and danced the night away. It was heartwarming that several youth engaged with her and danced with her throughout the event. The event cost less than \$300.00 due to the on-going generosity of our local businesses. Businesses donated food, drinks, prizes, and the Moose Lodge donated their space and staff for clean up.

T4C planned and hosted its first community recognition luncheon. The luncheon recognized all 41 businesses that donated to our events this past year. Not all were able to attend, but those that did were honored with a plaque as special thanks for their generosity. The T4C participants personally delivered the plaques to the businesses that were not able to attend the luncheon. The local businesses were really

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impressed. Many stated that they could not ever remember being honored by a youth group for donating gifts or money to an event. (The next time you wander around Bennington, pay close attention to the businesses you enter; you will most likely see the plaques hung up on the walls!)...As a surprise to the T4C group, we also gave all the T4C youth a plaque for their hard work and dedication.

Caledonia/So. Essex: We are in the process of creating an interactive booth that we will take to local community events such as fairs and farmer's markets to educate the community on the stigma of mental illness and how to deliver services to young adults.

Chittenden: YIT staff Chris Vaughn and Raymond Drexel worked with young adults to change the Church Street Marketplace's views about youth accessing support from Spectrum.

Franklin/Grand Isle: Through the active participation of youth in community meetings, panel discussions, and peers sharing with peers, mental health topics such as suicide, substance abuse, eating disorders, self-harm/cutting, and depression have become a consistent part of general discourse. A total of 5 participants from YIT participated in a rally at the statehouse to speak out about budget cuts to mental health programs. In addition:

- Local institutions such as Bellows Free Academy, the district DCF office, and Spectrum have invited youth leaders to participate in meetings as experts on what youth need.
- Youth are a welcome part of YIT/Juvenile Justice meetings.
- Youth have also been welcomed into the NCSS environment as contracted employees, volunteers, and interns, making youth voice readily available in our mental health community.

In addition, many organizations have partnered with the YIT Program to support events such as the Regional Franklin/Grand Isle YIT Conference and the development of a community center for youth/young adults. Community partners collaborating with YIT include MouseTrap Pediatrics, Caring Communities, Northeast Family Institute (NFI), area high schools and school districts, DOC, City Council members, Senator Leahy's office, DCF, VT Works for Women, Covered Bridge, St. Albans Police Department, Spectrum, Community Justice Center, VDH, local business owners, the American Legion, members of the faith community; youth center advocates, Alcoholics Anonymous (AA), and other organizations such as the Boys and Girls Club, Voltage Team, and local citizens.

Lamoille: LCC as well as the Local Interagency Team (LIT) Parent Peer Advocate contacted the VFFCMH in order to consult on methods to reduce stigma. VFFCMH sent LCC an application for a mini-grant to organize an event in which youth promote their identity. The application was presented by LCC to the YIT Steering Committee with recommendation to submit a proposal but no proposal was submitted during the reporting period.

Orange/No. Windsor: The TAY groups are community based and utilize local businesses, facilitating positive interactions in the community and with community members. The current TAY Summer Intensive has a community service component to encourage group members to contribute to the community through volunteerism. TAY group members are exploring ways in which to share their positive experiences in the system of care with the local community in an effort to reduce stigma.

Orleans/No. Essex: The work we have been doing helping the young people develop the Youth Advisory Board is aimed to help in this area.... Through the Youth Advisory Board, we will be hosting many youth/young adult events where the youth will have a chance to express some of their challenges and share ideas of how to make positive changes in our community as well as in our system. They have been preparing for a large Youth Summit. This Youth Summit is the first with many more events to come....They have already started getting involved in the community by participating in the Community Garden and meeting with the Newport City's Zoning Administrator to learn how to help make the community a better

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place for young people.

Rutland: Four YIT volunteers and staff participated in the Martin Luther King Jr. (MLK) Day of Service January 19th at Grace Congregational Church by preparing food for a free soup luncheon and decorating the room with MLK quotes.

So. Windham: Our Drop-In Night program hosted a suicide prevention information session.

So. Windsor/No. Windham: T4C has formed a new partnership with the Springfield Prevention Coalition. They helped organize and execute the "Got Dreams" video contest which highlighted ways young adults spend their time without drugs and alcohol and the "Sticker Shock" campaign which helped raise awareness of underage drinking. In addition, T4C partnered with the local Humane Society to assist with opening a new wing of the shelter. So far the group has completed debris removal, painted the new addition, and drawn a sketch for a mural that may be painted in the new wing.

Washington: The We Eliminate Stigma Together (WEST) pilot demonstrated that schools cannot provide the desired administrative support, so this YIT social marketing campaign is being re-designed.

6: Effectiveness of the Vermont SOC for young adults with serious emotional disturbance (SED) is evaluated.....

Addison: At the end of June, 10 youth participated in the VCHIP focus group which sought to determine the level that at which youth felt they were given the power to influence their own services and treatment. Youth present at this focus group were referred by a wide variety of service providers including the parent child center, the foster care system, JOBS, and the YIT program. The heterogeneity of the group was due in part to successful communication with community partners as well as the use of program funds to pay for transportation and child care arrangements.

Bennington: UCS and the YOP are active participants in the YIT evaluation.... YOP staff are tracking the number of referrals coming in with deferred sentences who then successfully complete requirements; YOP staff want to compare this data with the state average as one way to measure the effectiveness of YOP.

Caledonia/So. Essex: Most of the information we receive about the effectiveness of the SOC in this region is reported to us by the young adults at their advisory board meetings. They explain what does/does not work and what changes they would like to see.

Chittenden:

Franklin/Grand Isle: Ebony Nyoni, YIT case manager, continues to enroll youth in the UVM Study of YIT, which now includes Services and Cost data tracking, six month/year follow- ups, plus the initial interviews. The UVM Evaluation Team has been instrumental in obtaining valuable information that can later be used to inform us of our SOC's effectiveness as well as opportunities for improvement.... NCSS internal measures such as 90 day reviews and six month follow-ups help us gauge the progress and needs for each youth who comes through our doors. Treatment Team Meetings which include youth and SOC providers are used to determine whether individual goals are being met and the right services are being accessed. In addition - through participation in meetings, panels, and focus group - youth in our area have been given a voice to express their needs and views on current services.

Lamoille: The effectiveness of the Vermont SOC for young adults with SED is limited by gaps in housing, stable transportation, as well as employment.

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Orange/No. Windsor: Evaluation occurs via qualitative feedback gained through focus groups and open communication with young adults utilizing the SOC.

Orleans/No. Essex: UVM has been conducting studies that young people are completing; the data is being shared statewide.

Rutland:

So. Windham: Youth Services hosted a focus group in June 2011 in which 13 youth participated to give feedback to YIT evaluators about the local SOC.

So. Windsor/No. Windham: Working with the statewide Evaluation Team, we have identified areas where our region is being effective and where we have room for improvement. We will continue to work to bring community partners into the fold to become TIP-informed. By doing so we believe we can get all members of the community who work with transition age youth on the same page, thereby strengthening our local SOC.

Washington: We met with the YIT Evaluation Team from VCHIP-UVM at our SOC team meeting in May 2011 and learned that young adults currently receiving services could be enrolled into the evaluation whether or not they need Flex Funds from the YIT Grant. We signed up all eligible clients (with SED or at risk of SED) served through Mental Health and Developmental Services, including those still in school. This substantially increased the number of young adults enrolled in the YIT Grant Common, Vermont, and National Studies. The SOC Team Leader helps with the evaluation by keeping paperwork on the Flex Funds paid out, the 6/12/18/ month follow-ups, disclosures/releases for those who age out of the SOC or move from Washington County, and quarterly Services and Cost Study data for those who are enrolled in the National Study.

7: The State supports and sustains regional services for young adults....

Addison:

Bennington:

Caledonia/So. Essex: This region is in contact with the state YIT team, primarily the Social Marketing Coordinator and the Young Adult Coordinator. They offer help in regards to young adult activities and young adult advisory boards.

Chittenden: Chris Vaughn met with Matt Wolf twice to discuss how the state-level YIT may support local efforts, specifically regarding a young adult advocacy board and the Online Resource Center.

Franklin/Grand Isle: The State YIT Operations Team has been wonderful in responding to the needs of the regions. For example, Mercedes Avila provided CLC trainings for multiple Franklin/ Grand Isle communities within the span of one day. She provided much needed educational resources and support. Matt Wolf has provided overwhelming support to members of our youth group and community. Courtney Bridges designs conferences with the pulse of youth community, and Brenda Bean supports us with daily emails informing us of current statistical information and news that help to inform the work we do.

Lamoille: Our region has vocalized the need for quarterly meetings with other regions to learn from each other and continue to develop the regional plan for the YIT project.

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Orange/No. Windsor: The VCRHYP, JOBS (a partnership between Vocational Rehabilitation and Mental Health), substance abuse services, Health Care Careers, and VTGREEN are state programs working in this region in partnership with the Clara Martin Center (CMC) and YIT.

Orleans/No. Essex: The YIT Facilitator has been working with one of the Young Adult State Coordinators. This relationship has been very helpful and effective in providing communication and support to the local level.....Also, our YAB applied for a \$500.00 grant from the VFFCMH to help cover the cost of the Youth Summit. This was very exciting because it was the first grant they wrote as a board.

Rutland: Sustained services can be developed by continued reporting.

So. Windham:

So. Windsor/No. Windham: The YIT staff and T4C have actively participated in all statewide YIT functions. The statewide YIT Young Adult Coordinator Matt Wolf has been an asset in our work to strengthen our local steering committee. He has also provided a framework and advice for implementing a peer-to-peer outreach program.

Washington: Courtney Bridges', now the Marketing Manager for the statewide YIT Grant, helped Amy Lincoln-Moore, the SOC Team Leader, pilot test the WEST social marketing campaign in Washington County.

Desired outcomes for young adults of transition age

1. Decreased number of young adults involved in the corrections system (including an increase in the number who are free of incarceration).

Required activity:

Reach out to young adults with SED who are out-of-school - at least through teen centers, recovery centers, homeless youth programs, and by intercepting them at critical intervention points with the juvenile and criminal justice systems....

Addison: The Youth Advocate continues to have a regular presence at teen centers throughout Addison County as part of his weekly schedule. He meets with youth whom teen center staff identify as in need of assistance and with emergent needs which may lead to involvement with the justice system. The Youth Advocate also maintains regular communication with the ACCESS crisis team and meets with youth in crisis whose emergent needs may be leading to involvement with the justice system.

Bennington: The YOP has made significant connections with Probation and Parole, which often refers first-time offenders and those on deferred sentences. Because it can be difficult for young people to successfully complete deferred sentences without on-going supports, one of the goals of the YOP program is to increase the success rate of young people completing their deferred sentencing requirements. During this period, the YOP worked with at least three young people who successfully completed their deferred sentences.

YOP staff is aware of worker turnover within programs and makes an effort to connect with new leadership such as the new director at Turning Point, the local recovery center. On-going outreach to Turning Point continues to be an important way to engage young people struggling with recovery issues.

Caledonia/So. Essex: During this report period, the YIT program has had 3 young adults who were involved in the Diversion program successfully complete their contract requirements. This was a result of the young adults working closely with the YIT Facilitator to meet those goals, as well as of their personal motivation.

