

# April 2016 Project Newsletter

## Vision 21: Linking Systems of Care in Montana

Montana is the other state implementing the Vision 21: LSC Demonstration Project. As in Virginia, the goal of their project is to improve the responses to child and youth victims and their families by providing consistent, coordinated responses that address the presenting issues and the full range of victim needs. Of utmost importance is the identification of prior trauma and victimization among children and youth. Improving access to specific services and coordination within and between those services will allow for more focus to be placed on healing for children and families afflicted with trauma. Increasing trauma readiness and trauma training across the state will also provide more consistent care for Montana families.

The goal of Montana for this phase of the project is to identify community partners who are willing to work with project staff to pilot test a prior victimization and trauma screening instrument. The screening tool is currently under development. It is expected that the pilot version will be ready no later than January 1, 2017. In an effort to ensure that our partnerships with local communities are established by this time, they are looking now to begin the discussion with potential community partners. The pilot communities that they are hoping to work with ideally will meet the following criteria:

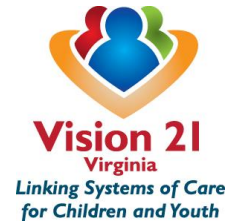
- Have needed services that will be uncovered through the use of the screening instrument
- Pilot the screening instrument
- Have adopted, or be willing to adopt the consented referral system
- Have or are willing to build a multi-disciplinary team
- Have or are willing to participate in agency trauma informed care training.

In the initial phase of the project, community partnerships have been and continue to be key to the success of their project. They have had great input from service providers in thirteen communities across that state in focus groups that were held during the summer of 2015 and they are currently gathering data across the State, through a service provider needs assessment survey. Information from this survey, as well as the voices of victims, will inform our project when it hits the ground in the pilot communities.

### ***April 2016 Implementation Phase Achievements:***

- Began Implementation Phase I on April 1<sup>st</sup>
- Project Manager and Co-Convener facilitated a workshop on Vision 21: LSC at the Annual Comprehensive Services Act Conference in Roanoke
- Held a Partner Agency Team Meeting on Thursday, April 14<sup>th</sup>
- Participated in the ICF International Site Visit
- Participated in six Technical Assistance calls with the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges, the National Child Traumatic Stress Network, the Office for Victims of Crime, and ICF International

***The Vision 21: Linking Systems of Care for Children and Youth State Demonstration Project aims to bring together all of the relevant systems and professionals to provide early identification, intervention and treatment for child and youth victims of crime and their families.***



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## ***Pilot Site Selection***

Project Staff: Laurie Crawford

The ad hoc Pilot Site Selection Committee's work is to analyze and recruit the four sites where the screening tool, training and training manual will be piloted during the implementation phase. Over the month of April, project staff began conversations with six potential sites. Two of these sites have submitted a Scope of Work, and meetings have been scheduled with primary contacts to continue conversation and learn more about how their partner agencies work to determine the best strategy for piloting the screening tool in their community. Several other potential sites have expressed significant interest, and project staff is continuing to work with them to identify systems best equipped to participate in the pilot in their locality. The committee will meet again in May to review progress in selecting sites and establish a timeline.

## ***Training***

Project Staff: Calvin Nunnally, Sr.

The Training Committee's primary focus is to review and analyze curricula and training methods for existing screening tools that include content on victimization. This month, the Committee compiled the supplemental training content to create outlines for each topic. With the assistance of our technical assistance provider, the Committee now has formal outlines with which to input training content. The training specifically pertaining to the screening tool will be completed once the screening tool has been approved by the Partner Agency Team. The tentative goal for all completed content is June 9<sup>th</sup>.

## ***Screening Tools***

Project Staff: Jenna Foster

The Screening Tools Committee is tasked with researching and reviewing current screening tools and response protocols to assess their relevancy in relation to the project. During the month of April, the focus for the screening tool committee centered on the scoring for each of the four sections in the tool. The instrument was presented to the PAT on April 14<sup>th</sup> and reviewed, with rich discussion. Further discussion on how personally identifiable information will be collected and shared took place and feedback from all Committee members and their constituents was elicited. Concern about the direct suicide and sexual assault questions were addressed by staff and our technical assistance providers. A new draft of the tool will be reviewed by the Committee on May 11<sup>th</sup>.

## ***Organization & Policy Analysis***

Project Staff: Monique Williams

The Organization and Policy Analysis Committee focuses on state-level understanding of practices and policies that influence the identification and treatment of child and youth victims. One of the major deliverables of the committee, The Commonwealth of Virginia Organizational Assessment data is under final review for publication and approval with OVC. The survey assessed the key nine state agencies that serve children, youth, and transitioning young adults. With 359 respondents who actively participated to share their evaluation of their state agency's policies, practices, and collaboration across the system, the report outlines data specific to Policy, Practice, Employee Wellness, and Training and Learning for Trauma Informed Care. The data gathered will be fruitful in guiding policy and practice recommendations across the state.