

**Barre Youth In Transition Semi-Annual report**

January through June 2012

**Semi annual:**

<p><b>Goals for strengthening the systems of care</b></p>	<p><b>1: Young adult (YA) leadership is developed in VT.</b></p> <p>Kristen continues to meet with young adults monthly as an advisory group. They had T-Shirts for the Youth Advisory Group- Teens 4 Change designed with Courtney Bridges and printed. The group went bowling, as they are finding this team activity increases team building. They hope to bowl 2 times each year. Heather Houle has been a member of the YAVM planning team and the Youth Initiative grant approval team.</p> <p>Six Young adults volunteered as servers for a catered function for the Vermont Historical Society on April 29th. They had their picture taken with the mayor and his wife.</p> <p>The new meeting space is the Barre Congregational Church. In May the meeting was held as an outdoor picnic and planned for the YAVM conference. They also discussed the June meeting with “Chocolates for Change,” where YA’s will learn how to make chocolate and find out about this nonprofit program. Heather Houle has contracted with VFF to provide young adult support at the drop in center weekly and to assist the young adult advisory group. Heather was nominated for the quarterly young adult leadership award. Heather and Bridget(YA leader from Clara Martin) presented a workshop at the YAVM conference, as well as hosted the conference in early June. Seven youth from Barre attended. This group bonded at this conference and really showed great leadership within the workshops. Several workshop trainers spoke of how impressed they were with the young adults from our region. This was a life altering event for these 7 young adults!</p> <p>Heather Houle, Bridget and Matt Wolf, Young adult coordinator for statewide YIT, made a radio ad and video to advertise the YAVM conference.</p> <hr/> <p><b>2: Family/adult allies support young adults....</b></p> <p>Family Round Table meets every other month. We are looking to Joy Prior, VFF Training Coordinator to come up with a list of trainings that can be offered to parents. We met in March with 5 parents attending. The topic was “Teens transitioning into adult services.” Cindy Marshall, VFF and Claudia Pringles, VFN facilitated and presented. The topic for May was Co-Occurring mental health and Substance Abuse. Patty McCarthy Metcalf from Friends of Recovery (VAMHAR) was to be the speaker. Six family members and 3 service provider signed up to come and all but one service provider canceled the day of the afternoon meeting. Discussion was about how to work together around mental health and substance</p>
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abuse issues.

June there was no family round table, but Amy had chance to speak with parents of the young adults who attended the YAVM conference. The parents were very excited to hear how their kids did at the conference (most of them shared with their parents as well) and were even more excited to encourage them to attend monthly youth advisory/leadership meetings.

**3: Workers use caring practices known to be helpful for young adults and families.**

**4: System of Care partners gains cultural & linguistic competence (CLC)...CLC training was June 22 at Beckley Hill 3<sup>rd</sup> floor conference room. Twelve attended**

**5: Local communities (including young adults) change their perceptions of young adults and of mental health issues, reducing stigma...**

Kristen chose the Sewing Basket to print Teens 4 Change T-shirts for the Youth Advisory Group. They ordered current sizes and ordered some extra's for those who join later. Will order more as needed. Courtney Bridges, Social Marketer, assisted the group to design the Logo "Teens 4 Change" on the front and the back says "Youth Outreach Program of Washington County." If we get sponsors then we plan to screen print their business logo on the back as well so that the community can see which businesses support this group.

They are also working on a donation letter for local businesses to donate food and supplies to the group in exchange for teens doing community service projects to help businesses and the community

The YAVM conference plays a big part in reducing stigma among young adults who attend as well as within the state and local community. The young adults learn skills and gain information that enables them to go out into their own communities and help reduce stigma as well. The local young adult advisory met after the YAVM and the learning, leadership and group bonding from the YAVM were very evident in this group.

