

YIT PROGRAM PROGRESS REPORT

1. Grant Number: 03150-5247
2. Grantee Name and Address: Northeast Kingdom Community Action
PO Box 346
Newport Vermont 05855
3. Telephone Number: 802-334-7316
4. Project Title: Youth in Transition Grant
5. Period of Performance from January 1st through June 30th
6. Approved Project Period from through
7. Author's Name and Telephone number: Kathy Metras 802-334-7316
8. Date of report: July 2011
9. Comments (if any):
 - Attachments: Resume for Samantha Bonneau and I will forward Catherine Vanessa's resume will be mailed separately with original progress report.
 - Youth Summit flyer and press release.
 - The Teen Center calendar of events will be mailed separately with original progress report.

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.]

Goals for strengthening the systems of care	<p>1: Young adult (YA) leadership is developed in VT.</p> <p>Required activity:</p> <p>The Orleans Northern Essex Youth Advisory Board has been meeting weekly with an average attendance of 8 young people ages 14-21. They have been trained in appropriate roles and responsibilities of a board and are now working on hosting a Youth Summit for July 21st, where they will talk about challenges that are facing young people and ideas on how to make things better.</p>
	<p>2: Family/adult allies support young adults...Every young person we work with, we work through family connections or a geno map. This is so the young people can understand how different people might support them throughout transitioning into adulthood. This also helps the Youth Worker understand where to put some extra energy when helping the young people find some good supports to guide them toward their future.</p>
	<p>3: Workers use caring practices known to be helpful for young adults and families.</p> <p>Required activity:</p> <p><i>Provide cross-system case management and individualized service plan development, ensuring that young adults are engaged in planning for their own futures....Any given day a young person can walk in our agency during a crisis or in need of support and any Youth Worker will be able to help them and provide support and information. In addition, each youth develops their own plan of care.</i></p> <p>Through the Youth Advisory Board, we will be hosting many youth/young adult events. At which time the youth will have a chance to express some of their challenges and share ideas of how we can help make positive changes in our community as well as in our system.</p>
	<p>4: System of Care partners gain cultural & linguistic competence (CLC)...Both staff and the Youth Advisory board is interested in having the Cultural and Linguistic Facilitator come to our agency and provide trainings.</p>
	<p>5: Local communities (including young adults) change their perceptions of young adults and of mental health issues, reducing stigma.... The work</p>

	<p>that we have been doing helping the young people develop the Youth Advisory Board is aimed in helping in this area. 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 place for young people. They have been preparing for a large Youth Summit. This Youth Summit is the first with many more events to come. The Young Adults on the Youth Advisory Board are facilitating their own event. They have questions regarding transportation, housing, community engagement, substance abuse and family relationships are their topics. They are hoping to have input from other young people on these challenges. Then, they will try out a few of the ideas that come from the summit.</p>
	<p>6: Effectiveness of the Vermont System of Care for young adults with SED is evaluated..... UVM has been collecting studies that young people are completing through “ young people through the partnership” and sharing it statewide.</p>
	<p>7: The State supports and sustains regional services for young adults.... The Youth in Transition Facilitator has been working with one of the Young Adult State Coordinators. This relationship has been very helpful and effective with communication and support at the local level.</p> <p>Also, our Youth Advisory Board applied for a \$500.00 grant to help cover the cost of the Youth Summit. This was very exciting because it was the first grant they wrote as a board.</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: The Youth in Transition Facilitator has been attending truancy meetings, 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 the young people on probation are doing what they need to in order to stay out of jail.</p> <p>Just recently, our YIT Facilitator went to court with a young man involved with juvenile justice to advocate for this young person to go to Valley Vista for substance abuse treatment instead of going to jail.</p> <p>2. Increased number of young adults who are employed....This 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. Northeast Kingdom Community Action received a grant from VCRHYP to provide green training and jobs to young people. YIT cases along with many other program cases are referred to the vtGREEN coordinator.</p>