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Chittenden: In January, the YIT Leadership Team invited Martha Maksym of United Way and Andy Strauss, State's Attorney, to a meeting to discuss truancy. Martha and Andy shared their respective experiences with the Truancy Task Force and court system, and the Team discussed whether it should advocate for statute change regarding the age at which a student can decide to drop out.

Disseminated literature regarding support available through YIT...Worked with the DCF probation officers of SC, BM and JL to help these young adults meet the terms of their juvenile probation and develop strategies for staying out of the adult corrections system....Set up volunteering opportunities to work off community service and developed strategies for meeting the other terms of each individual's probation.

Franklin/Grand Isle: A high percent of the youth we serve have been or currently are a part of the criminal justice system. The Franklin Grand Isle YIT has partnered with the community justice center as part of the one stop shop initiative. This entails making available all the services one would need as they transition out of DOC. YIT is contacted before a youth or young adult's release date. This allows the Youth Coordinator to meet with the youth while in prison to determine the needs of the individual upon being released.

The local quarterly YIT/ Juvenile Justice Meeting provides opportunity for service providers to be educated, informed, and united on best practices and alternative solutions for youth transitioning out of the DOC, DCF, NCSS Adolescent Services, secondary education, and pediatric care. The Youth Leadership Team, JOBS, and substance abuse treatment are designed to help keep youth and young adults out of DOC by helping them obtain the resources they need to transition into adulthood successfully. Court Diversion is another successful program in this region designed to keep youth out of jail. Having a proactive response for our system's youth who age out has proven effective as our county's number of youth entering into the DOC has decreased.

Lamoille: Monthly meetings have been scheduled between the Criminal Justice Social Worker (CJSW) and the Morrisville Police Department, the Stowe Police Department, and the Lamoille County Sheriff. Also, the YIT Project is working with the State's Attorney, Joel Paige, to create a formal system whereby the YIT project will be considered a condition of release during the sentencing process.

Orange/No. Windsor: By January of 2011, the CMC's JOBS participants reported the following:

- 18% experienced current or past involvement in DOC.
- 23% experienced current or past involvement in juvenile justice.
- 25% experienced current or past involvement in child protective services.

Of those participants who reported involvement with DOC, 42% re-offended while receiving JOBS services and 17% violated probation. No JOBS participants without prior involvement in the criminal justice system offended.

Orleans/No. Essex: The YIT Facilitator attends truancy meetings, Family Safety Planning (FSP) meetings, and treatment team meetings. When young people are not attending school, they are automatically referred to the YIT Facilitator. Regular on-going meetings with probation officers happen to ensure that young people on probation are doing what they need to do in order to stay out of jail. Just recently, our YIT Facilitator went to court with a young man involved with juvenile justice to advocate that this young person go to Valley Vista for substance abuse treatment instead of going to jail.

Rutland: The Center staff continues street outreach and open hours for drop-in, serving lunch, and engaging youth to build trust and caring relationships. During this time period a total of 199 unduplicated youth were served; a total of 688 visits were made to The Center; 399 lunches were served; and 140 referrals were made.

The Center offers volunteer, service learning and internship opportunities for youth referred from many local organizations including Restorative Justice/ Diversion, Drug Court, Rutland High School, Vermont Adult Learning (VAL), and many more. Some of the opportunities are for those who have been court mandated to put in hours; others are for those looking for job experience. When The Center has a working relationship with

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a youth, it seems as though he/she is less likely to follow a path of crime. This may be because the youth does not want to disrupt the relationship or disappoint those who support him/her at The Center.

So. Windham: Peer Outreach Workers (POWs) do street outreach on a weekly basis except in winter. This spring we began a monthly music night that is substance free and provides a safe space for youth to gather and engage constructively. Youth Services also hosts a weekly Drop-In Night (Tuesdays, 6-9 p.m.) at the local Boys and Girls Club, where the space includes pool and ping pong tables, a half basketball court, an indoor skate park, computer lab, music room, and a big projection screen for watching movies. We bring lists of employment opportunities each week. 25-40 youth attend the Drop-In Nights. The POWs and Youth Services Case Managers staff these events; all are available to assist with housing and Economic Services applications, resume building, emotional support, and recreational activities. The staff lead groups focused on housing (like looking for an apartment), budgeting, employment, sexual health, nutrition, etc.

We work closely with the DOC Community High School and local probation officers to identify youth who are in need of case management services. We reach out to the police social worker (who also works for HCRS); she is aware of the youth we serve. When youth in case management cross paths with the juvenile and criminal justice systems, staff and youth work together with the youth's legal representatives and/or probation officers to plan for the best future for the youth.

So. Windsor/No. Windham: We established a relationship with probation officers and with the local DOC Community High School. We work closely with the probation officers to help young adults transitioning from DOC establish healthy connections in the community. We work closely with the classroom teachers to create experiential learning opportunities for students outside of the classroom. Young adults affiliated with Probation and Parole have participated in T4C, the Young Adult Employment Workshops, and received targeted transition facilitation.

We also continue to work closely with young adult shelters. The Mountainside Shelter and The House at 20 Mile Stream provide healthy activities for their residents, including participation in T4C, young adult workshops and help with general transition.

Washington: The SOC Team Leader has done outreach to youth/young adults through contacting and visiting schools, teen centers and AHS agencies. The Team Leader introduced herself to agency personnel and gave them pamphlets about the YIT Grant and the SOC Team Leader's role within the grant and the Washington County community. Five referrals were received through this outreach. These five young adults have mental health diagnoses but are not necessarily getting services through local mental health agencies. Outreach to these other agencies allowed them to become part of the work of the YIT Grant....To the best of our knowledge, no youth who have participated in the YIT activities have been incarcerated and none are currently involved with DOC.

2. Increased number of young adults who are employed....

Addison: Of youth receiving direct services from YIT staff, 4 obtained employment through this grant period.

Bennington: Employment opportunities were made possible through a connection with the DOL and the Bennington JOBS Program at UCS. One collaborative effort between YOP, JOBS, and VTGreen supported and funded a young man to start a lawn care business. The funds were used to purchase lawn care equipment, insurance, business cards, clothing, and advertising.

In June 2010, the YOP Outreach Worker Katrina Hollis worked with the local parent child center (Sunrise) and the DOL to develop a summer work program which was funded through federal Summer Youth Employment Funds. For 2011 the funds were not available but Katrina worked with Sunrise and DOL to continue the summer program. The intent of the program is to provide 5 young people with the opportunity to learn about their community and develop leadership and jobs skills. The summer work experience will include

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visiting local resources and - based on those visits - identifying a gap or issue in the community, facilitating a focus group, and planning an activity to address the gap identified through the resource visits and focus group. Results of the program will be included in the next reporting period.

Caledonia/So. Essex: 11 of the 24 young adults enrolled in the YIT program during this reporting period have had either part-time or full-time employment. 5 of those individuals found employment while participating in the YIT program.

Chittenden: Chris Vaughn utilized Creative Workforce Solutions (CWS)/VR/VABIR-sponsored hiring practices to facilitate placements (1 Temp-To-Hire, 1 On-the-Job-Training)...Maintained active participation in CWS job developers' coalition. Gained applicable job leads and strategies for increasing job placements. Regularly used Salesforce to learn of and share job leads....Engaged in regular job development conversations with hiring managers and business owners throughout Chittenden County. Met with Mark Rowell to discuss a potential vocational training program at Bike Recycle VT. All of this helped individual clients as follows:

JL – Worked extensively on job search skills; gained employment at International House of Pancakes (IHOP) through a family connection; currently working on strategies for maintaining employment.

ZC – Developed a strategy for tactfully and proactively explaining to employers his inability to pass a background check; worked on job search skills including resume and cover letter writing; job development using Temp-To-Hire as the conversation starter; successful placement in a traditional hire (didn't end up using Temp-To-Hire) at Healthy Living Natural Foods.

BT – Worked extensively on job search and on-the-job skills; job development with Eco Tek Janitorial Services; On-the-Job (OJT) placement began June 7, 2011.

LW – Worked on job search and on-the-job skills; job development with Outdoor Gear Exchange (OGE); placement at OGE using Temp-To-Hire; repair work with OGE after Temp-To-Hire was ended prematurely; advocated for a second chance traditional hire; LW has been successful in this role for over a month.

DT – Extensive work around self-esteem and on-the-job skills; with Linda Li, job development and placement at Asiana House Restaurant.

KD – Has maintained employment at International Business Machines (IBM) since August 2010; ongoing support for maintaining employment.

MB – Has maintained employment at Car Quest for over a year; ongoing support around exploring career change.

Franklin/Grand Isle: Employment is promoted as a part of transition work. Through the NCSS integrated design of Children's Services, we are able to work closely with the JOBS program helping youth get jobs. In addition, youth have been referred to other employment services including VR, DOL, and the Small Business Bureau. Out of 13 youth leaders who began YIT without jobs, 7 were able to obtain employment while participating in the YIT SOC.

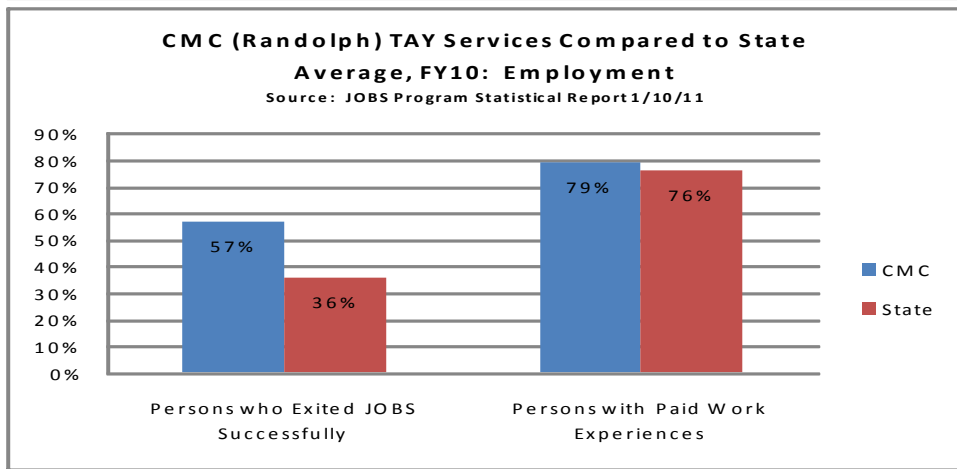
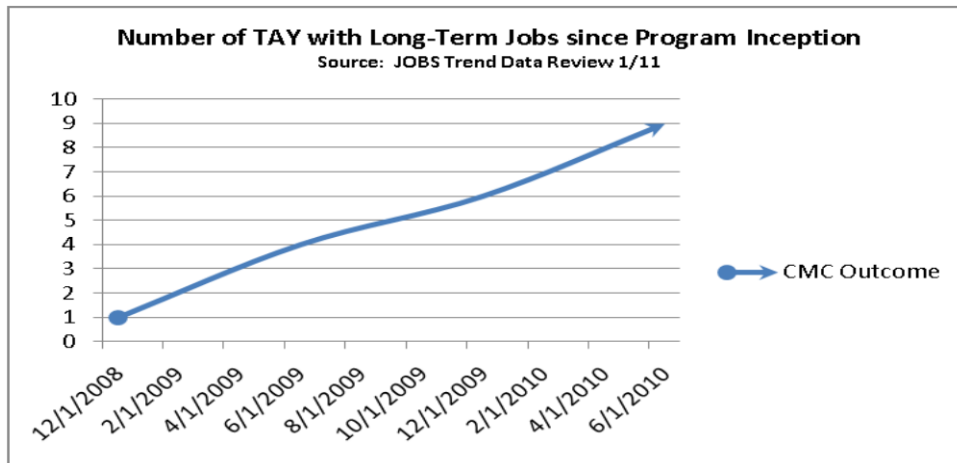
Lamoille: During the last reporting period it was determined that existing local resources are sufficient to help YIT clients with employment. YIT has collaborated with JOBS, DOL, and VR to enhance employment opportunities for clients. The relationship with the JOBS Program has been strengthened by a monthly meeting for referrals and case review.

