



January 2016 Project Newsletter

Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services: The Systems of Care Approach

Systems of Care is not a new approach, as the historical plan and design to address the mental health needs of children was initiated in 1984. The System of Care approach has long been rooted in the work of the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (DBHDS). DBHDS' Office of Child and Family supports five community mini-grants for "Bringing Systems of Care to Scale in Virginia." These communities include: Alexandria Community Policy and Management Team; Fairfax-Falls Church Community Policy and Management Team; Loudoun County Department of Mental Health, Substance Abuse, and Developmental Services; Region Ten Community Services Board; and United Methodist Family Services. All of the localities share a common core for implementing High Fidelity Wraparound and including family voice through Parent Support Partners. The mini-grant projects are part of a larger state System of Care Expansion Implementation Grant awarded by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration to the DBHDS in October 2012.

DBHDS also supports the development of trauma informed care approaches to child serving agencies through the Systems of Care Grant funding. Efforts funded thus far have included providing Trauma Focused Cognitive Behavior Therapy (TF-CBT) to mental health clinicians throughout the state and providing a Trauma Summit utilizing the Child Welfare Trauma Training Toolkit. At present, DBHDS is supporting the development of System of Care Trauma Informed Community Networks. Through a RFA process, The Hampton-Newport News CSB working with Newport News CPMT, and Portsmouth CSB working with Portsmouth CPMT, were selected to participate in a three day on-site strategic planning policy academy, monthly technical assistance consultation calls for six months, and a two day on-site learning collaborative to achieve these efforts. Georgetown University and Youth MOVE National are serving as the technical assistance consultants.

To further support communities in Virginia with developing and sustaining long term approaches of systems of care work, a High Fidelity Wraparound conference is being planned for September 2016. Funding for the Systems of Care award is through September 30, 2016.

January 2016 Planning Phase Achievements:

- A Vision 21: LSC website has been approved to house all project updates, documents, etc.
- All mapping reports and executive summary were approved by the Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) and will be available for public consumption shortly.
- Project leadership began discussions with ICF International regarding the formation and structure of our Evaluation Plan leading into the Implementation phase of the grant.
- Vision 21: LSC Communication Plan editing completed. PAT to review in February.
- Staff participated in six Technical Assistance calls with NCJFCJ, OVC, 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 first phase of implementation. This committee had its first meeting on February 1, where a list of localities which have been/are participating in various other collaborative initiatives related to trauma-informed practice was compiled. A list of "must have" characteristics of pilot sites was also developed, focused around the issues of ensuring sustainability and replication. A series of webinars will be held in late February or early March (TBD) to allow potential pilot site localities to learn about the Vision 21: LSC project, what will be required of pilot sites and gauge interest.

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. At its January meeting, the Training Committee reviewed and approved a preliminary outline of the training manual which included a suggested model for training on the proposed questions to be included in the screening tool. The committee discussed the inclusion of a section on building rapport as an important training component, as well as emphasis on fidelity as it relates to the administration of the screening tool itself. The committee will consider its work to date and any modifications that may be needed after the site visit from NCJFCI and the Office for Victims of Crime during its next meeting.

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. This month, the Committee finalized all three age-specific screening tools. Screening questions were reviewed by the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (NCJFCJ). The National Child Traumatic Stress Network provided additional feedback and modification suggestions. The Committee will have the opportunity to review and approve all tools for consistency. All screening tool material will be analyzed during our Site Visit from NCJFCJ and the Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) in February.

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. With the final touches added, and approval granted from the Office of Victims of Crime, the Commonwealth of Virginia Organization Assessment will be launched on February 8, 2016 to assess each of the nine partnering state agencies that provide services to children and families. Through an anonymous and voluntary survey process, respondents from senior leadership to administrative support will share their understanding of their agency's practices and policies that influence the treatment and intervention of children, youth, and transitioning young adults. The data will be analyzed aggregately to help inform our state level policies and practices to further enhance a supportive work environment and better serve our local programs, agencies, and stakeholders. The survey will be launched on February 8, 2016.