

**PROGRAM PROGRESS REPORT
COVER SHEET**

1. Grant Number: _____
2. Grantee Name and Address: Health Care and Rehabilitation Services (HCRS)
of
Southeastern Vermont
390 River Street
Springfield, VT 05156
3. Telephone Number: 802-886-4567 x2530
4. Project Title: Youth in Transition Project
5. Period of Performance: March 1st 2010 thru June 30th 2010
6. Approved Project Period: _____ thru _____
7. Period Covered by Report: March 1st through June 30th 2010
8. Author's Name and Telephone number: Bob Lauro 802-886-4567 x2530
9. Date of report: August 20th, 2010
10. Comments (if any):

1. Major Activities and Accomplishments during this Period –

On March 1st, 2010 Bob Lauro began work as the project coordinator/transition facilitator. After meeting with the S Windsor steering committee (which had been established prior to his hire) work began immediately to create project systems that would establish a structured way to publicize the project, identify referral sources, and create intake procedures that would allow the case management/youth outreach piece up to begin as quickly as possible. This included designing a streamlined referral process to be used across all local, young adults systems of care. Acting as a central intake point for young adults, the YIT coordinator can now work closely with other providers in the young adult system to make sure timely and appropriate referrals are being made. As a result of the YIT grant and the implementation of the referral system a local group of professionals who either directly provide transition services or sit on the periphery meet monthly to discuss referrals and appropriate services. In addition, the project coordinator designed an outline and began to recruit young adults to sit on the regional Youth Advisory Board. Specific procedures and outcomes are outlined here:

- **Publicity-** A brochure (attached) was created to outline the services and eligibility requirements. The Project coordinator met with all key stakeholders to introduce the program and begin soliciting referrals. In addition, a press release was written and disseminated to all local publications. A few of the local publications ran a story. Please find PDF versions attached. Outreach to new stakeholders is an ongoing process.
- **Case Management/Youth Outreach-** Shortly after conducting a publicity tour the influx of referrals told us that this program was a needed resource for young adults in S Windsor County. Please see table 1 for an illustration of our progress toward meeting locally proposed strategies and state wide initiatives.

Table 1. illustrates referrals that met our enrollment criteria (REF), local enrollment or young adults who are receiving intensive case management through the YIT grant (LE), young adults connected to health care (HC), linked to post-secondary education (PSE), employment (EMP), Housing (HS), caring relationships (CR), enrollment into high school program or equivalent (HSD) *Post secondary education and high school equivalency were separated because it much more common for our referrals to need high school/GED supports*, and enrollment into UVM Study(UVM). **Note: *connected to services does not mean that the young adult was enrolled in grant funded intensive case management with our transition facilitator. Most referrals were not enrolled, however they were all followed up with and connected to appropriate services.***

REF	LE	HC	PSE	EMP	HS	HSD	CR	UVM
39	17	8	1	7	3	8	20	9

- **Monthly YIT Providers Meeting-** A group of 5-10 local young adult service providers including representatives from Vocational Rehabilitation, The Jobs Program, the Youth Coordinator and the Department of Labor meet once a month to discuss and coordinate referrals and appropriate services to meet the needs of each referral. This group has been a great success as many underserved young adults have now been matched with appropriate transition services. This also allows local providers to discuss tough cases and receive feedback from those best qualified to give it.
- **Youth Advisory Board-** As of July 31st the greater Springfield Youth Advisory Project (as named by its members) has met twice. Turn out has exceeded expectation with no less than 13 young adults showing up at each meeting. So far the members have given the board a name (the Youth Advisory Project), a mission and a vision (please see the attached document) and have begun to plan for future field trips and service projects. Some ideas are field trips to Six Flags, overnight camping, Hampton Beach, and Boston. Service project ideas include adopting a local park, painting a local downtown building, and volunteering at a senior center. The board will continue to meet on a bi-weekly basis. Next steps include electing officers, engaging local officials to the end of providing a youth voice to the local select board and fundraising for upcoming field trips.
- **Youth in Transition Grant Steering Committee-** The local steering committee continues to meet and oversee the implementation of the local grant strategy. After meeting on a monthly basis for the first three months to oversee the start up of the local strategy the committee has decided to meet on a quarterly basis. Beginning with the September meeting an elected young adult from the Youth Advisory Board will begin to attend the meetings to provide a youth perspective in overseeing the grant.

2. Problems – Our only issue is our capacity to accommodate the large number of referrals for intensive case management. As you can see by the chart; of the 39 appropriate referrals only 17 were able to be taken on as intensive case management cases. It was the hope of the facilitator and the steering committee to keep the ICM case load to 15. As a result many young adults in need of ICM were either placed on a waiting list and/or referred to less intensive, yet more specific transition services.

3. Significant Findings and Events – Currently staff remains consistent. A startling and significant finding is the larger number of young adults who have graduated high school, yet have little or no ability to do basic math problems or read at a level consistent with federal high school graduation standards. This is a significant barrier to finding employment that would be monetarily sufficient to leading an independent life. Steps will be taken to work in conjunction with local high schools to create remedial study groups to get young adults to a minimum reading level.

4. **Dissemination activities** – Please see section 1.

5. **Other Activities** – Established a bi-weekly Friday hiking/ exercise group. Every other Friday a group of young adults get together in the morning to do a short 1-2 hour hike or some other therapeutic outdoor exercise. At it's largest we had a turnout of 8 young adults. Normally 2-3 young adults show up.

6. **Activities Planned for Next Reporting Period** We will begin monthly skill building groups held in conjunction with the local high schools. We are planning winter sports and cultural enrichment activities such as ski outings and a trip to Boston/New York City. We will continue to foster the development of a meaningful Youth Advisory Board. The youth advisory board will elect a representative to sit on the YIT steering committee to help shape the direction of grant services. This will include partnering the board with local elected boards to provide more credibility which in turn will lend itself to long term sustainability.