Orange/No. Windsor: The CMC added VTGREEN services for at-risk young adults in 2010. VTGREEN is a partnership with the Central Vermont Community Action Council that prepares Vermonters for careers in the green industry; this partnership includes training, credentialing and job development services.

The CMC facilitated the second year of Health Care Careers for Young Adults in partnership with Gifford Medical Center, VR, and DOL. Health Care Careers is a five-week paid work experience program in which at-risk young adults prepare for careers in the health care industry.

The CMC JOBS employment results as of early January, 2011 were:

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Orleans/No. Essex: Employment is a big challenge in our area. The Northeast Kingdom has the highest unemployment rates in Vermont. It is hard for an adult to find a job, never mind a youth. NEKCA received a VTGREEN grant from VCRHYP to provide green training and jobs to young people. YIT youth along with many others are referred to the VTGREEN Coordinator.

NEKCA Youth Services did some outreach to non-traditional community partners like the Newport Recreation Department and the Northwood's Stewardship Center. Through this process we were able to find 5 of our young people jobs for the summer.

We have also been successful with finding volunteer/community service jobs for young people in our program. This was implemented to help young people determine their true employment interests. Some of the volunteer positions we set up are in a humane society, beauty salon, carpentry, thrift store, and a bakery. We believe that by offering opportunities for the youth/young adult to volunteer, we are adding to their self-worth which will empower them and help them grow as people.

Rutland: Youth volunteering at The Center receive career exploration, resumes, references, and job skills to help them succeed and reach their goals. The Center has been able to increase youth employment by providing mock interview workshops, more extensive resume help, multiple job search resources, interview clothing through donations and thrift shops, work attire through other funding, and transportation (bus passes).

The Center's Community Outreach staff attended two Three Steps Forward meetings with the Rutland Regional Workforce Investment Board (WIB). We are part of the program they are beginning for 15 to 25 year old women to help them gain skills in technology and become more employable.

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So. Windham: As a regular part of our work, all case management staff support youth in seeking, applying for, and retaining employment. We meet monthly to do case reviews with JOBS case management staff. We often collaborate with VR, and one of our case management staff runs the VTGREEN Program to help youth secure jobs and training in the green economy. We work collaboratively with the DOL both to help youth develop job readiness and employment skills and to provide referrals for programs such as the Youth Agriculture Program (YAP). Four Youth Services clients are engaged in the YAP "Work and Learn" agricultural program this year.

So. Windsor/No. Windham: 5 young adults were hired into competitive employment.

Washington: 5 – including help maintaining a summer job.

3. Increased number of young adults participating in (or who completed) educational programs....

Addison: Of youth receiving direct services from YIT staff, 3 graduated from high school, 4 enrolled in a high school completion program, 3 applied and were accepted into college, and 1 was accepted into Job Corps.

Bennington: YOP helps young people connect with the Tutorial Center and the DOC Community High School. As a result, 1 participant earned his GED, becoming the first in his family to complete high school level academics. The Transition Programs staff (YOP, JOBS, and TLP) hosted a graduation party for him and his family; more than 30 people came to help him celebrate. Another youth is scheduled to receive his diploma by the end of the summer.

Caledonia/So. Essex: 9 of the 24 young adults were enrolled in an educational program during the reporting period. 3 individuals completed high school and 1 completed a vocational/technical certificate (enrolling in and completing the certificate in 3 months).

Chittenden: Ongoing collaboration with VAL both in Burlington and Milton as well as with Job Corps, Youthbuild and local school systems.

DT – Worked on strategies for maintaining active participation in VAL; advocated for (and was awarded) a full scholarship for an art education class at Burlington City Arts and worked with a local art supply retailer to donate all required supplies; no client follow through with either of these efforts.

SC – Supported a Job Corps tour and additional alternative placement exploration; worked to develop strategies for maintaining participation in school.

BM – Supported this young person in re-engaging in his education; worked on strategies for maintaining engagement at YouthBuild.

CH – Finishing second semester at CCV; worked on strategies for time management and maintaining participation in college.

JL – Many discussions regarding school choices; advocacy at Individualized Education Plan (IEP) meetings, quarterly reviews, and team meetings.

Franklin/Grand Isle: Lifelong learning is encouraged as part of a youth's development, and a number of education programs support the SOC such as local high schools, the DOC Community High School, and VAL. One youth participated in the Learning Together Program (LTP) which assists teen moms in graduating from high school while also offering parenting and transitional supports. This year about a third of YIT participants transitioned into post-secondary endeavors including at the Job Corps in Vermont and Maine, CCV, and Castleton College. Recently YIT hosted a transition ceremony for several youth moving away to further their educational opportunities. Ted Mable (NCSS Executive Director) greeted them and wished them well in their endeavors.

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Lamoille: A strong partnership with Adult Basic Education (ABE) continues to be a success for the YIT Project; 25% of the YIT clients are enrolled in ABE.

Orange/No. Windsor: The CMC continues to work with young adults who are at risk for dropping out of school by helping to provide and seek alternative education options while implementing motivational strategies for them to continue in school until options can be provided....Currently we have 14 young adults in the TAY Summer Intensive enrolled in "green education". With use of VTGREEN funds, the CMC will be offering a Wilderness First Aid and CPR class to young adults utilizing the SOC.

Education Status at JOBS Intake

Source: JOBS Program Statistical Report, 1/10/11

Attending HS	59%
Left HS w/o Finishing	25%
Has GED	2%
Has HSD	14%
Unknown	0%
Was on an IEP	68%

Education Services for JOBS Participants

Source: JOBS Program Statistical Report, 1/10/11

Help Staying in HS	71%
Help Returning to HS	7%
Help w/ Alternatives	39%

Education Outcomes

Source: JOBS Program Statistical Report, 1/10/11

Furthered HS Education	39%
Earned GED	0%
Earned HSD	29%

Orleans/No. Essex: One of the first things we ask about with young people is education. If they are not enrolled in high school or haven't completed their high school diploma, we help them figure out the barriers and find the type of structure they need to be able to complete it.....Also, by attending the truancy meetings we are able to have access to a list of names and contact information for any and all youth/young adults who are struggling with going to school.

Rutland: We have been working very closely with Job Corps. The Center has been able to help two individuals get accepted to this wonderful program and have another youth in the process of applying now....The Center has also helped two youth find the courage to enroll at CCV for the fall semester.

So. Windham: All case management staff support the youth with whom we work in seeking, applying for, and successfully completing the next possible stage in their education whether secondary, vocational or college. We help youth schedule and prepare for GED tests, alternative high school completion routes, as well as apply for financial aid to help with college or training programs.

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So. Windsor/No. Windham: 4 young adults were connected to VAL; 3 were supported to stay in high school; 2 were connected to CCV.

Washington: 4, including work to complete a high school diploma and a collaboration with VR for one young adult to receive Licensed Nurses' Aid (LNA) training.

4. Increased number of young adults who have access to, and are using, a medical home....

Addison: CSAC has not explored improving this youth outcome due to lack of perceived need in Addison County.

Bennington: YOP provides assistance with obtaining health insurance and supports through the DCF Economic Services Division and helps make health care connections. This has proved challenging as the Primary Care Provider (PCP) options in our area are limited.

Caledonia/So. Essex: During this report period, 22 of the 24 young adults enrolled had active insurance and a primary care physician. 5 of those individuals applied/re-applied for insurance while with YIT.

Chittenden: Supported multiple youth with the application process for the Vermont Health Access Program (VHAP) and Medicaid; encouraged and set up appointments for doctor visits; worked with the Adolescent Health Clinic and Community Health Center to schedule appointments and get appropriate referrals to medical care; supported clients in the hospital emergency room following crisis.

Franklin/Grand Isle: More young adults are beginning to access a medical home, with some of our community partner physicians treating youth for addiction, providing counseling, and encouraging youth to participate in support groups related to mental health and well-being. The YIT Coordinator has accompanied youth to medical appointments and on several occasions has facilitated the youth obtaining medical care for sexually-transmitted diseases (STDs).

Lamoille: A medical home has been established and is operational in Morrisville weekly for drop-in medical assistance for youth in transition.

Orange/No. Windsor: The CMC TAY Team members work closely with community medical offices to help youth access medical care and assist youth in obtaining health insurance as needed

Orleans/No. Essex: Health insurance has been a challenge for many of the young people with whom we are working. Even if they do have health insurance, they don't typically go to the doctor annually; they go when they are sick. We have been working with the VDH and Head Start to set up some informal meetings with the young people who attend our Teen Center.

Another barrier in health care in our region is the lack of dental insurance. The State does not cover dental care except for youth who have VHAP if they are in severe pain, have bleeding, or the tooth needs to be extracted. This is resulting in a very large population aged 18 or over who have significant tooth decay.

Rutland:

So. Windham:

So. Windsor/No. Windham: 7 Young Adults were enrolled in Medicaid and supported to find primary care physicians.

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Washington: 2

5. Increased number of young adults living in safe and stable housing....

Addison: Of youth receiving direct services from YIT staff, 4 youth transitioned from homelessness to safe and stable housing....Safe and stable housing continues to be a barrier to successful transition amongst youth with emotional-behavioral disorders in Addison County. Usage of host homes prior to the age of 18 remains low outside those youth who are not in DCF custody. Applicants must be screened for their readiness to successfully use transitional housing opportunities so they do not jeopardize the youth and families who are already successfully using them. The Youth Advocate has been working with the housing team in the adult outpatient/CRT programs at CSAC to aid in developing procedures for transition-aged youth to benefit from a shelter plus care arrangement. The team has had success in reaching out to adult homeless shelters to provide services to transition-aged youth who are seeking housing.

One conversation that was generated following the success of the High-Low Exhibit in Middlebury was the role held by community members who take in transition-aged youth when there are not housing alternatives. During the winter months we are aware of few young adults living on the streets; however, we know this does not mean all youth who were insecurely housed suddenly find stability. Rather, it is the efforts of their family members, parents of significant others, distant relatives, and family friends who keep the transition-aged youth out of the cold. A story was told by one community member of caring for a young adult in such a manner – of being motivated by altruism but feeling isolated in the predicament. What this indicates is a need for support of community members who are informally providing housing.

Bennington: The transition services through UCS are all connected, and youth who are experiencing housing issues are seamlessly referred to the Transitional Living Program (TLP). In addition, during this period the Youth Service Council (YSC, the Steering Committee for YOP) focused its energy on safe and affordable housing options and issues for pregnant and parenting young women. Several meetings of the YSC were held with additional members from the housing community in order to explore housing options. Folks who attended the meetings included representatives from the Agency of Human Services (AHS) Field Services Division, regional affordable housing, the Merchants Bank President, and the Bennington Housing Authority. Several members volunteered to look into suggestions that were made and to report back to the group. Some of the follow-up includes visiting other programs around the state with successful programming for this population.

