

**Goals for strengthening the system of care:**

1. Young Adult Leadership is developed in Vermont.  
The Criminal Justice Social Worker (CJSW) was able to attend the YIT Grant's Young Adult Voice Movement Conference with one of the clients from our region.
2. Family/adult allies support young adults.  
We have utilized the Individual Support Plan (ISP) as a means to identify family support in some capacity for clients.
3. Workers use caring practices know to be helpful for young adults and families.  
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 Coordinator positions during the life of the grant. This is to ensure youth are involved in the Self-Sufficiency Matrix and Individual Support Plan (ISP) process.
4. System of care partners gain cultural and linguistic competence (CLC).
5. Local communities (including young adults) change their perceptions of young adults and of mental health issues, reducing stigma.  
Lamoille Community Connections (LCC) as well as the YIT Parent Peer Advocate contacted the Vermont Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health (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 to the YIT Steering Committee with recommendation to submit a proposal but that did not happen.
6. Effectiveness of the Vermont System of Care for young adults with SED is evaluated.  
The effectiveness of the Vermont System of Care for young adults with SED is limited by gaps in housing, stable transportation, as well as employment.
7. The State supports and sustains regional services for young adults.  
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.

**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):  
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.
2. Increased number of young adults who are employed:  
During the last reporting period it was determined that existing local resources are sufficient to help YIT clients with employment. The project has collaborated with the JOBS program,

Department of Labor (DOL), and Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) as means to enhance employment opportunities with YIT clients. The relationship with the JOBS Program has continued and strengthened over the last two months. A monthly meeting with program representatives from JOBS has been established to handle referrals and review cases.

3. Increased number young adults participating in (or who completed) educational programs:  
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.
4. Increased number of young adults who have access to, and are using, a medical home.  
A medical home has been established and is operational in Morrisville weekly for drop-in medical assistance.
5. Increased number of young adults living in safe and stable housing.  
This continues to be a gap in the community; however, two YIT clients are currently residing in a local transitional home.
6. Increased number of young adults who have caring & supportive relationships.  
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.
7. Increase in young adults' strengths and protective factors.  
This is addressed in weekly counseling sessions by therapist and their treatment strategies.
8. Improved mental health for young adults.  
We have introduced the 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 also includes mental health and substance abuse assessments and referrals for individual and group therapy.

### **System of Care Infrastructure Indicators (for federal TRAC)**

#### Workforce Development:

#### Organizational Change:

An organizational change implemented by Community Health Services of Lamoille Valley (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.

#### Partnership/Collaboration:

#### Types/Targets of Practice:

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 Transition to Independence Process (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.

**Problems:**

- The contracted YIT Grant Coordinator left her positions during this period of time. This affected the functioning of the YIT Steering Committee but did not affect the delivery or direct supervision of YIT services.
- The grantee (LCC) and the subcontracted mental health agency (Behavioral Health and Wellness), 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.
- 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 Coordinator 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.

**Significant Findings and Events:**

- The fiscal agent for the regional YIT grant is changing from LCC to CHSLV.
- Annie Paumgarten left the 10-hour per week YIT Grant Coordinator position, which was temporarily filled by Chris Player, a Lamoille Community Connections (LCC) employee, then – after September 1, 2011 - by Mary O'Toole from the Behavioral Health and Wellness Division of Community Health Services of Lamoille Valley (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.

**Dissemination Activities:**

- A document was created to clarify the roles of and illustrate the relationships between the YIT Grant Manager, Steering Committee, Criminal Justice Social Worker, 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.

**Other Activities:**

- 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 (Adult Basic Education, JOBS, Lamoille Valley Family Center, Lamoille Community Connections, and the Behavioral Health and Wellness Division of Community Health Services of Lamoille Valley) now meets monthly to discuss individual YIT cases and review systems issues that impact YIT 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.
- The Criminal Justice Social Worker (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 the direct services specific to him/her.

**Activities Planned for Next Reporting Period:**

- Continuing to provide intensive case management to at-risk young adults in the community.
- Continued implementation of evidence-based practices (TIP and the use of incentives).
- Continued weekly meetings with YIT staff to discuss challenges and successes.
- Monthly meetings with the CARE Review Team (including JOBS) and local law enforcement.
- Finalizing the YIT brochures.
- Identifying a group of 1-3 young persons who would be willing to attend the YIT Training on September 30, 2011 in Lake Morey.
- Gaining Cultural and Linguistic Competence with all community partners.