

**Youth in Transition Progress Report for  
Washington County  
Region  
January 1- June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2010**

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

The System of Care Team Leader (SOCTL) was hired in March, contracted through The Vermont Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health, VFFCMH.

The Intake Team is a sub-team of LIT and it's members are Amy Lincoln Moore, the SOCTL, Nora Lovelette from the Youth Service Bureau, Maria Noyes and Noelle Pronovost from JOBS program, Eric Lucier with WCMH and Emily Pryme with WCMH-DCF. The Intake Management team is Michael Curtis WCMH, Don Mandelkorn AHS and Don McMahon LEA for Barre. Intake team met and set up parameters and guidelines for the team. We meet monthly to discuss potential Youth and Young Adults that might benefit from the YIT flex funds.

The Intake Team has discussed several potential Young Adults in need of assistance, but only one has completed the evaluation process (along with the VT Survey study) and is getting continuing flex funds for mentorship to help them with independent living skills. This Young Adult has kept summer employment, and is still in the process of finishing high school diploma through alternative education.

The Intake Team has set up a Pilot program using Flexible funds to purchase track phone /minutes to give to qualifying Young adults to have a contact number for potential employers and landlords.(see below for the full description of the pilot program)

**2. Problems-**

It is very clear that those Young Adults who are not enrolled in school (general 18+), homeless, couch surfing, unemployed and needing mental health services, are difficult to get in contact with, so contact can be very random. The intake team has discussed several potential Young Adults to receive services through the YIT Grant. When invited to a meeting, most of these young adults didn't show up for the appointment- even though it meant potential money/phones to help them. Those of us who would like to assist are at the mercy of the young person's schedule and their desire to make changes for themselves.

**3. Significant Findings and Events-**

Development of a pilot phone program- Most of the youth and young adults that are currently getting mental health services have no contact information. They have no

way to be contacted by potential employers and/or landlords. The Intake team implemented a pilot program where 5 track phones and 5 (1000 minutes/1000 texts) cards were purchased. To qualify for a phone/card the young adults must be currently seeking employment and give living arrangement details with landlord information. After the first month of employment, the young adult will be expected to furnish more minutes on their own or return the phone to their caseworker. All young adults will need to complete all data paperwork with System of Care Team Leader and their current case-manager prior to getting the track phone so that they will be part of the evaluation process to the YIT Grant.

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

The Intake Team uses a “YIT Parameters” form to hold us accountable to how we will work together. It describes our purpose, responsibilities, use of Flexible Funding and procedures to carry out the process (see attached). We also use this same form to write up our monthly meeting notes. Other forms used have been given to us by the evaluation team and the PVR (payment voucher receipt) form that WCMH uses when contracting out to other agencies.

#### **5. Other Activities –**

“Youth in Transition-Building on Our Strengths,” training- April 20, 2010. SOCTL assisted in planning the event and helped facilitate the day activities and panels. The turnout was approximately 50 people as expected. The Panels were well received and the surveys came back with an over all positive reaction to the days events and topics.

YAVM Conference, May 7, 2010. Assisted in planning and implementation of the Day. Washington County had 7 register and more than that number attended. The conference was well received.

Youth Workers Conference, May 21, 2010 (attended as intake team). TIPS model training (core team members went to the Street outreach worker training.

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

Amy, System of Care team leader, is currently working with Courtney Bridges, Youth Coordinator for YIT Grant on a pilot program for Washington County High schools. It will be called the WEST program (We Erase Stigma Together). The focus is erasing the Stigma of Mental Health issues and disabilities among our youth. This pilot is in the early stages of development but we hope to have one school completed by next quarter. Long term goal is that this will raise up youth leadership in individuals that will develop into a youth advisory board.

We are planning an event called “Family Round Tables”. The event will help to engage parents and family members with the intention to possibly develop a Family Advisory team for the region.

The intake team as well as Michael Curtis, SOC fiscal agent is meeting with the Housing Coordinator July 29, 2010 and begin the process for more housing for Young adults in Washington County.

We will be contracting with a Young Adult to help get some of these activities up and running.

**Planning to attend:**

Family Leadership Training, September 16<sup>th</sup>, 2010 Lake Morey (and have invited some parents from our regions as leaders to attend). Invitations will go out to up to 10 family leaders in Washington County.

YIT- Fall Sharing Training, September 23, 2010 at Lake Morey. Planning on the Intake Team to attend.

Plans are in the works for the System of Care Team Leader, Amy, and some families from the leadership Conference to attend the National Federation of Families Conference in Atlanta, GA November 5-7<sup>th</sup>.