Caledonia/So. Essex: Of the 24 young adults enrolled in the YIT program during this period, all of them do have housing. The housing types are independent, living with parents, or living with friends. 8 individuals applied for other independent housing; of those 8, 5 found their own.

The YIT Facilitator met with the 5 Vermont Homeless Education Liaisons for the Caledonia/So. Essex counties and the following schools: Blue Mountain Union, Caledonia Central Supervisory Union, Caledonia North Supervisory Union, Essex Caledonia Supervisory Union, and the St. Johnsbury School District. Through this process we received more referrals of youth and families needing services.

Chittenden: Collaborated with the Spectrum Emergency Shelter, Allen House Single Room Occupancy (SRO), Burlington Emergency Shelter, and the Committee on Temporary Shelter (COTS). In February, Bob DiMasi went with a co-worker from VFN to share information about YIT services at the four COTS locations.

LW – Referred for an SRO; transitioned from Northeastern Family Institute (NFI) Group Home to Spectrum SRO in April 2011.

KD – Moved with boyfriend into rented apartment they can afford; worked with KD on money management and budgeting to ensure the stability of her housing.

SC – When his housing was unstable, helped to create a crisis plan; secured Cold Weather Bed reservations at the Spectrum Emergency Shelter.

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SB – Advocated for placement at the Allen House SRO; supported SB's application process.

Franklin/Grand Isle: Through the collaborative efforts of YIT and community transitional housing supports, 5 youth found placement with the Samaritan house (temporary shelter), extended family members' homes, and transitional living homes. Many youth are able to reconnect with family members with the necessary resources and support.

Lamoille: This continues to be a gap in the community; however, two YIT clients are currently residing in a local transitional home.

Orange/No. Windsor: By January of 2011, 36% of the CMC JOBS participants reported current or past homelessness at intake. CMC offered housing services to 92% of young adults who reported current or past homelessness and secured stable housing for all of them. CMC continues to evaluate barriers to successful transitional housing for young adults and is currently exploring options to address those barriers. During this period, CMC helped 9 young adults find safe and stable housing.

Orleans/No. Essex: The YIT Facilitator works very closely with the TLP and now shares a position with the VCRHYP. We provide host homes and shelter referrals plus have 4 transitional housing units to help young people move toward independent living.

Rutland:

So. Windham: The first goal we work on with most youth in case management is seeking safe and stable housing. Concurrent with this, we help them find employment to be able to support their desired living situation.... During this time period, we moved 3 youth into the Cobblestone Building (the pilot project of the YIT grant). We have 3 clients who are served with a Pathways voucher that is possible through a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Brattleboro Housing Authority. In the spring 2011, we began a collaboration with the Morningside Shelter which enabled us to house short-term up to two couples in a two bedroom shared apartment. This is the first short-term housing option we have had at our discretion and is a great asset in aiding homeless youth as they transition to more stable housing. We housed 5 young adults and 5 of their children in the new transitional housing program with Morningside Shelter, and we provided housing subsidies for independent living to 19 youth in the TLP. Overall, Youth Services provided 2,425 bed nights to young adults during this reporting period, not including bed nights for the children of the youth served.

So. Windsor/No. Windham: 3 young adults were supported in their transition to safe and stable housing....

Washington: 9 – including paying a mentor to help with independent living skills.

6. Increased number of young adults who have caring & supportive relationships....

Addison: Many youth who receive direct services from the Youth Advocate present with an impaired ability to form peer friendships. When youth choose friendship as a goal for their transition, the Youth Advocate works to identify dynamics which lead to social anxiety and isolation. During this past reporting period 4 youth were able to engage in a social skills group and make new friendships.

Bennington: It is difficult to choose examples and activities that were created as a way to increase caring and supportive relationships since most of the activities are created with this in mind. Young people in the YOP have the opportunity to develop positive relationships with peers, some for the first time in their lives. One particular young man who was living on his own and felt very much alone was excited to share with the group that he now had 10 contacts in his phone! Old friends have reconnected and new friendships have been

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made. They have been able to have contact and form consistent relationships with positive adults, many who are community members who do not work for United Counseling Services (UCS).

Caledonia/So. Essex: All of the young adults enrolled in the YIT program can identify at least one person with whom they have a caring and supportive relationship.

Chittenden: Located a supportive family and friends to become a payee for a young adult whose current payee was abusing the authority. Additional referrals to Spectrum Mentoring Program.

DF – At his choice, included his mentor in several meetings.

LW – Worked on strategies for the continual improvement of his relationship with his mother and relationship development with peers within the SRO.

JL – Worked on strategies for improving his relationship with his sister and supporting her mental health and behavioral needs.

Franklin/Grand Isle: The Youth Leadership Team is successful because of the family-like atmosphere that is produced through trust, intimacy, reliability, and friendship. Some young adults participating in the program said they never had peers they could truly consider friends until after they joined the Leadership Team. In addition, YIT encourages parent and family participation as a way to build and develop relationships.

Lamoille: Nine of the twelve active clients have identified family and/or peer support. The level of engagement in these relationships ranges from consistent participation to a much less active, peripheral role.

Orange/No. Windsor: In January of 2011, 9% of CMC JOBS participants could not identify a caring relationship. CMC staff supported 33% of all participants to develop caring relationships and, in turn, 30% of young adults secured caring relationships. TAY programming assists young adults in exploring supports in their lives, encouraging them to widen their support systems to include community members as well as clinicians in the SOC.

Orleans/No. Essex: This grant helps us provide supervision to our Teen Center, which provides a safe place for youth/young adults to eat, play and relax.

Rutland: The Center provides a strong support system for all youth who come to us.

So. Windham: All case management staff work with youth to help them nurture, support, and develop caring and supportive relationships with both service providers and family members.

So. Windsor/No. Windham: 10 young adults were supported to develop caring relationships.

Washington: 8

7. Increase in young adults' strengths and protective factors....

Addison: The Youth Advocate has teamed with the JOBS program to provide numerous opportunities to engage in sober recreational activities such as skiing, skateboarding, hiking, and other sports. Youth have reported that these activities, when done regularly, allow them to deal with everyday stressors with increased clarity and efficacy. For instance, a group of young adults noted they suffered from frequent illness which impaired their ability to keep a job, one of their goals. In working with the Youth Advocate they identified a desire to become healthier by engaging in more regular physical activity. The Youth Advocate was able to work with Bike Recycle Vermont and procure bicycles for these young adults to keep and use on a regular basis. The youth have now begun regular physical activity as part of their work towards independence.

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Bennington: The T4C went on a peer leadership retreat at the Sargent Center in Hancock, New Hampshire. Seventeen young people and 3 chaperones attended. Justin, a long time T4C member, participated as an intern chaperone. The group had an event planning contest and each group won \$100.00 to be used towards their next event. The participants at the leadership retreat learned team building skills through adventure-based programming such as high and low ropes courses. The team learned to rely on each other and came away from the experience with a special closeness and respect for each other.

Caledonia/So. Essex: All of the young adults enrolled in the YIT program have identifiable strengths which are used to create life plans toward goals for the future. Protective factors are discussed and a determination is made about which factors are already present and/or which should be developed.

Chittenden: Consistently focused on and incorporated clients' existing strengths, skills and interests in job search and development processes....Supported youth to put on a youth-driven art show in Spectrum's Drop-In space....Supported a young adult with connecting to household support systems which he had felt were not there.

Franklin/Grand Isle: YIT is informed by the Transition to Independence Process (TIP), which includes a strengths-based philosophy. In the day-to-day interactions with youth, staff acknowledge and build upon youth strengths to assist with transition. The Youth Leadership Team has been a positive environment for youth to learn about themselves, take positive risks, develop leadership skills and increase self-esteem.

Lamoille: This is addressed in weekly counseling sessions by therapists and their treatment strategies.

Orange/No. Windsor: The CMC approaches treatment with young adults through the Resiliency Model, which focuses on increasing strength and protective factors. TAY programming offers various groups which are strength-based and promote youth.

Orleans/No. Essex: NEKCA Youth Services uses some of the [Search Institute's] 40 developmental assets as a starting place to gather information from each young person regarding his/her feelings of self and community worth.

Rutland:

So. Windham:

So. Windsor/No. Windham: 13 young adults were supported to develop their strength and protective factors.

Washington: 8

8. Improved mental health for young adults.

Required activity:

Improve access to mental health services for the young adults most at risk for poor outcomes and use the power of the courts to increase their likelihood of use of those services....

Addison: The Youth Advocate has met with the court diversion program and worked to increase referrals from the court to CSAC as part of diversion agreements. Direct services are often provided in the community in non-stigmatizing settings, leading to utilization by harder-to-reach populations.

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Bennington: Staying involved with the YOP is an important factor in young people's success. Justin Dickinson wanted to state why the YOP was so important in his life and share his accomplishments with everyone:

My name is Justin Dickinson. I'm 19 years old, on probation for things I did when I was 17 and I'm a recovering drug/alcohol addict. I was connected to the YOP when I was 18 years old. I got connected through Family Emergency Services at UCS and met Tom soup Campbell. I had a great connection with Tom from the start. He assisted me to get to all my appointments and connected me to other services, such as Vocational Rehabilitation, Department of Labor and other great resources that could help me. Being connected to the YOP with their support I was able to complete a residential alcohol and drug rehab program. Even after all that I also received my G.E.D. with the YOP support. I now help run the "Teens for Change" group with Katrina Hollis and co-facilitate the summer "Youth Outreach Program" with Katrina - collaborating with the Sunrise Family Resource Center, a local parent child center. I have become a great support for other youth in the community and people around me every day. All this could not have been possible without the help from the YOP workers. They showed me that anything is possible if you put your mind to it, and there is always going to be someone there when you need help. The help will always be there as long as you do your part, too. One last thing that I would like to say: This is a great program that is run by great people and I would recommend anyone that needs help to the YOP.

Caledonia/So. Essex: During the Common Study intake that is administered by the YIT Facilitator during the first or second meeting, inquiry is made about mental illness and/or if the young adult receives mental health services. Many times the young adult will engage in a conversation about mental health services. Some of the young adults will state not wanting services; others will want assistance re-connecting with or finding a therapist. During the reporting period, of the 24 young adults enrolled with the YIT program, 6 have been actively trying to find a new therapist and 5 see a therapist on a fairly regular basis. Some of the young adults who are actively looking for an appropriate therapist encounter barriers such as therapists' availability.

Chittenden: Have seen an increase in overall well-being and/or effective management of mental health symptoms for youth served....Referrals to and collaboration with Spectrum Counseling Program, Centerpoint, Otter Creek, Networks, and other area private practitioners.

Franklin/Grand Isle: The YIT Coordinator has supported several youth in accessing counseling services. In addition, YIT initiatives are an ongoing effort to help youth access the resources they need while not being hindered by stigma. This is made evident by our panel discussions, community participation, community events, and media publications marketed to all youth vs. "certain" youth with SED or mental illness.

Lamoille: We have introduced YIT clients to the North Central Vermont Recovery Center as well as provided immediate referral for substance abuse counseling. The intake and assessment process for YIT includes mental health and substance abuse assessments and referrals for individual and group therapy.

Orange/No. Windsor: As of January 2011, CMC offered mental health services to all JOBS participants, including the 57% who reported a history of trauma or abuse at intake. Subsequently, 97% secured mental health treatment.

