

**PROGRAM PROGRESS REPORT
COVER SHEET**

1. Grant Number: 03150 - 7049
2. Grantee Name and Address: **Northwestern Counseling and Support Services**
107 Fisher Pond Road
St. Albans, VT 05478
3. Telephone Number: (802) 524-6554
4. Project Title: Implementation of the Franklin-Grand Isle Youth in Transition (YIT) Plan
5. Period of Performance: July 1, 2010 thru December 31, 2010
6. Approved Project Period: July 1, 2010 thru December 31, 2010
7. Period Covered by Report: July 1, 2010 thru December 31, 2010
8. Author's Name and Telephone number: Ebony Nyoni (802) 393-6571; Kayla Tatro (802) 393-6570
9. Date of report: January 21, 2011
10. Comments (if any):

1. Major Activities and Accomplishments during this Period

Outreach events were held during this reporting period for the purpose of bolstering community involvement, youth voice, education, and awareness, such as:

- **YIT/JUVENILE JUSTICE COMMUNITY MEETINGS:** The first meeting of the quarter was held at 130 Fisher Pond Road, NCSS, on the 24th day of September. It was a full meeting with approximately 33 participants from the community. During this time we heard a presentation offering up solutions for the restoration of a community youth center. We also talked about the upcoming regional YIT conference and scheduling meetings for planning time.

The next meeting will be held at 130 Fisher Pond Road, NCSS on the 28th day of January. Our focus is for the purpose of coalition building as we address immediate issues affecting our counties' youth. This meeting has 36 community members, government officials, and service providers, as registered to participate. We are excited to have youth in attendance who are willing to share their stories.

- **FRANKLIN AND GRAND ISLE 1ST ANNUAL REGIONAL CONFERENCE:** On this day participants were able to receive valuable information and resources available throughout the community. The participants reached a total of 88 not including exhibitors, and guests. Special guest included Cameron Mack. There were over twenty five exhibitors and facilitators for nine round table discussions, which included:
 - Caring Communities
 - NCSS Adolescent Services
 - Vermont Adult Learning
 - Community Justice
 - Care Net
 - AHS
 - Center Point
 - VT Cares
 - Outright VT/RU12
 - VT Green
 - Spectrum
 - Valley Vista,
 - Voices against Violence
 - AmeriCorps
 - Tobacco Coalition
 - NFI
 - VSAC
 - DCF
 - JOBS

We also had The Drug Free World Foundation host a series of educational videos related to illegal drug use amongst youth. After the conference, Michelle Boslun reported that one of the youth from her group, decided to stop doing drugs as a result.

- **THE HIGH LOW PROJECT:** This exhibit was hosted by NCSS at the Historical Museum during the month of November. The exhibit was first viewed by participants of the Youth in Transition Conference. Many youth and community members were captivated by the reality of the exhibits. The reception was held on the 13th of November, and attended by members of the community including Ted Mable, Todd Bauman, Andrea Yandow, and members of the NCSS Board.
- **EBONY NYONI** participated in a meeting with state YIT representatives and leaders of the Abenaki community to share history, concerns, and possible solutions.
- **CLC STEERING COMMITTEE** began meeting as a group on the 16th day of September at 130 Fisher Pond Rd. (NCSS). We discussed goals related to CLC.
- **UNDOING RACISM** training attended by Ebony Nyoni including community members from throughout the state and beyond.
- **YOUTH IN TRANSITION LEADERSHIP GROUP** which is committed to educating, mentoring, and fostering leadership skills in at risk youth. The group meets weekly, in addition to participating in steering committee meetings, public events, and more.
- **EAT N BLOG** is a project to collect youth voice from throughout the Franklin and Grand Isle communities. Using laptops, we are able to meet with youth sub-cultures and get them to type about their experiences. So far, Ebony has worked with the Learning Together group composed of teen moms on this project.
- **COMMUNITY OUTREACH** included events such as:
 - Public meetings to discuss the development and sustainability of a youth community center. The first meeting held 25 community people.
 - Holiday party for YIT Leadership group.
 - YIT Leadership group president visited hospital to pass out holiday cheer and stockings.
 - Movie Night.
- **THE VALENTINE'S DAY DANCE** hosted by Youth In Transition in collaboration with other community organizations will occur on the 12th day of February in an effort to promote the new Youth Community Center, drug free events, and safe space/activities for youth to have fun in our communities. We are preparing to host at least 170 youth on this night.

2. Problems

Some of the difficulties encountered during this second quarter remain similar to the difficulties of the first quarter such as transportation, which continues to pose as a barrier for robust youth participation in the weekly leadership meetings. Ebony uses EAT N BLOG to connect with youth who don't have reliable transportation. Ebony also uses her vehicle or the agency van to transport youth to and from the weekly meetings. Some youth are located in Grand Isle county, and border areas next to New York State and Canada, and some are located on the beginnings of Chittenden County. After weekly group meetings, Ebony has to transport one set of youth into St. Albans City, and then go back and retrieve those youth who have greater distances to travel. Public transportation in Franklin and Grand Isle counties is very limited. Ebony and youth continue to advocate in various public forums for more public transportation accessibility.