YA advisory group is still discussing ways to do community outreach. One suggestion is to create a banner to carry in local parades etc in order to get the name "Teens 4 Change" out there

**6: Effectiveness of the Vermont System of Care for young adults with SED**

Intake team continues to collect Common Study follow-ups and /or discharge forms on our clients every 6 months. The services and Costs reports are still an issue for

	<p>all regions and Jesse Suter is still working on figuring out how to report regional numbers into the Federal report that has been given to them(VCHIP). Each Mental Health Agency uses its own coding method for Medicaid/private insurance billings which is much different than the Federal Data form and their coding. Still waiting to hear from Jesse.</p> <p>Two new clients entered into common study. Follow up interviews are occurring more often as Young adults are still participating and not becoming MIA after a few months.</p> <p>Working daily with Homeless young adult with 2 children. Working toward wrap around services and trying to find housing before baby arrives in July. Learning about services for homeless and the expectations of providers who could help them. Drop in Center has begun. WCMH and intake team members staff Wed from 1-3. YA, Heather Houle, and other YA advisory members, and Intake team members-when available- support young adults who drop in.</p> <p>Working on getting evaluation, follow ups, and discharges in stronger position.</p>
	<p><b>7: The State supports and sustains regional services for young adults....</b></p>
<p><b>Desired outcomes for young adults of transition-age</b></p>	<p><b>1.Decreased number of young adults involved in the corrections 3</b></p> <p><b>2. Increased number of young adults who are employed.... 10</b></p> <p><b>3. Increased number young adults participating in (or who completed) educational programs.... 9</b></p> <p><b>4. Increased number of young adults who have access to, and are using, a medical home.... 2</b></p> <p><b>5. Increased number of young adults living in safe and stable housing....8</b></p> <p><b>6. Increased number of young adults who have caring &amp; supportive relationships....6</b></p> <p><b>7. Increase in young adults’ strengths and protective factors....13</b></p> <p><b>8. Improved mental health for young adults. 14</b></p>
<p><b>System of Care Infrastructure Indicators</b>  (for federal TRAC):</p>	<p><b>Workforce Development</b> The interagency professional development plan</p> <p><b>Organizational Change:</b> NA</p> <p><b>Partnership/Collaboration:</b> NA</p> <p><b>Types/Targets of Practice:</b></p>

## **1. Problems**

Housing continues to be an issue for this region. Working with a young adult mom of 2 with a baby on the way has really opened my eyes to gaps in our system. She has been homeless since April and also had no transportation. The system and the hoops people need to jump through for services and supports are no different and don't flex with increasing complexity of individual situations. These intense complications make it very hard for individuals to complete the tasks ahead of them and without proper- intensive- case-management and transportation completing tasks becomes almost impossible.

Sometimes physically, mentally and emotionally, these young adults can't complete all that needs to be done in order to get the help/funds they need to survive. Some young adults need constant case management for a period of time, and there needs to be a better line of communication between all agencies involved with these homeless clients. I really hope IFS can work out some of these complications.

Collecting Data is still an ongoing priority that meets challenges but is steadily improving. The Intake team has been down one person. Getting the Drop in Center up and running has taken a bit longer than we had hoped. The same 3 providers come as possible, but we had hoped for more support from service providers. Each week is different with the number of clients who drop in. Some weeks are good. Others not so much.

The SOC team meets bimonthly.

Data collection and paperwork are challenging as this group tends to migrate, change cell #'s, lose cell phones or just refuse services.

## **2. Significant Findings and Events**

Heather Houle is still showing great leadership skills within the YA group, the YAVM planning board, and Youth Initiative grant approval committee. She is taking on 10 hours a month as support for the drop in Center and the youth advisory council. We are using new technology- OOVOO- to be part of some committees. This has proven very successful.

Cindy Marshall is taking lead supervisory position with Kristen Howell and now Heather as Amy is backing her hours down to 32 and will give her more time to focus on the Family Round Tables. Cindy is finding it hard to plan time to meet for supervision with the young adults as schedules are complicated on all sides.

Having several members of the intake team absent affected the number of clients at the end of 2011.

### **3. Dissemination activities**

Posters for all events are being made by Courtney Bridges and disseminated through Kristen, Heather and Amy. Kristen also has her own Youth Engagement Specialist poster with tear off contact info. Which has been distributed to local agencies and schools. Products for this reporting period are attached.

### **5. Other Activities**