Orleans/No. Essex: Once a week the Teen Center has a substance abuse counselor come in for a few hours to help young people feel comfortable with receiving service from Northeast Kingdom Human Services (NKHS) workers.

Rutland: This has been at a stand-still recently. Many services cannot take on new clients at this time or are cutting back on funding.... The Center's Community Outreach staff attended the Rutland Regional Partnership for Family Service (RRPFS) meeting focusing on addiction.

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So. Windham: Youth Services works closely with Otter Creek and Matrix Health Associates, Health Care and Rehabilitation Services (HCRS), the Brattleboro Retreat, and other local mental health providers to refer and support our clients, also to improve the SOC....As a recent example, a young woman in our transitional living program who is a recipient of a Shelter Plus Care voucher did not want to seek mental health supports but agreed to do so as a requirement of maintaining her voucher.

So. Windsor/No. Windham: 6 young adults were referred to HCRS for outpatient mental health and/or substance abuse therapy.

Washington: 9 - In supporting all these young adults with wrap-around services, we have improved their mental health.

System of care Infrastructure Indicators (for federal TRAC)

Workforce Development: Organizations or communities implementing mental health-related training programs as a result of the grant. Please enter the number of organizations or communities and briefly describe the training programs....

Addison: CSAC offered its community a mental health-related training about Motivational Interviewing, an evidence-based practice. Community members who participated in this training for work with young adults included school staff, teen-center staff, mental health staff, parent child center staff, DCF staff, and family members.

Bennington:

Caledonia/So. Essex:

Chittenden:

Franklin/Grand Isle: Several local trainings were held in Franklin/Grand Isle during this period including a substance abuse training presented by Lieutenant Ronald Hoague from the St. Albans Police Department. Twenty five separate agencies, community partners, and youth participated in this training. YIT also hosted CLC trainings by the statewide CLC Coordinator Mercedes Avila that were attended by 40+ individuals.

Lamoille:

Orange/No. Windsor:

Orleans/No. Essex:

Rutland:

So. Windham: During the spring 2011, the Youth Services Housing Coordinator funded by the YIT Grant twice provided all-staff trainings about mental health issues and their impact on young adults.

So. Windsor/No. Windham: HCRS continues to offer ongoing professional development. During this reporting period the focus was ARC (Attachment, Self Regulation, and Competency), a treatment response to trauma.

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Washington:

Organizational Change: Organizational changes made to support improvement of mental health-related practices/activities that are consistent with the goals of the grant. Please enter the number of changes and briefly describe them....

Addison: Following the success of the consulting model that was brought to bear upon the early childhood centers and elementary schools, CSAC sought to replicate this model where transition aged youth could be found – e.g., in teen centers, school settings, with those who have taken in transition-aged youth, and through collaboration with other youth serving agencies. At times teachers, teen center staff, and guidance counselors have consulted with the Youth Advocate in order to stage informal resource gathering meetings. An advantage of this service delivery plan is that the threshold for consultation is low, allowing response to the immediate needs of transition-aged youth and the people/programs who are serving/helping them. Low-threshold consultation supports these people and programs to continue functioning with the youth. On a meta-level, we believe this allows for a better SOC for transition-aged youth in Addison County.

Bennington:

Caledonia/So. Essex: Most of the organizations in this region that serve and deal with young adults have made organizational change to participate in YIT development. For example, NEKHS has a substance abuse counselor who now spends one afternoon a week in the Living Room (NEKYS' day drop-in center) to make casual contact through community outreach. And other (non-YIT) case managers at NEKYS now meet collaboratively with young adults and their therapists.

Chittenden: Streamlined the Young Adult Navigator's (YAN's) progress note and contact list by creating one form of documentation for efficiency.

Franklin/Grand Isle: Through YIT, NCSS has hosted activities that are non-traditional to the mental health field such as community dances and "Eat and Blog" in the hopes that more youth will have an opportunity to learn about mental health services and supports.

Lamoille: An organizational change implemented by CHSLV is to have a licensed clinician do a substance abuse and mental health assessment for 100% of the youth and young adults enrolled in YIT and automatically refer them to the medical home available through CHSLV.

Orange/No. Windsor: CMC created a TAY Coordinator position and reassigned staff time in order to help quickly engage transition-aged youth in all areas of our service region to meet the needs of the community. More specifically, staff with expertise about transition-aged youth are now more accessible within our Wilder location. CMC received additional VTGREEN funding in its second year of operation so was able to make the VTGREEN Counselor full-time. Also, CMC dedicated a full-time staff member to being a JOBS Counselor for the Bradford and White River Junction communities.

Orleans/No. Essex: The LIT Team decided to split the YIT position with the VCRHYP's Crisis/Runaway Program. This means the position is 20 hours of YIT and 20 hours of Crisis/Runaway; this new position is based out of the Teen Center for effective outreach.

Rutland:

So. Windham:

So. Windsor/No. Windham:

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Washington:

Partnership/Collaboration: Organizations that entered into formal written inter/intra-organizational agreements (e.g., MOUs/MOAs) to improve mental health-related practices/activities that are consistent with the goals of the grant. Please enter the number of organizations and briefly describe the agreements....

Addison:

Bennington: The YOP again entered into partnership with the Sunrise Parent Child Center to offer the summer Community Action work experience. In addition, the DOL provided WIA funds for Justin Dickinson, a YOP participant, to work 20 hours per week to co-facilitate the summer's work experience with Katrina Hollis.... Outreach to the Southshire Partnership for a Healthy Community resulted in a significant collaboration with YOP. Several opportunities were made available through this collaboration, including that the T4C peer leadership retreat was fully funded by the Southshire Partnership.... All of these partnerships supported activities which improved the mental health of transition-aged youth consistent with the goals of YIT.

Caledonia/So. Essex:

Chittenden: With members of the regional YIT Steering Committee, met with the New England Network to discuss using Windham County's "Wind Tunnel Mapsite" as a template for the Chittenden County Online Resource Center.

Franklin/Grand Isle:

Lamoille:

Orange/No. Windsor:

Orleans/No. Essex:

Rutland:

So. Windham: Youth Services and the Brattleboro Housing Authority entered into an MOU that allows Youth Services to be a case management option for youth who are both homeless and mentally ill and who wish to apply for Shelter Plus Care vouchers in Windham County. We also entered into an MOU with Morningside Shelter to provide emergency housing in a two bedroom apartment associated with the shelter.

So. Windsor/No. Windham:

Washington:

Types/Targets of Practice: Programs/organizations/communities that **implemented** evidence-based mental health-related practices/activities as a result of the grant. Please enter the number of programs/organizations/communities and briefly describe the evidence-based practices....

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Addison:

Bennington: The UCS transition program staff participated in the 2 day TIP model training offered in June this year. The 6 staff who were trained learned a lot from the 2 days, and **it helped reinforce their current practice of engagement of transition aged youth**. The training also reminded staff of the importance of youth involvement in "adult" organizations and groups. As a result, we will work to increase the Youth Service Council membership to include 50% young adults in the coming year.

Caledonia/So. Essex: The evidence-based practice that has been adopted by the YIT program is TIP. The TLP case manager and the YDP worker (along with the YIT facilitator and the YIT supervisor) went to the two-day advanced TIP training in Burlington. The NEKHS JOBS case manager also attended the training. **All of the NEKYS programs (TLP, YDP, Parent Education, Family Connections, and BARJ) use many of the practices outlined in the TIP model, mainly because we are so strength-based.**

Chittenden: **Implementation of In-vivo (TIP term) modeling/learning with caseloads of 15 young adults.**

Franklin/Grand Isle: During this period six staff members participated in the TIP training hosted by YIT in June. At least one staff member from the area has expressed interest in becoming a local trainer, which would allow the community to continue to be informed about this model. TIP is becoming recognized as an effective evidence-based practice which other community organizations such as the St. Albans community justice center are beginning to use. **The regional YIT team implemented the TIP model as a sure and measurable way to provide each youth entering and exiting our SOC the greatest opportunity to transition successfully.**

Lamoille: As a result of the grant, the regional case managers and supervisors who are implementing YIT, the JOBS Program, and other system of care providers attended a TIP training program. **TIP, an evidence-supported approach to case management, is now utilized in case review and service planning. This system gave our region a uniform set of guidelines for using a strength-based approach to working with young adults.**

An incentive program has been incorporated into the direct services model being used by the Criminal Justice Social Worker (CJSW). The use of incentives is a highly-researched and evidence-based practice. Incentives were used irregularly and informally in the past, but during this reporting period **the CJSW adopted a formal system of reward that is tied into the client's comprehensive service plan. The CJSW offers small incentives when clients meet case goals.**

Orange/No. Windsor: CMC offers services in alignment with evidence-based practices that are offered in an individualized manner. CMC founded its TAY program upon Bonnie Bernard's resiliency model and, as of late, is **in the early stages of implementing Rusty Clark's TIP model**. CMC is currently evaluating which staff will be trained as TIP trainers.

Orleans/No. Essex: Approximately 8 programs were trained in our region on the TIP Model. **We have begun implementing the TIP model.**

Rutland:

So. Windham:

So. Windsor/No. Windham: **We regularly use TIP best practices in our day-to-day transition facilitation work.**

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Washington: The JOBS program is based on the TIP model, and fidelity to that model was the focus of Vermont's June TIP training. **The majority of the Washington County YIT/JOBS Team participated in the training in order to replicate TIP as closely as possible.**

Problems

Describe any deviations or departures from the original project plan including actual/anticipated slippage in task completion dates, and special problems encountered or expected. Use this section to describe barriers to accomplishment, actions taken to overcome difficulties, and to advise DMH of any needs for assistance.

Addison: In this reporting period attempts were again made to recruit for a Youth Council. This development was hampered by a perceived lack of interest from young adults who were informed about the group. Feedback from other service providers indicated that interest may improve once young adults are more familiar with the Youth Advocate and know the sort of services peers have received through the YIT Grant.

Addison County has had barriers to enrollment of youth in the Common, Vermont, and National evaluation studies for YIT. This is related to the region's use of a consultation model whereby youth are not generally expected to enroll in services. The Addison County project hopes to expand enrollment in the evaluation through other providers within the SOC.

In addition, we have noticed two barriers for young adults:

1). the lack of standards for high school completion plans. Once a youth is involved in the high school completion program through VAL, there is not always a standard of attendance and self-study that will ensure program success. This is especially true for young men who do not typically have the advantage of participating in group programs [such as Learning Together offered by the Addison County Parent Child Center (ACPCC)] which ensure some degree of weekly academic programming.

2). Shelter Plus Care requires that individuals be housed by themselves without the accompaniment of sexual partners or friends. The feedback received from youth is that these individuals are an important part of their social support network and how they survive emotionally and tangibly. To ask them to then live alone or amongst adult strangers is perceived as asking them to abandon part of their support system.

Bennington: Connecting young people to a Primary Care Provider (PCP) has been a significant issue. In recent months, a young man looking for a PCP had to call more than 10 medical offices before he finally found one in New York who would take him on as a new patient. He is fortunate that he has transportation to access this out-of-state resource. His situation is not unusual. The local "Bennington Banner" newspaper recently reported the lack of available PCPs as a significant problem for local folks. It will be difficult for Bennington YOP to bend the curve on emergency use and increase access to a medical home when there are few, if any PCPs available to take new patients.

