



Vision 21
Virginia
Linking Systems of Care
for Children and Youth

July 2016 Project Newsletter

New Project Partners at the VCU Psychology Department

We are excited to share that the Virginia Department of Social Services (VDSS) has contracted with the Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) Clinical Psychology Department to assess the reliability and validity of a brief screening tool for identifying child and youth victims of crime. The efficacy of training to administer the tool and to analyze and synthesize data from pilot communities to develop strategic recommendations for project staff's next steps will also be developed and analyzed.

Principal Investigator Dr. Jared Keeley earned his Ph.D. in clinical psychology from Auburn University in 2009. His primary interest involves the classification of psychopathology, especially concerning mental health professionals' use of the diagnostic system. He has studied cognitive processes involved in clinicians' work, including diagnosis, case conceptualization, and treatment planning. Currently, he is consulting for the World Health Organization on the field trials for the Mental and Behavioural Disorders chapter of the International Classification of Diseases (ICD) as they work towards the eleventh revision. He is an Associate Professor of psychology at Virginia Commonwealth University. He supervises graduate students and unlicensed doctoral faculty in their psychological services clinic providing comprehensive assessments and evidence-based therapy. He is also involved in advocating for quality mental health practice in the region, acting as the Continuing Education Director for the Southeastern Psychological Association.

Graduate student Rachel Wallace is a second year clinical psychology doctoral student at VCU. She graduated from Virginia Tech in 2014, with a double major in psychology and Spanish. At VCU, she is studying anxiety disorders and the relationship between individuals' psychophysiology and self-reported emotion. Upon graduating, she hopes to treat and conduct research with individuals with PTSD and other anxious symptomatology.

July 2016 Implementation Phase Achievements:

- Met with potential pilot partners from Washington County and Charlottesville/Albemarle to discuss the role, responsibilities and benefits of being a pilot site. These meetings will continue throughout the summer.
- Participated in a panel on the Vision 21: LSC Virginia project at the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges' (NCJFCJ) Annual Conference in Monterey, California.
- Participated in five 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.
- Submitted the biannual project report to the Office for Victims of Crime

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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Policy Analysis

Project Staff: Laurie Crawford

The goal of the Policy Analysis Committee is to assess policies for screening, training and collaborative opportunities across systems that may support the goals of the project. To achieve this goal, this committee will focus on: identifying current written policies associated with the provision of services to the Vision 21: Linking Systems of Care (LSC) target population, to include state code, agency policy and guidance, etc.; developing a tool to assess specific policies and practices across systems; and making recommendations for legislative and policy reform to improve the consistency and coordination of services for children and youth crime victims across and within systems. The Policy Analysis Committee will hold its first meeting on September 7, 2016.

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 June 29th meeting the Training Committee reviewed the screening tool section of the training manual and incorporated member comments into that section. That information has been shared with the project training and technical assistance (TTA) advisor and project staff. The draft screening tool section of the training manual is currently being edited based on the input provided by the committee and the TTA advisor. The revised screening tool section will be shared with the Training Committee once those edits have been completed.

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. In July, the committee continued to focus on the consent and release of information components of the *Virginia Victimization Screen* (VVS). Project staff reached out to additional legal experts in Virginia and nationwide to review all screening tools for any issues regarding discovery in a criminal justice matter. They also worked with national partners to develop strategies that promote and ensure consistency in screening and training for all pilot sites.

LSC Resource Mapping

Project Staff: Monique Williams

The Linking Systems of Care (LSC) Resource Mapping Committee's primary focus is to ensure that localities have access to national, statewide and local resources serving child/youth victims of crime. To achieve this goal, this committee will focus on: identifying national, statewide and local resources currently available to child/youth crime victims and their families; identifying gaps in existing statewide and local resources; identifying non-traditional resources and support services available to crime victims and their families; and encouraging the inclusion of omitted programs into 211 Virginia and other existing resources. The LSC Resources Mapping committee will commence on August 22, 2016.