

Youth in Transition Grant

Year One

What is the SAMHSA Grant?

In December, 2008 the Legislature approved acceptance of a nine million dollar, six-year grant from the federal Center for Mental Health Services (CMHS) to strengthen the system of care and increase mental health and related services throughout Vermont for young adults aged 16-21 (inclusive) who are experiencing serious emotional disturbance. The main goal of the grant is to reduce their involvement with the criminal justice system and improve their functioning at home and in the community. This can be done through use of such evidence-based practices as the Sequential Intercept Model (SIM) and the Transition to Independence Process (TIP).



First Year Results

As allowed by CMHS, calendar year 2009 - the first year of the Youth in Transition (YIT) grant - was devoted to State and regional planning to carry out the work. Interagency partners in the system of care have reported increased knowledge and collaboration as a result of this planning, and all 12 regions have either begun delivering services to young people or will do so during the first quarter of 2010. For each of the next 5 years, \$865,000 will be spent statewide on regional services and supports. Next year's report will include data gathered by a UVM (VCHIP) Evaluation Team about the people served through these activities.

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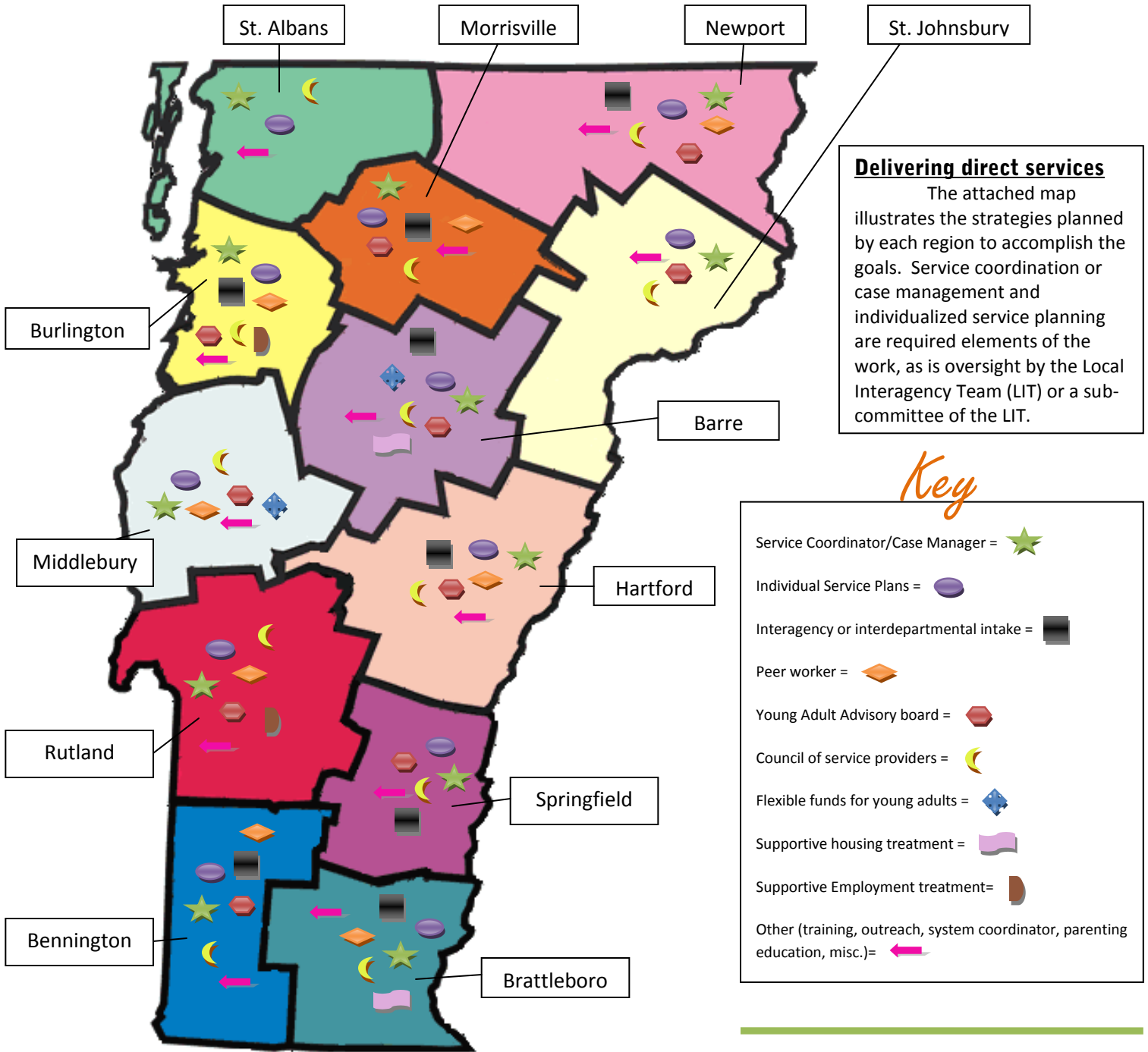
Karen Gennette
Treatment Court Administrator

Becoming Culturally Competent

A focus of the grant is to offer care that is culturally and linguistically competent (CLC) for the populations being served and to eliminate disparities in the care available across populations. Therefore, the State Team's CLC Coordinator will give extra attention to at least the Chittenden region.

Building a System of Care for Young Adults

At the State level, an interagency YIT Leadership Team meets monthly to discuss programs, policies and practices which exist or are needed to help young adults with their education, employment, transportation, housing, comprehensive health care, and family/community relationships. The Team is led by the Agency of Human Services Field Services Director and includes representation from the Department of Mental Health, the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, the Department of Labor, the Department for Children and Families, the Department of Corrections, the Department of Health, Vermont State Colleges, the Vermont Coalition of Runaway and Homeless Youth Programs, the Vermont Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health, the Vermont Family Network, and others. Some of these Team members also serve on the State YIT Operations and Outreach Team for this SAMHSA grant, meeting twice a month to guide implementation of the grant, including delivery of technical assistance onsite in the regions.



Delivering direct services
 The attached map illustrates the strategies planned by each region to accomplish the goals. Service coordination or case management and individualized service planning are required elements of the work, as is oversight by the Local Interagency Team (LIT) or a sub-committee of the LIT.

Key

- Service Coordinator/Case Manager =
- Individual Service Plans =
- Intergency or interdepartmental intake =
- Peer worker =
- Young Adult Advisory board =
- Council of service providers =
- Flexible funds for young adults =
- Supportive housing treatment =
- Supportive Employment treatment =
- Other (training, outreach, system coordinator, parenting education, misc.) =

Encouraging Young-adult Driven Services and Systems
 A particular focus of the grant is to encourage the planning and delivery of care that is driven by young adults in partnership with their families and adult allies. As part of its planning, each region interviewed and/or held focus groups with young adults and (separately) families to hear their opinions about what is working and what is needed to improve services and supports for young people. In several regions young adults were paid to facilitate those focus groups and/or to help research and write the regional plan. The State YIT Operations and Outreach Team includes two Young Adult Coordinators who are reaching out to young people with social marketing messages and training events to encourage them to organize regionally and statewide to promote good mental health.