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

Outcomes Data

**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”

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**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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