

## YIT PROGRAM PROGRESS REPORT

1. Grant Number:
2. Grantee Name and Address:  
  
UVM VCHIP  
1 S. Prospect St,  
UHC St. Joseph 7  
Burlington, VT., 05405
3. Telephone Number: 802-656-9192
4. Project Title: Evaluation of the Vermont Children's Mental Health Initiative
5. Period of Performance from 7/1/2013 through 12/31/2013
6. Approved Project Period from 7/1/2013 through 12/31/2013
7. Author's Name and Telephone number: Thomas Delaney, 802-656-9192
8. Date of report: 1/31/2013
9. Comments (if any):

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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. [REDACTED]
2. [REDACTED]).

### **Report Contents**

#### **1. Major Activities and Accomplishments During this Period**

Report both quantifiable and non-quantifiable accomplishments from Attachment A (see pages 3-8 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.

**Quantifiable accomplishments related to the evaluation of the effectiveness of the Vermont system of care for young adults with SED include:**

- 1. Through the end of September 2013, 657 young adults have been identified by the evaluators as receiving some form of YIT system of care services (from April 2010 through September 30th, 2013; see bottom row of Appendix A). Out of these 657:
  - 536 have been enrolled in the Common Study, which includes measures for NOMS and EDIF reporting requirements to TRAC and ICF MACRO,
  - 206 have been enrolled in the National Study, which is the National Outcome Study that is designed by and reported back to ICF MACRO, and
  - 114 have been enrolled in the Vermont Study, which is the local evaluation.Enrollment in the National and Vermont studies ended June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2013, and enrollment in the Common Study ended Sept. 30<sup>th</sup>, 2013. The 536 (final) figure for Common Study enrollment is lower than the total (545) for the period ending June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2013; this is due to some of the enrollees having been found to be ineligible for inclusion in the Common Study.**
- 2. Since the beginning of July 2013, two state-level (aggregated across communities) data reports have been disseminated broadly among state YIT partners and regional mental health/youth services agencies (see Appendix B covering April through June 2013 and Appendix C covering July through September 2013). These provide information on a range of variables, mostly drawn from the Common Study, on the functioning of system of care clients' at the time they enter YIT services and 6 and 12 months later. These reports differ from earlier statewide data reports in that the second page for each compares average scores at intake versus 6 months later while the third page compares intake versus 12 months later. Considerably fewer data points are available for the 12 month comparisons (only 97 cases for the Sept. 2013 report), but examination of these data may still show important trends.**
- 3. For the periods of March through June and July through September 2013, we distributed 12 region-specific data reports that complemented the statewide data reports by providing region-specific evaluation summary data. These reports are intended to be used by regional YIT teams to monitor the progress of young people who are in services and to guide quality improvement activities.**
- 4. The evaluation team participated in 11 regional site visits that took place in the fall of 2013, and at which we presented statewide and regional data as well as providing feedback on the regions' efforts regarding Common Study follow-up data.**

**Non-quantifiable accomplishments during the reporting period include:**

- 1. The evaluation team worked with all 12 regional teams to end the recruitment of new individuals into the Common Study, while reminding the teams that they are still required to submit follow-up Common Study data for participants who are already enrolled. As the regional teams have had personnel transitions, we have worked with new staff to continue the collection of Common Study follow-up data.**

2. The evaluation team worked with the YIT Operations team to develop, and then present, a detailed PowerPoint presentation on YIT and sustainability to Commissioner Doug Racine on Sept. 11, 2013.
3. The evaluation team, with Jody Kamon as the point person, continued the transition to using PiktoChart software to for all of our data reporting activities (as well as continuing to use PowerPoint for certain presentations).
4. The evaluators continued to expand and strengthen the focus on correctional involvement data, including by continuing to work with DOC to get access to corrections data for those young adults who consented to have their data accessed as part of the YIT evaluation. We also created new indicators related to correctional involvement that are based on data already received from DOC as well as using data from the National Study interviews.
5. Continued to update the YIT website with newly developed evaluation materials, including presentations at national meetings, updated statewide and region specific data reports and data briefs, among others.
6. Continued to work closely with the UVM IRB to ensure that all forms (including consent forms and data collection forms) that were changed are reviewed and approved by the IRB prior to being used.

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

<b>Goal for strengthening the systems of care</b>	6: Effectiveness of the Vermont System of Care for young adults with SED is evaluated.....
<b>System of Care Infrastructure Indicators</b> (for federal TRAC):	<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</p>

	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....
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## 2. 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.