3. Significant Findings and Events

There has not been a change in staffing since the last quarter. Ebony Nyoni is still the Youth In Transition Grant Coordinator for Franklin and Grand Isle Counties.

4. Dissemination Activities

The most recent publications include posters about the November 12th Youth In Transition Conference that took place in St. Albans City and for an upcoming Valentine's Day event scheduled for February 12th at the Historical Museum. Please find the following posters attached:

- Youth In Transition Regional Conference
- Youth In Transition Valentine's Day Event

5. Other Activities

All of the assessment tools outlined in this section during the previous quarter continue to be used when appropriate. Ebony continues to enroll youth in the UVM Study. This quarter has added Cost Data Tracking, Six month follow up, and interviews. Other activities include the following:

- Research for community youth center feasibility and attainment.
- Development of revised youth center proposal with sustainability.
- Meeting with groups of Administrators at Enosburg High School, MVU High School, BFA High School, BFA-Fairfax High School, SOAR Alternative School, Vermont Adult Learning, VSAC, and the Northwest Technical Center.
- Meetings with Abenaki (PAC) community to explain Youth In Transition program.
- Form partnership with pediatric clinic and work with Dr. Fred Holmes on substance abuse video project.

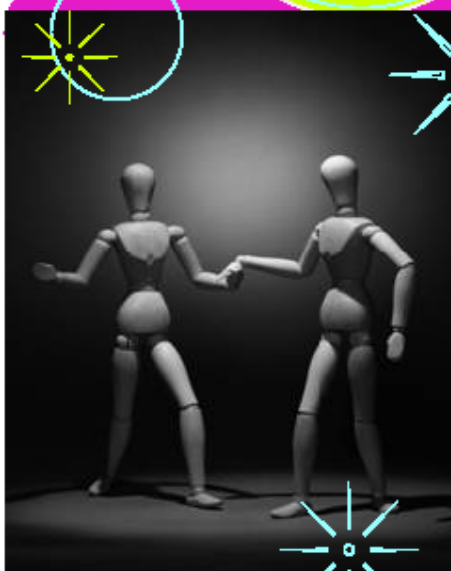
- Community meetings for youth center proposal
- Committee member for Women in Transition group, worked with community justice center and other service providers to develop a one – stop – system of care unit for women exiting the correctional system.
- Assisting teen moms with YIT related services (housing, transportation, resources, etc.)
- Assisted Interagency Teams in specific cases related to youth at risk.
- Participated in community meeting established to describe Boys and Girls center movement.
- Toured Chill Out center model at the U Mall in South Burlington.
- Met with diverse youth groups throughout the county in an effort to collaborate efforts, such as: New Connections (youth in recovery group), BFA (student group), service rendered (St. Albans, and Burlington youth groups), former youth center youth board (common grounds youth center).
- Work individually with youth on daily basis to help get their needs met.

6. Activities Planned for Next Reporting Period

- Support community steering committee to finalize youth center proposal, and pursue funding streams.
- Establish program 12 week 12 – step program called “Reel Transformation”
- Continue Eat N Blog with more youth sub-cultures throughout Franklin and Grand Isle counties.
- Obtain more information from youth through surveys.
- Plan and carry out successful Valentine’s Day event.
- Continue to expand and develop the Youth Leadership group.

Youth In Transition Conference

“Getting Connected and Staying Connected”



Sponsored by:

**NORTHWESTERN
COUNSELING**
& SUPPORT SERVICES

Date:
Friday, November 12th

Time: 8:30 till 3:00

WHO: Youth In Transition (YIT)

WHAT: YIT Day Conference

WHERE: Day begins at the Bliss Auditorium
in the St. Albans Historical Museum at 8:30 and
then off to the St. Albans City Hall

WHY: “Youth in transition day” is a day to
celebrate youth as they move through one phase of
life to the next, successfully!

TORsvp CONTACT:

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Ebony.nyoni@ncssinc.org

YOUTH IN TRANSITION 2011 VALENTINE'S DAY PARTY



TICKETS \$10

WHERE: BLISS AUDITORIUM

**Saint Albans Historical Museum
Corner of Church & Bishop Streets
Saint Albans, Vermont 05478**

WHEN: FEBRUARY 12, 2011

Doors open at 7:30 PM -11:00 PM

**WHAT: MUSIC, CONTESTS, SURPRISE
ENTERTAINERS, REFRESHMENTS, FUN, AND
DANCING**

**For information on where to purchase tickets, please
contact Ebony Nyoni at 802-393-6571**

**Sponsored by NCSS, Youth In Transition, Caring Communities, Service Rendered, Mousetrap Pediatrics,
and community**