

YIT PROGRAM PROGRESS REPORT

1. Grant Number: #C-YIT-FY12 - HCRS
2. Grantee Name and Address:
HCRS
390 River St
Springfield, VT 05156
3. Telephone Number:
802-886-4567 x2530
4. Project Title:
Youth in Transition Project
5. Period of Performance from 7/1/11 through 12/30/11
6. Approved Project Period from 7/1/11 through 6/30/12
7. Author's Name and Telephone number:
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8. Date of report:
1/15/12
9. Comments (if any):

The federal Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA) primarily focuses on demonstrating accountability and achieving meaningful outcomes for all federally funded programs. Please make sure to include information on the outcomes of your project activities and the impact of your project on improving the lives of Youth in Transition and their families in the Program Progress Reports submitted.

Two Program Progress Reports must be submitted for this sub-grant:

1. one for the time period from July 1 – December 31, 2011 (due by January 31, 2012), and
2. one for the period from January 1 – June 30, 2012 (due by July 30, 2012).

Report Contents

1. Major Activities and Accomplishments During this Period

Report both quantifiable and non-quantifiable accomplishments for the General Expectations and Regional Goals listed in Attachment A (see pages 3-5 of the grant award):

- Quantifiable accomplishments include numbers of youth/families served, people trained, support groups established, etc.
- Non-quantifiable accomplishments should be listed in chronological order. Describe any draft/final products in this section.

Please report major activities and accomplishments for the following goals, outcomes, and indicators as relevant for the sub-grant. *[This section of the report may be entered directly into the table below.]*

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| <p>Goals for strengthening the systems of care</p> | <p>1: Young adult (YA) leadership is developed in VT.</p> <p>The Greater Windsor County Teens for Change group continued to meet twice a month until September. These meetings were organized and run solely by the young adult members. This includes securing space, creating an agenda, leading the meeting and following through on commitments established at the meeting.</p> <p>T4C held two events over the summer.</p> <p>In early July the group used money it had raised to bring area young adults to Stratton Mountain for a day of paint balling. The event was attended by 12 Young adults and 3 chaperones. It culminated with having pizza out and sharing stories of the day's events. I think the highlight was the young adults getting a chance to not only bond, but bond around shooting their chaperones with paint balls.</p> <p>The second event was a picnic and outing at the Emerald State Forest. 8 Young adults headed to Emerald Park for a day of cooking, eating and hiking. Each young adult was responsible for some aspect of organizing the picnic. Examples of that are creating the menu, budgeting for the shopping trip and planning the day's activities. The day was a great success with each young adult reaching the summit of Bromley Mountain.</p> <p>We can continue to incorporate former students as co-facilitators in our Youth Employment Workshops. This process has seen 4 Young Adults graduate from the workshop to become co-facilitators.</p> <p>Through T4C we recruited two young adults to serve as permanent board members of the Springfield Prevention Coalition. These young adults have full voting rights and will represent the youth voice of the Springfield Prevention Coalition.</p> <p>Finally, during this reporting period the Youth In Transition Project rolled out its adaptation of a peer outreach program. In October we hired two young adults to offer transition services to young adults in the area. This program is a hybrid between traditional peer outreach and transition facilitation as defined by the TIPS manual. The program services are funded solely through fee for service Medicaid billing. In other words, clients of the peer to peer program can only access services by having an intake into the HCRS system to open them for billing case management(transition facilitation) through Medicaid. Only at this point can the peer facilitators begin to do their work. Although using this system of billing does not allow us to do traditional peer outreach it</p> |
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| | <p>has enabled us to use a peer model for delivering transition facilitation services. Each peer outreach worker has a case load of five young adults with whom they develop transition goals and provide the services to help them accomplish these goals. The program has been a great success and with referrals outnumbering service resources there are plans to hire an additional peer worker in the coming reporting period.</p> |
| | <p>2: Family/adult allies support young adults....</p> <p>As part of the intake process to work with the peer to peer workers, young adults must come in for a clinical intake. During this intake young adults work with a clinician to identify their natural support system through genograms. The peer workers then help the young adult leverage this system to accomplish the goals that they have identified.</p> <p>HCRS continues to provide family services to our young adult population. These services include but are not limited to family therapy, WRAP services, group therapy and early childhood intervention.</p> |
| | <p>3: Workers use caring practices known to be helpful for young adults and families.</p> <p>Required activity: <i>Provide cross-system case management and individualized service plan development, ensuring that young adults are engaged in planning for their own futures....</i></p> <p>During the latest conference at Lake Morey the S Windsor area identified the following areas as areas of need: peer mentoring, health sex/education, planned parenthood, affordable childcare, transportation and a teen center.</p> <p>We took this list to our T4C group where they identified a Teen Center and peer mentoring as areas that they would like to have input and take charge of assisting with implementation. We have plans to lay the groundwork in early 2012.</p> <p>In addition the two Peer to Peer workers were trained on best practices for performing transition facilitation. Many aspects of the TIPS guidelines were used in this training.</p> |
| | <p>4: System of Care partners gain cultural & linguistic competence (CLC)....</p> <p>We have not been able to schedule a time for a C and L training with Mercedes. There was some talk last year, but very little movement during this reporting period. This is an area we will need to revisit over the next six months.</p> |

