

**Youth in Transition Progress Report for  
Washington County  
Region  
July 1, 2010 through December 31, 2010**

**1. Major Activities and Accomplishments during this Period-**

The Intake Team still consists of a sub-team of LIT and its members are Amy Lincoln Moore, the SOCTL, Nora Lovelette from the Youth Service Bureau, Maria Noyes and Noelle Pronovost from JOBS program, Eric Lucier and Emily Pryme with WCMHS. The Intake Management team members are Michael Curtis from WCMHS, Lily Sojourner from AHS who has replaced Don Mandelkorn, Kathy Holsopple from VFFCMH, and Don McMahon LEA for Barre. The Intake team still meets monthly and uses the parameters and guidelines for the team. We meet to discuss potential Youth and Young Adults who might benefit from the YIT flex funds.

Our first Young Adult from last quarter was due for her 6 month follow-up Common Study, but we found out that she had moved out of Vermont so completed the Disclosure report instead. We currently have four Young Adults involved with the YIT Grant in this region.

The Cell Phone Pilot program has helped 3 Young Adults this quarter. We gave out two phones plus 2 minute/text cards to 2 Young Adults and purchased a one minute/text card for one Young Adult who already owned the same type of cell phone. These 3 Young Adults fit the criteria of the Pilot program as they were working hard to find jobs and needed contact information so possible employers could call them. All three found jobs. None of them have contacted their case-manager to help pay the second months' bill; we hope this indicates they are paying their utility bills themselves based on their incomes with their new jobs.

Courtney Bridges (State YIT Social Marketing Coordinator) and the SOCTL enlisted three schools to join the WEST Program. We have been working since late Oct. with Williamstown high-school. They have selected an Adult Advisor and a Student Advisor for their project and have 9 students involved. They will debut their event in 2011, though brainstormed some activities to do prior to 2011. They believe these activities will begin to make other students aware of the stigma around mental health disorders. In December Twinfield Union high-school also came on board. They are rival schools with Williamstown which may have played a part in getting them involved! Their creativity and enthusiasm in planning their event are contagious! They have picked an Adult Advisor who is going to work the program into his class. Maple Hill - a small, private, alternative high school - will join Twinfield for their event.

The intake team and Michael Curtis (the SOC fiscal agent) met with the Housing Coordinator July 28, 2010 and began the process of looking for more housing for

Young Adults in Washington County. The Housing Coordinator showed us many buildings as potential sites for a group model of supportive housing for young adults. One possibility is the purchase of a local motel; Michael Curtis and the Housing Coordinator are working diligently on this matter.

## **2. Problems-**

Our Intake Team has had challenges with different scheduling issues, but we still are trying to meet monthly and communicate via email to stay on track.

The current regional YIT plan is to have the case-managers on the Intake team who are working with this age group fund the needed services first through their own agencies. Because the System of Care is working well in this region, this approach has limited the YIT numbers. However, more outreach can and will be done. There are a significant number of Young Adults who fit the qualifications of the YIT Grant who are not currently receiving services through the Mental Health or Runaway and Homeless Youth Agencies because they are not on Medicaid. The SOCTL began to think of ways she could improve this by “putting herself out there”, getting involved with other agencies that work with this age group, and making them familiar with her face, her name and the YIT Grant. She brought it up at the System of Care Team meeting in December and then met with staff from DCF the next day. The plan is to continue visiting staff meetings and getting referrals from other agencies in 2011.

We have had challenges as data forms from the evaluation team have been changed more than 3 times since the SOCTL began working in March, 2010. Unfortunately, this is out of the evaluation team’ control [caused by the federal MACRO and state UVM Independent Review Board processes].

The current best option for a group model of supportive housing for young adults comes with some challenges. The motel has 13 units in need of renovation. The motel may be registered with the State as a historic building, which would make renovation more difficult.

We have not been able to move forward as quickly as anticipated to contract with a Youth Advisor position. We have two resumes from young adults and hope to receive more so we can contract this position this winter. Once contracted, the Youth Advisor will help with the WEST program, build the Youth Advisory Group, and work with the SOCTL on the Family Advisory group.

## **3. Significant Findings and Events-**

The Young Adults we have helped in this grant period have been successful with the services provided. The Cell Phone Pilot program has proven to be a positive step in employment for the 3 Young Adults and in their beginning to learn Independent Living skills.

The SOCTL and Courtney Bridges are meeting with the three schools participating in the WEST program. We meet with the chosen Adult Advisor, Youth Advisor and the other students involved in their programs, offering support.

#### **4. Dissemination Activities –**

The Intake Team still uses the “YIT Parameters” form to hold us accountable to how we work together. It describes our purpose, responsibilities, use of Flexible Funding and procedures to carry out the process. We still use this form to write up our monthly meeting notes.

#### **5. Other Activities –**

On Sept 16<sup>th</sup>, 2010 VFFCMH and collaborative partners held a Family and Individual Leadership conference at Lake Morey. Sandra Spencer, Executive Director of the national Federation of Families, was the first keynote speaker. The SOCTL was asked to be a part of a parent panel discussion group with members from two other families. The panel’s stories provoked many questions from the audience and informed people of avenues for help which some didn’t know existed.

On Sept. 23<sup>rd</sup> at Lake Morey, the SOCTL and some members of the YIT Intake Team attended the YIT Sharing and Learning Day to compare with the other regional teams what they are doing with Flex Funds, housing, and their local System of Care Teams.

The SOCTL participated in her first national Federation of Families for Children’s Mental Health conference held in Atlanta, GA in November 2010. She gained insight about how other regions/States are moving forward with family leadership and got information on how to build Youth and Family Advisory Groups.

In December the SOCTL also attended training on Advocacy and Collaborative teaming in Randolph, VT, with family members and self-advocates.

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

The three schools involved in the WEST program will debut their events in 2011. We hope to get other schools involved who have not responded to the initial letters and emails from Washington County.

Courtney will help the SOCTL produce a brochure about the Washington YIT Grant for sharing with the staff members of other agencies during outreach visits. This may lead to more referrals of Young Adults who can be helped by the project.

We are planning an event called “Family Round Tables” for March, 2011 to help engage parents and family members in developing one or more Family Advisory Group(s) for the region. We will invite families we have worked with in the past plus new families who could benefit from this event. We will provide them with a nice dinner and conversation about what is working for them in this region and what is not working for them. The evaluation form for the event will include a place for attendees to say whether or not they would like to continue meeting and form a

Family Voice Advisory Group. Ideally there would be Family Advisory Groups in several Washington County cities and towns; we will start with Montpelier and Barre and see where this grows.

We plan to participate in the statewide advanced TIP training (date unknown) and in the Working with Youth Conference scheduled for May 20, 2010. We also plan to bring staff and young adults to the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual statewide Young Adult Voice Movement Conference, a two-day event to be held at UVM on May 27-28, 2011.