	<p>NEKCA Youth Services has also been doing some outreach to non-traditional community partners. For an example, 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.</p> <p>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 what their true employment interests are. Some of the volunteer positions we have set up are: working in a humane society, beauty salon, carpentry, thrift store, and a bakery.</p>
	<p>3. Increased number young adults participating in (or who completed) educational programs. Education is one of the first things we ask about and if they are not enrolled or haven't completed their high school diploma we help figure out the barriers and help them find the type of structure the young person needs to be able to complete their high school diploma.</p> <p>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 that are struggling with making to school.</p>
	<p>4. Increased number of young adults who have access to, and are using, a medical home...Health insurance has been a challenge for many of the young people we are working with. 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 department of health and Head Start on having some informal meetings with the young people that attend our Teen Center.</p> <p>Another barrier in health care in our region is with dental insurance. The state does not cover dental care any longer. The only way any of our youth that have VHAP receive dental care is if they are in severe pain, if they have bleeding or the tooth needs to be extracted. This is resulting in a very large population of 18+ to have severe tooth decay.</p>
	<p>5. Increased number of young adults living in safe and stable housing...The YIT facilitator works very closely with the transitional living program and now is combined position with the runaway homeless youth program. We provide host homes, shelter referrals and now we have 4 transitional housing units to help young people transition to independent living.</p>

	<p>6. Increased number of young adults who have caring & supportive relationships.... The YIT facilitator provides some mediation between families that are struggling with communication. The YIT facilitator also does a family connections map with all youth/young adults to help the young person see how many people they do have in their life for support. This grant also helps us provide supervision to our Teen center. The teen center provides a safe place for youth/young adults to eat, play and relax.</p>
	<p>7. Increase in young adults' strengths and protective factors....NEKCA Youth Services uses some of the 40 developmental assets as a starting place to gather information from the young person regarding their own feelings of self and community worth. We also believe that by offering opportunities for the youth/young adult to volunteer we are adding to their own self worth which will empower them and help them grow as people.</p>
	<p>8. Improved mental health for young adults. Required activity: Once a week the Teen Center has a substance abuse counselor come in for a few hours to help normalize some of the services NKHS provides.</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><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><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><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.... We have begun implementing the TIP model. Approximately 8 programs were trained in our region on the TIP Model.</p>

5. 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.

Some of our beginning problems during the first year of this grant have been recruiting enough individuals to meet the grant requirement. When LIT wrote the grant we made it very clear in the grant and with each other that this YIT Facilitator was going to work with new clients or clients that are not engaging in any other program. This made it very difficult. It wasn't that there are not plenty of young people out their not enrolled in a different 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 may have had 7-10 youth enrolled in YIT. After redesigning our structure and also combining this program with the Youth Runaway Crisis case management position we have 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.

6. 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.

The LIT Team decided to split the Youth in Transition position with the Crisis/Runaway Program. This meant the position would be 20 hours of YIT and 20 hours of Crisis/Runaway; this new position would be based out of the teen center to draw in more cases for Youth in Transition. This new splitting of the two programs lead us to hiring a new employee to start on May 16th, 2011 her name is Cat Vanasse (please see attached resume at end of report).

During this time we had to let our Peer Outreach worker go during the month of January. This was a hard one, 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 work Sam Bonneau, who had been interning at the Teen Center and for Youth Services during her Spring college semester(please see resume attached below). Date of Hire was May 9, 2011.

7. 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.

Attached you will find the newspaper article regarding the Youth Summit along with the flyer.

Also, the summer calendar of events for the Teen Center. That both Cat Vanasse and Samantha Bonneau created.

5. Other Activities

Briefly describe other activities undertaken during the reporting period.

The YIT Facilitator has also been providing outreach to youth and young adults even if they do not want to participate in the YIT program; as well as go out on cases with other NEKCA programs to see if those cases might be a YIT eligible case.

The YIT facilitator was able to get the Youth Advisory Board up and running with help from the YDP Coordinator. Our First meeting was February 23, 2011. We had 10 Young adults come. Since that time we have had several meetings, the YAB has also participated in some trainings with the UVM extension Community Resource person about how to become a proper board, and are working on a Youth Summit being held on July 21st, 2011.

6. Activities Planned for Next Reporting Period

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

Our plan is to continue to build a strong Youth Advisory Board. We will continue to work with them around ideas and events to help us make living in the NEK a little better.

On August 6th three of our youth advisory board members will be attending a NEKCA strategic planning process. Our hope is to be strong advocates for all youth in the NEK and help get some help from NEKCA board members.

DMH only:

Date received: _____

Approved by: _____

Date approved: _____

Approved by: _____

Date approved: _____