

PROGRAM PROGRESS REPORTING

1. Major Activities and Accomplishments during this Period –

During the first month, time was spent on networking with community resources, and participating in trainings and conferences.

Networking with the following providers and stakeholders:

Probation & Parole, Community Action, Adult Basic Education, Restorative Justice, Area Schools; (including alternative educational programs), the Junction, Bradford Teen Association, HCRS, Court Diversion, Local Medical Providers, Local Law Enforcement, Upper Valley Haven, Job Corps, private therapists, 2nd Growth, Turning Point, Community Members Green Mountain Rock Climbing, Prevention Partnership, Randolph Area Core Transition Team, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, White River Craft Center, Vermont Youth Conservation Corps, Department of Labor, Randolph Area Job Developers' Group, Department for Children and Families: Youth Development Coordinators, Vermont Coalition of Runaway and Homeless Youth Projects, Gifford Medical Center

Currently the peer navigator is holding a caseload of 12 transition age youth with needs of education, housing, employment, those struggling with substance abuse and caring relationships. Linking the youth to needed services in the community to address the above needs. Collecting data from willing youth to participate in the Common Study. Meeting youth where they are at with a focus on individual strengths, interests, and goals in order to promote their engagement and motivation. Mark Mitchell, peer navigator, has been invited to participate on the Cultural and Linguistic Competence team providing the Abenaki perspective.

The Wilder office recently renovated unused space to more appropriately accommodate the transition age youth population. A lounge/meeting area is currently being created where youth can meet with the transition age youth staff in a comfortable and inviting atmosphere. The hope is the space will offer a welcoming working space for youth to help reach their goals of transition hood.

2. Problems –

Identified Barriers/Needs:

- 1 - Youth emergency shelter(s)
- 2 - Assisted employment opportunities (job coaching) These services are typically available within Development Services in the Hartford District. However, one-on-one job coaching within Supported Employment (CRT) or through VocRehab is unfortunately limited.
- 3 – Transportation
- 4 - Summer programs providing academic credit recovery for those currently struggling in school.

3. Activities Planned for Next Reporting Period –

Over the next reporting period a focus will be geared towards pulling together the steering committee more consistently as a means of sharing information, resources, and to review

individual cases. A regional meeting of stakeholders is planned for the next reporting period to help increase the awareness of the program and to educate the community regarding the needs of this important population of young individuals.

The agency will be focusing it's own understanding and implementation of Peer Mentors, to include hiring and appropriate training of these staff. The Agency contracted with Heather Haag DeLeone to facilitate pottery classes in a peer-to-peer setting. The Agency hopes to recontract with Ms. DeLeone and is considering other venues in which peer services may be developed.