



## Allegheny County Partnerships for Youth Transition

*Transitioning Young Adults...  
A Hopeful Life View/Traumatic Life  
Experiences*

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### Allegheny County Partnerships for Youth Transition

- ▣ Received Grant 2002
- ▣ Department of Human Services (Pittsburgh, PA)
- ▣ Decentralized
- ▣ Service Population
  - Youth ages 14 – 21
  - Serious Emotional Disturbance / Serious Mental Illness
  - Multi-System
  - Live in a Partner Community

### Collecting Program Data

- ▣ Historical/Initial Transition Assessment
  - Demographics
  - Service History / System Involvement
  - Life Events / Relationships / Employment
- ▣ Needs and Strengths Assessment
  - Young Adults Needs & Strengths Assessment (YANSA)
  - Consumer Strengths Discovery
- ▣ Information System
  - Referral / Intake / Disenrollment
  - Case Notes
  - Service Planning

### Collecting Outcome Data

- ▣ Voluntary 2 Year Study
- ▣ Data Collected Every 6 months from Enrollment
- ▣ Designed for Some Comparison to MACRO SOC Evaluation
  - Cultural Competency
  - Delinquency
  - Functioning
  - Perception of Opportunities
  - Sexuality
  - Substance Use/Abuse
  - Exposure to Violence

### PYT Demographics

- ▣ N = 66 total served
- ▣ Average Age = 17 years
- ▣ Race:
  - 55% African American
  - 26% White
  - 19% Other (Bi-Racial & American Indian)
- ▣ Gender:
  - 58% Female
  - 42% Male

### PYT DSM IV Axis I Diagnoses

- ▣ 63% Mood Disorder (inc. Bipolar & Depressive DO)
- ▣ 37% ADHD/ADD
- ▣ 21% Adjustment Disorder
- ▣ 23% ODD or Conduct Disorder
- ▣ 7% Impulse Control Disorder
- ▣ 14% Learning Disorder
- ▣ 28% Other Diagnoses  
(67% have more than one diagnosis)

### **PYT Risk Factors**

- 15% Have Children
- 31% Live in Temporary Situations
- 20% Have Experienced Homelessness
- 29% Dropped Out of High School
- 29% Have No Sources of Income
- 24% Do Not Have Adequate Transportation to Work/School
- 28% Have Been Addicted to Drugs /Alcohol

### **PYT Risk Factors**

- 60% Have a Parent with a Mental Illness
- 48% Have a Parent Convicted of a Crime
- 69% Have a Parent with a History of Substance Abuse
- 46% Experienced Abuse (physical and/or sexual) and/or Neglect
- 33% Have Attempted Suicide

### **Outcomes Data**

#### **TRAUMA**

Baseline N = 50

- 76% Witnessed verbal/emotional abuse
- 54% Victim of verbal/emotional abuse
- 50% Witnessed physical abuse
- 30% Victim of physical abuse
- 86% Witnessed someone being beaten up or threatened

### **Outcomes Data**

#### **TRAUMA**

Baseline N = 50

- 47% Victim of a beating or threat
- 36% Witnessed a shooting
- 48% Have thought about suicide
- 28% Have attempted suicide
- 38% Know someone who has attempted suicide

### **Outcomes Data**

#### **Perceptions of Opportunity**

Baseline N = 50

- 76% Very important to graduate from college
- 98% Very important to provide a good home for family
- 89% Very important to earn a good living
- 96% Very important to have a good relationship with children
- 88% Very important to have a good relationship with parent or caregiver

### **YANSA**

- Family Involvement
- Spiritual/Religious
- Vocational/Career
- Educational
- Interpersonal
- Relationship Permanence
- Talent/Interests
- Inclusion
- Service Permanence
- Coping and Enjoying
- Resiliency
- Resourcefulness

## Consumer Strengths Discovery

### Challenges:

- 65% Education
- 45% Housing
- 40% Mental Health Concerns

### Hopes/Dreams:

- 77% Having a Career
  - *Social work / Nursing*
  - *Architect / Graphic Artist*
  - *Chef*
  - *Lawyer / Politician / Writer*
  - *Auto Mechanic*
  - *“To be successful in whatever career I choose”*

## Hope Into Practice

- Build off self-identified strengths
- Strength Assessments = Service Planning Process
- Social Connections and Natural Support
- Staff Buy-In *“Working from a position of hope”*
- Short-Term Goals

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