The Power of Collaboration!

Healthy Transitions Initiative
Annual Grantee Meeting
Tampa, Florida
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Matt Canuteson
Assistant Director
Statewide Family and Consumer Networks
Technical Assistance Center
Plenary Goals

• Discuss the importance of full participation from young adults, families, and adult consumers in successful transition initiatives

• Increase awareness of the value of collaborative partnerships among stakeholders and partnerships between young adults, consumers, families, and professionals

• Discuss the common goals held by stakeholders working with young adults

• Provide examples of positive models of collaboration and factors for replication
Matt Canuteson: Background

- Foster Care
- Adoption
- Family Member
- Children’s Mental Health Services
- Youth/Adolescent Mental Health Services
- Substance Abuse
- Transition to Adulthood
- Incarceration
Matt Canuteson: Background

- Personal Growth
- Education
- Families Together in NYS
- NY Association of Psychiatric Rehabilitation Services
- Family
- Natural Supports
Collaboration in Transition Initiatives, Why?

Successful Transition Initiatives

Input:
- Family/Child/Youth/Professionals
- Adult/Consumer/Professionals
Barriers to Collaboration

- Staff Resistance Barriers
- Philosophical Barriers
- Language and Communication Barriers
- Structural Barriers
Importance of Collaboration

• Families and Youth Benefit When Systems Collaborate
  – Limited Resources
  – Information Sharing (youth to adult, adult to youth, family to consumer, etc)
  – Access to Services Is Dependent on Collaboration
  – Natural Alliances
  – Fact: Young People Get Older, Not Younger!
Questions?
Common Goals

• Inclusion of Youth, Consumer, and Family Voice (micro and macro)
  – Advocacy
  – Person Centered and Individualized Supports

• Stigma Reduction

• Adequately Funded Systems of Care/Safety Nets
Common Goals

• Community Integration (i.e. supported housing for adults, youth living in community - with family)

• Peer Support
  – Peer-to-Peer
  – Youth/Children (peer-to-peer)
  – Parents/Family (family-to-family or parent-to-parent)
  – **AND**: Peer-to-Family, Family-to-Peer, Adult-to-Youth, Youth-to-Adult, Youth-to-Family, etc.

• Criminal/Juvenile Justice Reform
Common Goals

• The Development and Use of Natural Supports
• Continuum of Care/Care Coordination
• Help Individuals Maximize Educational and Vocational Success
Questions?
Example: Albany County, NY
Youth in Transition (YIT) Workgroup

**Partnership** - between the child and adult serving agencies in the community

**Purpose** - to design specific plans to assist individual youth in transition who are at-risk and considered high-need

- Identification of individualized needs of the youth
- Linkages to appropriate service providers: educational/vocational, housing, case management, peer-to-peer mentoring and support, legal, socialization, and treatment
Example: Albany County, NY Youth in Transition (YIT) Workgroup

**Co-Chaired** - Children's Mental Health Clinic Director and Albany County Adult Clinical Administrator

**Group Membership** - Service agencies (ex. Homeless & Traveler’s Aid, Social Services/Welfare, community behavioral health and substance abuse agencies, jail/detention representatives whose focus is on transition, etc.) parent/family partners and advocates, youth/peer advocates

*The group meets monthly and reviews new and open cases

*Universal Youth/Adult Release of Information
Example:
Advocacy Unlimited in CT
Young Adult Super Advocate Program

The "Super Advocate" program is an advocacy education and training curriculum designed specifically for young adults ages 18 to 25 in recovery from a psychiatric disability or co-occurring disorder. The course is comprised of 12 lessons and is held one day a week for 12 weeks.
Example: GA

- Young Adult Certified Peer Specialists (Medicaid funded)
- Georgia Mental Health Consumer Council - member of broader mental health coalition with family organizations (Georgia Parent Support Network)
- Georgia Parent Support Network: Young Adults of Transition Age Peer Support Group (receives referrals from adult system, adult mental health funded)
Example: GA

- Youth from Georgia Parent Support Network attend Georgia Parent Support Network’s Annual Conference (scholarships provided)
- Youth in GPSN’s Young Adults of Transition Age Peer Support Group, are trained in WRAP and Self Direction by Georgia MH Consumer Council
Questions?
Contact:

Matt Canuteson:
mcanuteson@prainc.com
(518) 439-7415 x243