Caledonia/So. Essex: We continue to struggle getting the presence of all of the members of the Steering Committee at the monthly LIT meetings. The only agencies represented at the meetings are NKHS, St. Johnsbury Academy, DCF, and NKYS. When YIT was initially established and ready for implementation there were a variety of community partners participating in the monthly LIT meetings. The agencies that have not participated in any of the meetings in at least a year are VR, Community Justice Center, JOBS, Northeast Kingdom Learning Services, VDH, AHS, and DOC. The YIT Facilitator and her supervisor brought to the attention of the LIT at the May meeting that we should bring back those missing members. We were well-received, therefore we planned to have a meeting in June and invite those whom we had not seen in many months. Other agencies received the invitation and were excited to attend the June LIT meeting. Unfortunately, the day of the meeting it was canceled; this was the second LIT meeting cancelled in 6 months. It is crucial to have the community agencies come together to discuss the barriers and gaps in services for young adults in order to move forward with improving the SOC.

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Chittenden: Some challenges experienced in this time period include:

- Lack of follow-through and consistency of youth.
- Limited contact with youth due to lack of housing or cell phone and transient nature of youth served.
- Identifying and accessing interpreters when needed.
- Lack of diagnostic information and assessment of multi-cultural youth.
- Inaccurate or missing information regarding age of multi-cultural youth.
- Transportation and consistency of public bus system.
- Time taken up through travel to get to rural areas.
- Families with youth who may be struggling with emotional issues, substance abuse, or other disabilities can be hard to identify and difficult to reach.
- Families can have many events that overshadow the needs of the adolescent on a daily basis; priorities can shift quickly. Many families are struggling to meet basic needs such as housing and consistent employment and these often, understandably, take priority.
- Connecting parents to parental support resources through adolescents.
 1. Adolescents can sometimes be a barrier to accessing the parent (ex: answering the phone and not passing along the message to the parent).
 2. Parents with 14 and 15 year olds could definitely benefit from support. Sometimes 16 feels late in the game. Offering support and resources to parents of 14 and 15 year olds could make a big difference because this is a time that parents often are still able to have some influence over their children.
 3. Many adolescents are also runaways or experiencing homelessness and - as a result - their families are not within reach. However, the VFN Transition Resource Consultant maintains open lines of communication with the YAN to encourage family referrals and to provide support to parents of older teens.
- Adolescents and their families in rural areas can be difficult to reach, especially when the youth are placed out-of-district.

Franklin/Grand Isle: Transportation continues to be a hindrance to those who live in the more rural areas of Franklin and Grand Isle Counties. There are hundreds of youth who could potentially benefit from services but only a few volunteers available to help with transport. Most youth attending the Youth Leadership Team do not qualify for a Medicaid cab or have access to public transportation....Social media is a very ingrained part of our society's method of communication, especially for youth; however, NCSS is currently trying to balance how to implement this newer technology alongside confidentiality laws for health (including mental health) providers.

Lamoille:

- The contracted YIT Grant Manager left their position during this time period. This affected the functioning of the YIT Steering Committee but did not affect the delivery or direct supervision of YIT services.
- There have been challenges in establishing formal relationships with the community due to lack of understanding of the YIT project. This may be due at least in part to turn-over in the position of the YIT Grant Manager and the ensuing lapse of communication with community partners. With this position filled, the YIT Steering Committee has begun meeting again and other channels of communication are being re-established.
- The grantee (LCC) and the subcontracted mental health agency (the Behavioral Health and Wellness Division of CHSLV) - which supervises the Criminal Justice Social Worker (CJSW) and the Peer Outreach Coordinator - found the regional YIT budget and payment systems to be inadequate. Thus, the two organizations began discussing organizational changes to improve efficiencies and outcomes.
- An experienced family advocate and the new young adult Peer Outreach Coordinator attend the YIT Steering Committee meetings. Broader family and peer involvement on the Steering Committee continues to be discussed but has not yet been implemented.

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Orange/No. Windsor: Stable housing for young adults continues to be identified as a barrier to success. Resources are limited for affordable housing and housing options in the rural communities. There is an increase in demand for emergency housing during the winter months. Limited options require the use and expense of local motels for short-term, temporary, winter shelter. Limited transportation continues to be an area of concern, too. In helping young adults seek employment opportunities, lack of transportation during 2nd & 3rd shifts has risen to the forefront.

Orleans/No. Essex: One of our problems during the first year of this grant was recruiting enough youth to meet the grant requirements. When LIT wrote the grant, we made it very clear that the YIT Facilitator was going to work with new clients or clients who were not engaging in any other program. This made it very difficult. It wasn't that there are not plenty of young people out there not enrolled in a program; it is that most of the time they do not want to work with any case manager. For the first year or two we had 7-10 youth enrolled in YIT. After redesigning our structure and combining YIT with the VCRHYP crisis case management position, we doubled our enrollment in just a few months. We now have 18-22 youth/young adults on our caseload and 5 young adults running our Youth Advisory Board (YAB).

Rutland: None at this time.

So. Windham: We continue to operate a pilot project with Windham Housing Trust with four designated youth rooms in a mostly-adult resident SRO program. We have our eye on a new collaboration for an all-youth SRO in a building owned by the local Catholic diocese. An existing building next-door to Youth Services would undergo major renovations and then be funded partially through project-based vouchers from the Vermont Housing Authority or the Brattleboro Housing Authority. This would not be operational for about two years. This means we need to run our pilot program with a shared youth/adult program a lot longer than we were hoping, but pieces are falling into place for the Catholic Church collaboration. The Brattleboro Housing Authority will serve as the house property manager for the new project, and we have been in frequent consultation with them as well. We need more flexibility with state and federal funding (i.e., project-based vouchers) for our house project to be successful, including flexibility in the requirement of one year leases for the vouchers.

So. Windsor/No. Windham: As has been the case for the last year, we have struggled to maintain a supportive and effective steering committee. I am happy to report that we are moving forward in this area. We have recruited two new active and helpful members for the committee.

Washington: WCMHS, WCYSB, JOBS case managers, and the SOC Team Leader still have challenges figuring out ways to find adequate and safe housing for youth and young adults through existing agencies and services. Extensive efforts to procure a bankrupt motel were unsuccessful, and we exhausted the funds available for the housing consultant. Our process ran afoul of local politics which precluded both a partnership with the local non-profit land trust and the ability of WCMHS to move forward on its own as the property developer.

Also, the WEST program hit a few bumps in the road. The concept of WEST is not the problem. The problem was the administrative support needed for the program within the schools. It is now being re-designed to be implemented statewide through young adult advisory groups.

Significant Findings and Events

For special notice to Principal Investigator, State Outreach Team for Youth in Transition, Federal Project Officer, etc. This should include any changes in staffing, including of persons, time spent, and/or responsibilities. Attach resumes and qualifications of new staff.

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Addison:

Bennington: Justin Dickinson, Youth Outreach Program (YOP) participant, worked this summer in a WIA placement with the YOP. He had gained experience working with children by providing daycare for parents participating in TLP classes at Sunrise. The YOP is hoping that Justin can continue working with UCS in some capacity after the WIA funds end.

Caledonia/So. Essex:

Chittenden: Two new staff:

- Linda Li, MSW (part-time YIT staff working with multi-cultural youth)
- Raymond Drexel, MSW (part-time YIT YAN)

Franklin/Grand Isle:

Lamoille:

- The fiscal agent for the regional YIT grant is changing from LCC to CHSLV.
- Annie Paumgarten left the 10-hour per week YIT Grant Manager position. It was filled by Chris Player, a LCC employee, and – after September 1, 2011 - by Mary O'Toole from the Behavioral Health and Wellness Division of CHSLV.
- Carl Stewart, the YIT Criminal Justice Social Worker (CJSW), left at the end of June and - after September 1, 2011 - was replaced by Terrance Kelleher.

Orange/No. Windsor: Ember Rose and her mother “Kat” from Bradford attended the statewide YIT's 1st Young Adult Voice Movement (YAVM) Conference in May, 2010 and together participated in the development, expansion and implementation of the 2nd Annual YAVM Conference held in May, 2011. Both were invited and attended with others from Vermont a national SOC Grantees' Conference in Chicago, IL in July to help present a workshop about how young adults planned the YAVM Conference.

Orleans/No. Essex: By combining the YIT and VCRHYP crisis positions, we were able to hire a new employee to start on May 16th, 2011; her name is Cat Vanasse.

During the month of January we let our Peer Outreach Worker go. This was a hard decision since we had put a lot of effort into maintaining a healthy working environment; however, sadly, things did not work out....We were able to hire a new Peer Outreach Worker, Samantha (Sam) Bonneau, who had been interning at the Teen Center for NEKCA Youth Services during her Spring college semester. Her date of hire was May 9, 2011.

Rutland: YIT Coordinator Brooke Nuckles-Gentekos left at the beginning of June after she briefly oriented her replacement, Jaymie Schuck.

So. Windham: Youth Services acquired a new Youth Development Director, Kari Fletcher, in January, then a new Youth Development Worker, Angela Fish, in May and a new Executive Director, Robert McCaffrey, who was hired in June and started in July, 2011.

So. Windsor/No. Windham:

Washington: Kristen Howell was chosen as the new Youth Engagement Specialist for the YIT Grant.

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Dissemination Activities

Briefly describe project related inquiries and information dissemination activities carried out over the reporting period. Itemize and include a copy of any newspaper, newsletter, and magazine articles or other published materials considered relevant to project activities, or used for project information or public relations purposes.

Addison: As part of the promotion of the High-Low Exhibit and the Motivational Interviewing training, materials were disseminated about the YIT Grant and how it is being used locally.

Bennington: Youth Outreach Worker Katrina Hollis and the YOP Coordinator Tom Campbell worked with the local radio station to promote the program and events.

Though they have informed the Bennington Banner of events such as the business appreciation luncheon, the Banner has not always followed up. A picture did appear in the Banner of T4C youth washing windows for the area businesses who donated but that was due to Tom Campbell literally going to the Banner office to tell them there were “kids outside doing good things in their community and you might want to come and take a picture”. We will need to explore other print media.

The YOP uses the UCS Facebook page to promote activities and inform the community of some of the exciting things happening. We have used flyers and ads in the paper to attract young people to events but find that Face book is the most effective media.

The T4C crew staffed a booth at Bennington's annual Mayfest. T4C raffled off a family 4-pack season pass to Six Flags Amusement Pack as a way to raise awareness of the group and to raise funds for future events.

T4C and Transition Program staff participated in the annual Transition Fair at the high school on April 5, 2011. The Fair helped the young people and staff reach out to students who may need access to services and supports. Students at the Transition Fair stated they had friends who were on the edge of getting kicked out of school and would pass the information along to them.

Caledonia/So. Essex: The Young Adult Advisory Board met weekly in June because they were developing a project that could be used to educate the community on how to de-stigmatize mental illness and how to deliver services to young adults. The participants decided to create an interactive booth that can be taken from event to event to educate the community about stigma and how to deliver services to young adults. This booth will be taken to the Danville Fair; Farmer's Markets in St. Johnsbury, Lyndonville, Lunenburg; and Harvey's Lake. This project was part of a grant application. If it is approved we will receive \$500.00.

Chittenden:

- Soft launch of the “YIT – Chittenden County” Facebook Page to serve as a social media-driven resource hub for young adults in Chittenden County.
- YIT brochures (translated into two other languages so far, with 4 more underway)
- Inclusion of YIT initiative on the Spectrum website.
- Inclusion of YIT-related resources on the Students First website.
- Distribution of over 40 flyers throughout Chittenden County, describing services available through YIT.