**For the first time during the course of the evaluation, in the fall of 2013 one of the evaluation team interviewers was faced with a situation which involved mandated reporting to the Department of Children and Families. This situation was handled collaboratively by the interviewer, the others members of the evaluation team, the Principal Investigator of the YIT evaluation and staff of the UVM Institutional Review Board.**

**The evaluation team continued to make adjustments to our activities based on having three fewer months than we had anticipated in which to conclude all of the evaluation activities. At present, we anticipate collecting 18 and 24 month follow-up data for the National Study and the remaining 12 month follow-up interviews for the Vermont study, and that these interviews will conclude by June, 2014.**

## 3. 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 only staffing change the evaluation underwent during this reporting period was that Ellen Talbert, who had been the team's project coordinator and data manager since the start of the evaluation, was promoted into another job at VCHIP. Ellen was replaced by Kara Bissonnette, an experienced project coordinator from another VCHIP project and who has been taking on more of the project coordination and data manager roles throughout the fall and winter. We currently have five people working on the evaluation, four of whom conduct interviews.**

## 4. 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.

During the period covered by this report, the YIT evaluation team has shared findings from the evaluation in a variety of ways:

1. We have shared two state-level data reports that summarize changes between young people starting to receive YIT services and 6 or 12 months later (see Appendices B and C).
2. At the 2013 Fall YIT Learning and Sharing Day, the evaluation team shared updated statewide and region-specific data with each of the participating regional teams, as part of helping the teams further develop their data-based arguments for sustaining YIT services.
3. The evaluation team shared with the YIT Operations team, and then disseminated, three new data briefs about young adults and the System of Care: one on mental health/substance abuse (Appendix D), one on health care (Appendix E) and one that presents feedback from young adults about their experiences with services (Appendix F).
4. During the reporting period, two brief articles were submitted to the Department of Mental Health *Advisory* e-newsletter, one titled *Vermont's Youth in Transition (YIT) Grant* (Nov. 19<sup>th</sup>) and one titled *Criminal Justice involvement for Young Adults in Transition* (Dec. 26<sup>th</sup>).
5. Jesse Suter from the evaluation team led the YIT Operations team's effort to develop and submit a proposal for the March 2014 Children's Mental Health Research and Policy Conference in Tampa. This proposal was accepted as part of a symposium at the conference.
6. In addition to the above submission, the evaluation team developed, submitted and had accepted two other proposals for the March 2014 Children's Mental Health Research and Policy Conference in Tampa: one addressing the relationship between health, health care, mental health and substance abuse young adults and the other summarizing young adults' perspectives on their participation in the System of Care.

## 5. Other Activities

Briefly describe other activities undertaken during the reporting period.

**Other activities undertaken during the reporting period include:**

- Jody Kamon has continued collaborating with Mercedes Avila, the YIT Cultural/Linguistic Competence (CLC) Coordinator, on developing an evaluation plan for evaluating how newly arrived Americans are able to access system of care resources and barriers to their accessing those resources, and
- Tom Delaney is exploring ways that the Vermont Youth Treatment Enhancement Program (VYTEP) might be able to build off of YIT interventions

and evaluation studies to further assess the impact of YIT, including by studying the impacts of participating in YIT services on young people's subsequent substance abuse.

## **6. Activities Planned for Next Reporting Period**

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

- 1. The evaluation team will work with the YIT Operations team in order to develop a powerful, outcomes-focused presentation for the YIT legislative events on Jan. 31, 2014. The YIT evaluators anticipate being part of three presentations: two in front of committees, and one as a general presentation for legislators and the public.**
- 2. The evaluators will continue to have a strong focus on collecting as much follow-up interview data as possible from young adults participating in the Vermont and National studies. This is essential in order to further strengthen the conclusions we are able to draw about the impact of YIT services on young adults' lives, as well as to add further credibility to the longer term (up to 18 and 24 month) sustained nature of those changes.**
- 3. The evaluators will continue summarizing and analyzing outcomes data from the Vermont and National studies, which will in turn be the basis for the remaining Data Briefs, the presentations at the Tampa Research and Policy meeting and the final YIT evaluation report.**
- 4. Members of the evaluation team will continue to participate in the state YIT Operations team's monthly meetings, and will share updated statewide data and new data briefs at these meetings.**
- 5. Consistent with the previous semi-annual report, we will continue to focus our data collection, analysis and reporting about young adults' involvement in the correctional system, using the Sequential Intercept Model as the framework for studying how young people in the system of care might be having more positive involvement when they do become involved with the correctional system. This effort will also continue to include updating data we receive in quarterly reports from DOC, data we will obtain from DOC case-level records about YIT participants who were incarcerated and data collected directly from young adults in YIT interviews.**
- 6. Tom Delaney will coordinate with the evaluation team to send out letters to all evaluation participants who we were expecting to conduct 18 and 24 month follow-up interviews with, but who we will not be interviewing due to the project ending three months earlier than was originally planned. These letters are required by the UVM IRB.**

- 7. The evaluators are continuing to develop two manuscripts for publication in research journals: one based on the 2011 *System of Care Roadmap* exercise and one that presents findings from the Young Adults Health Care Survey and related tools, in which describe participants' experiences accessing and then receiving health care services in the context of the young adult mental health system of care.**