



**Vision 21**  
Virginia  
Linking Systems of Care  
for Children and Youth

# February 2016 Project Newsletter

## ***Vision 21: Linking Systems of Care for Children and Youth Research and Evaluation Activities***

To help support the Vision 21: Linking Systems of Care For Children and Youth demonstration project, the Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) coordinated with the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) to oversee an evaluation of the demonstration efforts. ICF International was contracted by the NIJ to conduct an evaluation of the projects in Virginia and Montana. The purpose of the evaluation is to (1) provide useful information to the sites and OVC to inform the planning and implementation efforts, (2) provide information to the field at large for other communities wanting to replicate the project's successes, and (3) work with the sites to learn how systems of care approaches may lead to better outcomes for youth and child victims.

In order to evaluate the project, ICF is conducting six primary activities. ICF is performing annual stakeholder interviews to gather information about the planning and implementation process, such as strengths, challenges, and lessons learned. ICF is administering an annual survey of network partners at each site to assess how collaboration and levels of service coordination change over time. ICF will conduct both a survey of service providers and a survey of child victims and/or their caregivers at two time points- prior to implementation and again at the end of the project- to assess how the systems of care approach is impacting services and outcomes for victimized children and their families. ICF will also collect state metrics and administrative data to provide objective measures of change in services. Lastly, ICF is conducting quarterly surveys to evaluate the training and technical assistance activities occurring in the sites. Through these multi-faceted efforts, ICF's work will provide the sites with feedback and information to help them improve and fine-tune their implementation efforts. Moreover, the evaluation will provide lessons-learned for future replication efforts

The Virginia team will also be onboarding its own Research Analyst who will focus on project-specific data collection. For the project's first 15 months of the implementation phase, the Analyst (to be hired), will serve the following five functions: 1) assist in modifying the research plan to evaluate the reliability and validity of a brief screening tool for identifying child and youth victims and the efficacy of training to administer the tool; 2) analyze and synthesize data from four pilot communities to develop strategic recommendations for project staff's next steps; 3) modify the project's research plan based on findings gathered from the pilot sites; 4) compile pilot site data and report findings to community stakeholders; and 5) routinely communicate, collaborate and fully comply with the national evaluator and all elements of the national evaluation.

### ***February 2016 Planning Phase Achievements:***

- Held the Partner Agency Team Meeting on February 11<sup>th</sup>
- Participated in a three-day site visit with Technical Assistance providers and Federal Funders
- Participated in six Technical Assistance calls with NCJFCJ, OVC, and ICF International
- Developed a scope of work for a Research Analyst (in recruit)
- Began recruitment of sites to pilot the screening tool, training and training manual

***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 first phase of implementation. During the February site visit with the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges and the National Child Traumatic Stress Network, project staff developed inclusionary criteria for pilot sites, a list of benefits to acting as a pilot and a tentative timeline for establishing memoranda of understanding, training direct service providers, implementing the screening tool, reviewing data and making modifications to the training, training manual and screener before rolling them out statewide. Webinars describing this information will be held on March 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>.

## ***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. A joint meeting of the Training Committee and the Screening Tools Committee took place on March 2, 2016. At this meeting, the two groups reviewed the current version of the screening tool as well as the proposed format and content of the training manual. In addition to training on the screening tool itself, the training manual will include sections on basic suicide prevention, trauma, human trafficking, domestic violence, exposure to early childhood trauma, and information related to procedures for reporting findings of abuse.

## ***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. The Screening Tool draft had several different revisions made during the month to include suggested edits from Committee members and Technical Assistance providers. With guidance from the National Child Traumatic Stress Network, the screening tool has been reformatted so that it mirrors an existing assessment tool used with victims of natural disasters. The latest draft is in a very user-friendly format and provides an easy flow of information between questions. The Committee anticipates a review of the final draft by the Partner Agency Team (PAT) during the April meeting.

## ***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. The Commonwealth of Virginia Organizational Assessment was opened to state agency employees on February 8, 2016. The survey assesses the Commonwealth's readiness to implement change and embrace a trauma-informed paradigm to serving child, youth, and transitioning young adult victims of crime and violence and explores state policy and agency practices that impact the target population. At present, each state agency has participated in the survey with approximately 354 respondents to date. The organizational assessment will close on March 15, 2016. Results will be compiled, analyzed and made available in coming months.