Process of dissemination within Vermont Family Network (VFN):

When promoting a YIT activity or event, Bob follows the guidelines set forth by the Communications Director at VFN. A press release is developed and sent to local newspapers such as the Milton community newspaper and other local venues where advertisement is free or very low cost. Second, an announcement is developed and then distributed through the VFN list serve, posted on the VFN website calendar of events and VFN Facebook page, and then sent by email or regular mail to any other individuals or groups who have a connection to a YIT event. Front Porch Forum was used in Milton and Winooski; it is estimated to reach about 800 people in each community. Flyers were also distributed in both Milton and Winooski at laundromats, community centers, churches, local corner stores, and various other grassroots locations.

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Franklin/Grand Isle: The most recent publication was an advertisement for the CLC training held in May. The other publication was for the Valentine's Day Dance that took place on February 12th at the Historical Museum. We are in the process of designing t-shirts for the upcoming Youth Summit and revising our brochure to appeal to today's youth with various mental health abilities.

Lamoille:

- A document was created to clarify the roles of and illustrate the relationships between the YIT Grant Manager, Steering Committee, Criminal Justice Social Worker (CJSW), Youth/Peer Outreach Worker, and Youth/Young Adult Council.
- YIT brochures focused on health benefits, the general YIT program, housing, and pathways to educational completion have been in draft format since the last reporting period. During the next reporting period, the Steering Committee will review them.

Orange/No. Windsor:

Orleans/No. Essex: A newspaper article regarding the Youth Summit along with the flyer and a summer calendar of events for the Teen Center were disseminated.

Rutland: An article by students Dan DeJarnette and Kendra Hier was published in the Howe Center Newsletter in March. *Cider Magazine* ads for The Center and for its Center Fest were published in March and April.

YAC: Young Adults for Change, the YIT leadership group, created a *Youth 4 Health* brochure to distribute throughout the community.

The Rutland Youth of the Year photograph appeared in the *Rutland Herald* on March 4, 2011

So. Windham: There were news releases and publicity related to programming for YIT in Brattleboro.

So. Windsor/No. Windham: T4C advertised and held two fundraisers during this reporting period. We did not have paid advertisement but used word-of-mouth and flyers. Also, on the day of the car wash we had sign holders flagging down cars....The Young Adult Employment Workshop was advertised in the Green Horn (Springfield High School student paper) and on local job boards.

Washington: A Washington County YIT brochure was created as a tool for outreach to young adults, SOC partners, and community members.... A flyer was created and disseminated to youth and families to announce and invite folks to attend the family roundtable discussion.....The interagency professional development plan was created and distributed in this period. Implementation of this plan is led by the SOC Team Leader. The plan offers training outcomes and is being used by youth-serving agencies.

Other Activities

Briefly describe other activities undertaken during the reporting period.

Addison: When time allows, the Youth Advocate attends "Best Practice" Committee meetings of the VCRHYP.

Bennington: YOP staff and T4C participants have been asked by other regions to provide input on how to "grow" their youth involvement. One other region's YIT staff and young leaders joined the Bennington crew for an afternoon; they all seemed to have a great time. Bennington T4C would love to continue to connect with other young people around the state.

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We continue to provide Trac phones to those young people who cannot otherwise be easily reached or do not have a stable living environment. This has allowed them to stay connected with services and other supports and to actively look for employment.

Staff have strong relationships with a wide variety of service providers as well as community members in general....The YSC continues to meet regularly to discuss transition-aged youth issues in the community. The meetings have been well attended by local partners including Sunrise, criminal justice, the DOL, and VR.

Caledonia/So. Essex: In addition to the training events mentioned above under cultural and linguistic competence and evidence-based practices, the YIT Facilitator attended the following trainings/workshops:

- * A webinar titled, "Street Based Outreach 101," on April 6, 2011
- * "Working With Youth Conference," on May 20th in Killington, VT.

In meeting with the Essex Caledonia Supervisory Union, the YIT Facilitator discussed the students of Gilman and Lunenburg and how to reach out to those students. She learned that many of these students choose to go to New Hampshire high schools so the local high school does not know if they are in need of services. The YIT Facilitator emailed her school contact a flyer about YIT for forwarding to the New Hampshire schools that may have some students who are residents of Gilman and Lunenburg.

Chittenden: Chris Vaughn attended and participated in the Second Annual YAVM Conference on Friday, May 27th and Saturday, May 28th....Bob DiMasi also attended the following:

- Transition Age Advisory Team (held at Spectrum monthly) – Listens to case presentations and acts as reference or resource for parent if present.
- Core Team – Provides a connection to the employment specialist for Chittenden County who shares information and resources regarding employment for transition-aged individuals. Members include representatives from such groups as Linking Learning to Life, VR, federal Social Security, DOL, counselors and others.
- Career Start – Statewide committee that meets quarterly to share information and discuss current topics from various contacts around the state.
- ACCESS Team – Joined as a parent representative to share views of parental engagement.
- Family Support VFN – Weekly meetings to share information and referrals with other Family Support staff.

Franklin/Grand Isle: Other activities include the following:

- Research for community youth center feasibility and attainment.
- Development of revised youth center proposal with sustainability.
- Participated in the national SOC Conference with YIT State Operations Team in July in Chicago.
- Participated in Peace Jam training for youth leaders.

Lamoille:

- YIT staff participated in the 2011 Working with Youth Conference.
- The TIP training led to monthly community CARE meetings. Invitations were extended to those directly and indirectly involved in the YIT project. A YIT CARE Review Team of community partners (ABE, JOBS, Lamoille Valley Family Center, LCC, and the Behavioral Health and Wellness Division of CHSLV) now meets monthly to discuss individual YIT cases and review systems issues that impact youth in transition in the local community. These meetings are designed to look at successes and obstacles that can be problem-solved by the larger group of service providers in the region.
- In addition, the CJSW has started initiating case team meetings for individual case coordination and review as needed. The concept is to look at strengths, needs, and challenges of the young person and develop direct services specific to him/her.

Orange/No. Windsor: In an ongoing effort to offer quality services, three CMC staff attended the statewide TIP training held in Burlington in June of 2011....The CMC continues to hold quarterly steering committee meetings in which key partners provide input into the program's operations. Members of the steering committee include:

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Listen Community Services (aka "The Junction"), DCF, Easter Seals, VR, Hartford School District, VDH, and the Haven. We continue outreach to maximize group participation with a recent focus on youth involvement and on law enforcement, including local police, state police and sheriff's department, Restorative Justice and court diversion. Also, key partners continue to reach out to community partners—such as local PCPs—who do not participate on the steering committee. With these partnerships, referrals can be made so youth will feel more supported in our communities.

The CMC has written MOUs (e.g., contracts) with some of the key YIT partners. These agreements define ongoing collaboration between the CMC and at least:

- The Central Vermont Community Action Council (with WCYSB), for implementation of VTGREEN.
- VR, for JOBS.
- VR, DOL, and Gifford Medical Center for Health Care Careers.
- Listen Community Services for YIT use of space at The Junction in White River.
- White River Craft Center for use of space for delivery of TAY services in Randolph.
- Upper Valley Stewardship Center for adventure-based counseling services.
- Schools, for delivery of mental health services.

This summer we are implementing the first TAY summer program in the Bradford region. The Summer Intensive will run for eight weeks from June 28th through August 25th on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10:30-3:30. It takes a strength-based approach to transition-aged youth by supporting their various learning styles (visual, verbal, experiential, and kinesthetic) and by focusing on:

- Life Skills (housing, finance management, jobs, interviews, cooking, etc);
- Life Management (emotion regulation, relational skills, peer support);
- Community Outreach (leadership skills and connectivity to community); and
- the activity-based Social Group (relational skills, self-esteem, and self-efficacy).

Orleans/No. Essex: The YIT Facilitator has been providing outreach to youth and young adults even if they do not want to participate in the YIT program. With the case managers of other NEKCA programs, she also been visiting clients of those programs to see if they might be interested in and eligible for YIT.

Rutland: The Center hosted guest speakers from the Rutland County Women's Network and Shelter with a presentation about sexual violence awareness and prevention.

So. Windham: Many of our peer outreach workers and staff attended suicide prevention training during this reporting period.

So. Windsor/No. Windham: During this time period, the YIT Project formed fruitful partnerships with the Springfield Prevention Coalition and the Springfield Restorative Justice. In addition, we participated in (and used YIT grant funds to support) the Drugs and Gangs community forum. The forum was well attended by members of the community including parents, business owners, service providers, DOC officials, gang education specialists, and young adults. A second forum is scheduled for August, when the YIT Project Coordinator will represent the youth service provider voice on the panel.

Washington: The Intake Team still meets once a month at the JOBS location in Barre. Our cell phone program continues. During this period we gave out 1 cell phone and 3 cards allowing 1000 minutes and 1000 texts. (Some young adults already owned the same type of cell phone, so we just purchased a card for them.) Participation in the YIT Common Study is still required in order to receive the cell phone/card. The young adults are staying in touch with their case-managers on a regular basis and have been able to contact potential employers for a job. Some have received jobs and are now paying for the cell phones/cards themselves. The young adults who requested and received cell phone assistance during the last reporting period were able to purchase their own this reporting period. Thus, use of Flex Funds to purchase phones and cards when needed has been shown to be very successful.

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Activities Planned for Next Reporting Period

Briefly describe the project activities planned for the next reporting period.

Addison: By the time of writing this report, CSAC had hired a Peer Outreach Worker (POW) who will be working with the Youth Advocate throughout the course of the summer. This individual is someone who has received services in the past and simultaneously shown leadership qualities and resilience that make her stand out amongst her peers. Although this peer worker is scheduled to begin college in the fall, it is hoped that CSAC's short-term experience with her will pave the way for a more permanent hire in the upcoming months.

Projects for the current POW include the planning, promotion, and organizing of a program at the Hub Teen Center. This is slated to be a night of "open expression" by young adults, highlighting adaptive means of coping with stress. With success, this may become an ongoing event where youth can support each other in their creative endeavors. An additional purpose of this event will be to encourage interested parties to become a part of the Youth Leadership Council.

Following requests by members of the Core Transition Team, the Youth Advocate and POW will develop and disseminate the "Living Book" for Addison County youth. This will build upon the model already developed by Matt Wolf, with updates and specifics for this region. This will be made available to schools, drop-in centers, and other local settings where transition-aged youth may be found. Future plans include making this available online and linked with social media sites to encourage youth to use the Living Book themselves.

The Youth Advocate hopes to utilize some of the outcomes analysis procedures being used in other programs as well as that put forward by VCRHYP.

Another hope is to host a formal CLC training in the next reporting period that will be open to CSAC, the parent child center, and community members.

Bennington: The YOP summer work program will be wrapping up. The young people participating will be reporting on their experiences this summer, what they learned and how it affected them. They will also report their findings from their focus groups, the gap(s) that were identified, and their recommendations for filling the gaps. Last year's group identified a lack of substance free activities for youth so they planned and hosted an "end of summer bash" at a local park. This summer's work crew will report their findings at an August 11th Sunrise picnic.

T4C is going to create a Facebook page with Courtney Bridges in August, 2011. Courtney will be working with youth and staff to develop the T4C Facebook page and identify ways to use it to promote youth voice in the community. The youth are looking forward to building this and using it to connect with more youth and help the adults in the community understand them.