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| | <p>5: Local communities (including young adults) change their perceptions of young adults and of mental health issues, reducing stigma....</p> <p>Teens 4 Change and the YITP continue to partner with the Springfield Prevention coalition to coordinate events that focus on giving back to the community. We have held three Community Movie Nights in partnership with Springfield Cinemas. For a small fee the Cinemas allow us to use there largest theatre to invite the community to view a free movie and learn about and support our organizations and the young adults who are critical to their success.</p> <p>In addition we held our third and last forum on Gangs and Drugs in Springfield. The forum was attended by over 50 community members. We had one young adult serve on the panel. Several action items dealing with quality of life were agreed upon and we are currently moving forward with these action items.</p> <p>6: Effectiveness of the Vermont System of Care for young adults with SED is evaluated.....</p> <p>Working with the State Wide evaluation team we have identified areas where our region is being effective and were we have room for improvement. One are of growth in our program is to get more young adults enrolled in the Vermont Evaluation.</p> <p>7: The State supports and sustains regional services for young adults....</p> <p>The Youth in Transition Project and Teens for Change have actively participated in all State-Wide YIT functions. Matt Wolf has been an asset in our work to strengthen our local steering committee and has provided frame work advice for implementing a peer to peer outreach program. In addition we hope to utilize Matt along with the Vermont Coalition of Teen Centers in bringing a teen center to Springfield.</p> |
| <p>Desired outcomes for young adults of transition-age</p> | <p>1. Decreased number of young adults involved in the corrections system (including an increase in the number who are free of incarceration). Required activity: <i>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....</i></p> <p>We continue to work with probation officers, Springfield Restorative Justice, Court Diversion and the local Community High School. To identify young adults who are at-risk of offending and re-offending. Our referrals from these sources have doubled during this reporting period.</p> <p>We work closely with probation officers to help young adults transitioning</p> |

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| | <p>from the corrections system establish healthy connections in the community.</p> <p>We work with the local Court Diversion to provide community services opportunities for those who have been referred.</p> <p>We continue to work closely with young adult shelters, The Mountain Side Shelter and The House at 20 Mile Stream to provide healthy outcomes for their residents. Including participation in Teens 4 Change, Young Adult Workshops and general transition facilitation.</p> |
| | <p>2. Increased number of young adults who are employed....</p> <p>6 Young Adults were hired into competitive employment. We accomplished this by partnering with the DOL and VR to put on Youth Employment Workshops, guide access to work experiences, on the job trainings and internships with local businesses.</p> |
| | <p>3. Increased number young adults participating in (or who completed) educational programs....</p> <p>5 Young Adults were connected to Vermont Adult Learning for educational supports. 2 Young Adults were supported to stay in High School. 4 Young Adults were connected to Community College of Vermont.</p> <p>In addition we have been working hard to promote Job Corps to our local young adults. We have scheduled regular visits to meet with Kim Collins the admission counselor. Beginning in January we will be operating monthly tours of the local Job Corps sites.</p> |
| | <p>4. Increased number of young adults who have access to, and are using, a medical home....</p> <p>5 Young Adults were enrolled in Medicaid and were supported to find primary care physicians.</p> |
| | <p>5. Increased number of young adults living in safe and stable housing....</p> <p>4 Young Adults was supported in their transition to safe and stable housing.</p> |
| | <p>6. Increased number of young adults who have caring & supportive relationships...</p> |

