

## YIT PROGRAM PROGRESS REPORT

1. Grant Number: #C-YIT-FY12-VCHIP
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 7/1/2011 through 12/31/2011
6. Approved Project Period from 7/1/2011 through 6/30/2012
7. Author's Name and Telephone number: Thomas Delaney, 802-656-9192
8. Date of report: 1/24/2011
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. 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 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. Since July of 2011, two state-level (aggregated across communities and studies) data dashboards have been disseminated broadly among state YIT partners and regional mental health/youth services agencies (see attachments A and B). These provide detailed information about system of care clients' functioning at the time they enter YIT services as well as document changes on key outcome and process measures among young people who remain in services.**
- 2. A total of 418 young adults have been identified by the evaluators as receiving some form of YIT system of care services (from April 2010 through December 31st, 2011; see attachment C). Out of these 418:**
  - o 333 have been enrolled in the Common Study, which includes measures for NOMS and EDIF reporting requirements to TRAC and ICF MACRO,**
  - o 101 have been enrolled in the National Study, which is the National Outcome Study that is designed by and reported back to ICF MACRO, and**
  - o 78 have been enrolled in the Vermont Study, which is the local evaluation.**
- 3. Developed and submitted two proposals for data presentations at national system of care research/grantee meetings.**
- 4. Finished data collection for the YIT focus group study, in which 13 discussions were held throughout the state and a total of 86 young adults participated. A preliminary report of the findings was submitted by Nancy Pandina, PhD, in November 2011.**

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

- 1. Providing continued support and coaching to all 12 regional system of care communities about their recruitment, data collection and data submission efforts, including providing new forms and procedures as needed due to required changes by the UVM Institutional Review Board and ICF MACRO.**
- 2. At the September 30<sup>th</sup> 2011 Learning and Sharing statewide YIT event, the evaluation team conducted an exercise that engaged each regional YIT team to "map out" their system of care, including identifying all their partners, and which pathways through the map were working well versus less well. Participants rated this exercise very highly in the post-event evaluations.**
- 3. Making considerable changes, including a new, major focus on corrections-related data, to the state level data dashboard.**
- 4. Beginning to develop agency-specific data dashboards that display comparisons between each agency's indicators of clients' progress with the same indicators for the entire evaluation population.**
- 5. Working with the YIT grant social marketing coordinator, Courtney Bridges, to develop a consumer focused data dashboard that will be shared starting in the late winter/early spring of 2012.**
- 6. As a result of the increasing numbers of participants in the YIT evaluation studies, we have been conducting more meaningful and highly detailed analyses of key indicators of how and to what extent system of care clients are benefitting from participating in services.**

**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):	<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....
	<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....
	<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....
	<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....

## 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.

**We have continued to address, with help from the state YIT operations team and leaders from the 12 YIT agencies, the issue of relatively low numbers of system of care clients being enrolled into the common study, and then subsequently into the Vermont or National studies. As in the past, this is not a serious issue at all of the agencies, but there is a general pattern in which approximately 6-8 of the agencies are lagging behind their recruitment targets at any given point in time. We have continued providing focused technical assistance on this issue to YIT workers in all of the YIT funded mental health and youth services agencies, and we believe these efforts have been fruitful as evidenced by an increase in the numbers of common study enrollees since August/September, 2011.**

**Retention of young people in the YIT studies has been challenging. To strengthen retention in the national and common studies, we implemented a series of steps to**

increase retention, including providing incentives (water bottles or re-usable cups) that have the YIT evaluation contact information to encourage participants to update their contact information with the evaluation, and sending out quarterly post card reminders reminding participants they are still in a study and also encouraging them to update any changing phone numbers, emails or postal addresses.

Staff turnover at the mental health and youth services agencies, as well as challenges for YIT staff in partnering with other workers to increase the recruitment “pools” in their communities, have continue to pose challenges to these efforts to increase the numbers of young adults in the YIT evaluation studies.

### **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.

**A part time interviewer that began working for the evaluation in 2010, Stasia Savasuk, left the project for a different job. The evaluation team correctly includes 5 interviewers who on average range in their interviewing-related work time between 6 and 20 hours per week. Two of these interviewers, Audrey Garfield and Amanda Ellingson, are part time employees and were hired between August and November, 2011 (see resumes—attachments D and E). Both of these individuals are in the process of “ramping up” to a workload of approximately 20 hours per week on interviewing. The remaining three interviewers are the UVM-based interviews: Tom Delaney, Jody Kamon and Jesse Suter, all of whom spend between 6-15 hours per week on interview related scheduling, travel and data collection.**

### **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 several ways, including:**

- 1. As noted above, disseminating two state level data dashboards (attachments A and B). Starting with the report shared in September 2011, these reports contained an expanded number of indicators, had a greater focus on presenting changes in client indicators over time and also adopted a “traffic light” model for most indicators, in which a “green” light reflect a positive change, a “yellow” light reflects no change and a “red” light reflect a change in a negative direction. The dashboards contain indicators for each of the eight outcome domains for the grant.**

2. Continuing to have small group meetings between the evaluators and staff from the 12 system of care communities, in which the evaluation team shared enrollment data and, when possible given a sufficient number of enrollees in the studies, client-level data.
3. Presenting state level aggregated data the September 30<sup>th</sup> Learning and Sharing data that all YIT regions attended; over ½ of the agencies also received individualized data feedback at that event and had the opportunity to engage the evaluators about their data.
4. Tom Delaney wrote an article that described the structure of the Vermont YIT evaluation and that was published in the Fall 2011 *Evaluation Update* newsletter.

## 5. Other Activities

Briefly describe other activities undertaken during the reporting period.

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

- Attending the System of Care grantee meeting in Chicago (July, 2011),
- Beginning to work more with Courtney Bridges, the YIT social marketing coordinator, around issues of sharing data with YIT clients.
- Evaluation team members participating in all state-team Operations meetings, and
- Continuing to work with Mercedes Avila, the YIT Cultural/Linguistic Competence Coordinator, to assist her in evaluating the effectiveness of her training activities.

## 6. Activities Planned for Next Reporting Period

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

1. Further expanding our data collection, analysis and reporting about young adults' involvement in the correctional system, and specifically using the Sequential Intercept Model as a basis for studying whether young people in the system of care are benefitting by having fewer episodes of correctional involvement and less intensive involvement when they do encounter the correctional system.
2. Sharing two updated and re-formatted state-level data Dashboards, covering data collected during October-December 2011 and January-March 2012.
3. Collecting follow-up data for the evaluation team's Transition to Independence Process (TIP) assessments, including the TIP organization assessment and the TIP readiness self assessment tools.

- 4. Developing a manuscript for publication based on the of the focus group study, and that examines young adults' perspectives on how youth/young adults are involved in the system of care and the barriers & facilitators to accessing system of care services.**
- 5. Attending and presenting at the national children's mental health research meeting in Tampa in March, 2012.**