The next event will be held sometime in September. T4C will use the \$300.00 won at the Peer Leadership Retreat to plan and host a community youth event, perhaps an "Open Mic" night. The young people have been in contact with Mic Criminals who performed at the 2nd annual YIT statewide YAVM Conference and who are willing and excited to come to Bennington for a show.

T4C is "giving back" to our community businesses this summer. The youth are washing windows of the local business that donated money and food to our T4C events this past year. The businesses have been incredibly surprised and grateful for the "give back". The young people feel good about their volunteerism and have been equally surprised and grateful when the businesses give them drinks, ice cream, or pizza (depending on the business) as a thank you for their hard work. The next planned "give back" is a car wash at local sheriff and police departments. The youth will wash patrol cars and connect with law enforcement in a positive way. This may be one of the few positive experiences the youth have with law enforcement. The young people have reported getting a lot out of this experience. They have talked about how it feels to give back to their community and to feel as if they are appreciated by those who seemed to scoff at them in the past. They are learning good citizenship and what it feels like to be a part of one's community. This process has given them a sense of belonging and self-worth.

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Caledonia/So. Essex:

- *Strive to have more members return to the LIT and YIT Steering Committee.
- * Respond competently to the religions, cultures, and languages of young adults and their families/adult allies.
- * YIT Facilitator will continue to develop an individual life plan (ILP) with each participant enrolled in the program.
- *Be more intentional with involving the family and/or natural supports of the young adult in future planning.
- *Reach out to the Recovery Center in St. Johnsbury.
- *Participate in street outreach more frequently (preferably at least once a month).
- *Reach out to homeless education liaisons again at the end of August when school begins.
- *Bring young adults to the Youth Summit in Newport, VT on July 21, 2011 for life skill workshops.

Chittenden:

- Increasing the level of awareness in the community of the YIT grant and increasing the number of young adults who are referred to the program.
- Continuing focus groups with young adults to gather input and feedback regarding the information gathering and launching of the resource website. The website will include instructional videos made by youth to assist in independent living tasks. It will also include interviews between young adults and community members or businesses describing resources and services available.
- Attendance at the TIP training event on September 30, 2011 at Lake Morey Resort.
- Getting the YIT brochure translated into more languages.
- Implementation of a youth advocacy board with well defined roles.
- Given the success of the "Planning for Life after High School" event in Winooski, organize transition events in other communities (Hinesburg, Charlotte, Shelburne). Bob DiMasi has talked briefly with Chris Vaughn and Ray Drexel about branching out to other rural areas, and they are supportive. Bob also received a call back from The Family Center in Milton; they have had a change in leadership and would like to revisit the event that happened in March. Communities have the option of organizing a panel discussion or a community workshop on services available to transition-aged youth. It is our hope that at these events we will identify families who would like to connect with each other for support and information sharing about transition-aged youth.
- Continue implementation of the other YIT strategies.

Franklin/Grand Isle:

- We will implement the "Care Card" project. This entails 300-500 youth receiving and distributing cards created by youth to encourage, and highlight youth supports in the community.
- Produce a newsletter to showcase youth in our community who overcome serious situations with the help of community resources.
- Host annual Franklin/Grand Isle regional conference.
- Host Eat and Blog in the Islands.
- Continue with weekly Youth Leadership Team.
- Plan a YIT Community Service Day.
- Organize annual YIT Summit and retreat.

Lamoille:

- Continue to provide intensive case management for at-risk young adults in the community.
- Continued implementation of evidence-based practices (TIP and the use of incentives).
- Continued weekly meetings of YIT staff to discuss challenges and successes.
- Monthly meetings with the CARE Review Team (including JOBS) and local law enforcement.
- Finalize the YIT brochures.
- Identify 1-3 young people willing to attend the YIT Training on September 30, 2011 in Lake Morey.

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- Gain CLC with all community partners.

Orange/No. Windsor:

The Randolph TAY Team is operating its second year of Health Care Careers in partnership with Gifford Medical Center. This collaboration between CMC, VR, the DOL, and Gifford Medical Center will provide six young adults with the opportunity to receive paid work experiences within the health care field and two returning young adults with peer leadership opportunities.

In developing peer leadership, we are hoping to contract with a youth who has experience with the "youth voice movement" in Vermont and who will help us facilitate 3 focus groups with the intention of developing a TAY youth advisory board.

We are also hoping to collaborate further with The Junction to offer group addiction services at the teen center so youth will have better access to the resources they need.

Orleans/No. Essex: In addition to hosting the Youth Summit on July 21, our plan is to continue to build a strong Youth Advisory Board (YAB). We will continue to work with the YAB around ideas and events to help make living in the Northeast Kingdom (NEK) a little better....On August 6th three of our YAB members will attend a NEKCA strategic planning process. Our hope is to be strong advocates for all youth in the NEK and get some help with this from NEKCA board members.... Both staff and the YAB are interested in having the YIT statewide CLC Coordinator come to our agency and provide training.

Rutland: The Center will continue to be open Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays from 5 PM – 7 PM, Wednesdays from 3:15 PM – 6 PM, and Fridays from 5 PM – 6 PM; serving dinner each evening at 5 PM....Beginning in July, The Center is planning to host guest speakers every other Thursday evening at 5 PM.... "YAC" or Young Adults for Change will meet weekly with time and day to be determined; it is looking at the possibility of hosting a CenterFest II in August....VOAP (Vermont Outdoor Adventure Program) will continue to offer field trips monthly throughout July and August.

Getting to know our key stakeholders allows us to know what they expect of us and how we can continue to strengthen the SOC. We have planned a collaborator's meeting for August 23rd at The Center to discuss our successes and challenges. We will discuss ways to better provide for our youth and will talk about additional resources and training available to The Center staff and youth.

We are also planning to attend "Say it Straight" training with the Rutland Area Prevention Coalition as well as "Bridges out of Poverty" training through the Vermont Foodbank.

So. Windham: We continue to consult with the local Catholic Church, Brattleboro Housing Authority and the State Housing Authority on a regular basis to pursue the possible collaboration of these three entities for an all-youth SRO. Due to the need for shorter- term housing options and the success of our collaboration with the Morningside Shelter, we are also looking into further collaboration between Youth Services and that Shelter which might make another apartment (or house with multiple apartments) available to meet transitional housing needs. Two supervisors for the case management staff have been meeting with board and community members in preparation for a trip to Washington, DC to pursue possible federal funding for youth housing under a "field-based experimental model".

So. Windsor/No. Windham: Beginning in September 2011, the YIT grant will roll out a Peer-to-Peer Transition Facilitation program. Peer supports will be delivered on a fee-for-service basis. Service will include peer mentoring, service navigation and general transition facilitation.

HCRS has undergone base-line testing to see where we stand in regards to becoming a truly TIP-informed site. We have our feedback and will be taking steps in the next reporting period to become compliant.

Over the last few months transition workers from the DOL, VR, Springfield High School, and YIT have been meeting to discuss ways to implement life skills workshops for out-of-school youth that would meet

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requirements for high school credits. The Real Game has become the focus of these discussions. It is our hope that in early 2012, in conjunction with VAL and Springfield High School, we will begin running 30-week courses of the Real Game that will count for 1 high school credit. There is still work to be done, but all parties are optimistic.

We have not been able to schedule a time for a CLC training with Mercedes Avila, the statewide YIT CLC Coordinator. There was some talk last year, but very little movement during this reporting period. This is an area we will revisit.

Washington:

- Regional CLC training is planned for October, 2011.
- Continue outreach to inform local agencies and schools about the YIT Grant and its outcomes, increasing the number of youth and young adults enrolled in the YIT Grant.
- Continue working with the Youth Engagement Specialist (YES) to build a youth advisory board.
- Implement the revised WEST program within the region.
- Continue to bring youth and young adults to statewide leadership opportunities.
- Continue quarterly Family Round Tables to assist families with children who are young adults and, hopefully, create a family advisory board.
- Continue to implement the interagency professional development plan.
- Continue to participate in statewide YIT Grant trainings as a regional team.

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GLOSSARY

AALV	Association of Africans Living in Vermont
ABE	Adult Basic Education
AHS	Agency of Human Services
ARC	Attachment, Self-Regulation, and Competency
BARJ	Balanced and Restorative Justice
CCV	Community College of Vermont
CHSLV	Community Health Services of Lamoille Valley
CJSW	Criminal Justice Social Worker
CLC	Cultural and Linguistic Competence
CMC	Clara Martin Center
COTS	Committee on Temporary Shelter
CRT	Community Rehabilitation and Treatment (for serious mental illness, DMH)
CSAC	Counseling Service of Addison County
CSP	Coordinated Services Plan
CWS	Creative Workforce Solutions
DCF	Department for Children and Families
DMH	Department of Mental Health
DOC	Department of Corrections
DOE	Department of Education
DOL	Department of Labor
FSP	Family Safety Planning (of DCF Family Services Division)
GED	General Educational Development (tests certifying academic competence)
HC	HowardCenter
HCRS	Health Care and Rehabilitation Services
IEP	Individualized Education Plan
ILP	Individual Life Plan
ISP	Individual Support Plan
JOBS	Jump on Board for Success
LIT	Local Interagency Team
LCC	Lamoille Community Connections
LNA	Licensed Nurses' Aide
LTP	Learning Together Program (of parent child centers)
MI	Motivational Interviewing
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
NCSS	Northwest Counseling Service and Support
NEKCA	Northeast Kingdom Community Action
NEKHS	Northeast Kingdom Human Services
NEKYS	Northeast Kingdom Youth Services
NFI	Northeastern Family Institute
PCP	Primary Care Provider
POW	Peer Outreach Worker
RBGC	Rutland Boys and Girls Club
RMHS	Rutland Mental Health Services
SAMHSA	Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services (federal agency)
SED	Serious Emotional Disturbance

Compilation of Vermont's Youth in Transition (YIT) Regional Progress Reports

SIT	State Interagency Team
SOC	System of Care
SRO	Single Room Occupancy
STD	Sexually Transmitted Disease
TAY	Transition-Aged Youth Program (of Clara Martin Center)
T4C	Teens for Change
TIP	Transition to Independence Process
TLP	Transitional Living Program (of the VCRHYP)
TRAC	Transformation Accountability System (of SAMHSA)
UCS	United Counseling Service
UVM	University of Vermont
VAL	Vermont Adult Learning
VCHIP	Vermont Child Health Improvement Program
VDH	Vermont Department of Health
VFFCMH	Vermont Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health
VFN	Vermont Family Network
VHAP	Vermont Health Access Program (a VT Medicaid program)
VOAP	Vermont Outdoor Adventure Program
VR	Vocational Rehabilitation (Division in Department of Aging + Independent Living)
WCMHS	Washington County Mental Health Services
WCYSB	Washington County Youth Services Bureau
WEST	We Eliminate Stigma Together (a YIT Social Marketing campaign)
WIB	Workforce Investment Board
YA	Young Adults
YAB	Youth (and/or Young Adult) Advisory Board
YAN	Young Adult Navigator
YAP	Youth Agriculture Program
YAVM	Young Adult Voice Movement (Conference)
VCRHYP	Vermont Coalition of Runaway and Homeless Youth Programs
YDP	Youth Development Program (of DCF)
YIT	Youth in Transition Grant
YOP	Youth Outreach Program (of United Counseling Service)
YS	Youth Services
YSC	Youth Service Council (Bennington YIT Steering Committee)