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| | <p>14 Young Adults were supported to develop caring relationships. The large jump in this number was due to the implementation of the peer outreach program.</p> <p>7. Increase in young adults' strengths and protective factors....</p> <p>11 Young Adults were supported to develop their strength and protective factors.</p> <p>8. Improved mental health for young adults. Required activity: <i>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....</i> <i>Work closely with Probation and Parole to provide effective conditions of release that are both restorative to the community and therapeutic to the young adult offender.</i></p> <p>As mentioned earlier, any young adult who is going to receive services through our with our peer to peer program needs to complete an intake at with an HCRS clinician. During this intake an assessment of needs is performed. Most are young adults are identified as having a need for treatment in some area of mental health. At that time they are offered to meet with an outpatient clinician to further explore options specifically to address their mental health needs. Two young adults have agreed to do outpatient therapy. In general this has greatly increased young adult exposure to mental health services. This is an unexpected, positive by-product of having an incomplete peer outreach program.</p> <p>As stated previously, over this reporting period the YITP has worked closely with probation and parole to assist young adults in all aspects of reentry and community support. P and P affiliated Young Adults have participated in Teens 4 Change, The Young Adult Employment Workshops and received targeted transition facilitation.</p> <p>From these sources 5 Young Adults were referred to HCRS for outpatient mental health and/or substance abuse therapy.</p> |
| <p>System of Care Infrastructure Indicators (for federal TRAC):</p> | <p><u>Workforce Development</u>: 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....</p> <p>The Youth In Transition grant continues to support a series of community education series on Gangs and Drugs in the community.</p> <p>The Springfield YIT team continues to meet on a regular basis to develop transition programming. This team includes partners from DOL, SPC, YDC, VR, JOBS, DOE, and Community mental health.</p> |

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| | <p>HCRS continues to offer ongoing professional development.</p> |
| | <p><u>Organizational Change:</u> 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....</p> <p>As mentioned before, the Youth in Transition Project rolled out the peer to peer transition facilitation program. In October the project hired Chris Laplante and Abbie Holden to fill the roles of Peer to Peer Transition Facilitators.</p> <p>While the program is not perfect, Abbie and Chris have done a great job supporting young adults to achieve their goals.</p> <p>We will continue to look for alternative funding sources to augment our current services.</p> |
| | <p><u>Partnership/Collaboration:</u> 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....</p> <p>No formal agreements have been made during this reporting period.</p> |
| | <p><u>Types/Targets of Practice:</u> 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....</p> <p>None at this time.</p> |

8. 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.

Our main issue is funding. We need to identify additional revenue streams to augment our peer outreach program and to sustain a teen center.

9. 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.

Our program added Abbie Holden and Chris Laplante as Peer to Peer Transition Facilitators. Please find their resumes attached.

10. 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.

We continue to advertise our programming, ie. Youth Employment Workshops, Thursday Community Movie nights and other activities via young adult word of mouth and through traditional advertising methods. Attached is a schedule and flyer for our Job Corps tours.

6. Activities Planned for Next Reporting Period

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

We will continue to move forward with the concept of a Teen Center.

Teens 4 Change will re-launch in early March.

The Real Game begins January 25th.

Job Corps tours begin at the end of January and will continue monthly through June.

Northlands

Vergennes, VT

Wednesday, January 18th

Van Departs at 7:30 AM

100 Mineral St,

Springfield, VT

Shriver

Devens, MA

Wednesday, February 29th

Van Departs at 9:00 AM

100 Mineral St,

Springfield, VT

Westover

Chicopee, MA

Thursday, March 15th

Van Departs at 7:45 AM

100 Mineral St,

Springfield, VT

Grafton

North Grafton, MA

Thursday April 26th

Van Departs at 7:00 AM

100 Mineral St,

Springfield, VT

Shriver

Devens, MA

Wednesday, May 23rd

Van Departs at 9:00 AM

100 Mineral St,

Springfield, VT

Northlands

Vergennes, VT

Wednesday, June 27th

Van Departs at 7:30 AM

100 Mineral St,

Springfield, VT

Job Corps Tour Schedule

**Sponsored by the Springfield Area
Y.I.T. TEAM**

For more information or to RSVP contact
802-886-4567 or
Blauro@hcrs.org