



**Vision 21**  
Virginia

Linking Systems of Care  
for Children and Youth

# Spring 2018 Project Newsletter

## *New Linking Systems of Care Committee Established*

A Linking Systems of Care (LSC) Summit was held on April 11<sup>th</sup> to address the ongoing need for systems to work together to support child and youth victims of crime. Participants included Vision 21: LSC Partner Agency Team (PAT) members and identified local and state stakeholder representatives. The purpose of the summit was to begin working to create a uniform response and referral to child and youth victims of crime that can be used by administrators of the Virginia Victimization Screen (VVS). This response, which will be fully-developed by the future Linking Systems of Care (LSC) Committee, will align with the project's goals and Guiding Principles set forth by the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (NCJFCJ).

On Wednesday, May 30<sup>th</sup>, a Post-Summit Processing Session engaged several participants from the LSC Summit and local stakeholders in the review process of all feedback received from the LSC Summit in April. This processing session served as the foundation for a new committee, the Linking Systems of Care Committee, which will convene in late summer.

The new committee will be convened to provide guidance on a response and referral protocol that supports a provision of accessible services across systems for children and youth who screen positive for victimization on the VVS. This committee will be tasked with defining a formalized "next steps" plan for screening. Three key priority areas (deliverables) were developed for the LSC Committee to start their work:

1. Create a document that establishes and promotes a common understanding of trauma informed services.
2. Develop a response and referral protocol to guide local providers in service delivery.
3. Establish guidance around family engagement with an expanded concept of family.

These three deliverables will be completed by representatives from state and local agencies. The new committee will meet in late July-August 2018. All priorities will be completed and ready for PAT approval by the February 2019 meeting.

***The Vision 21: Linking Systems of Care for Children and Youth (LSC) 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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### ***Spring 2018 Implementation Phase Achievements:***

- Held two meetings of the Vision 21: LSC Partner Agency Team.
- Participated in nine Technical Assistance calls with partners (National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges, National Institute of Justice, ICF, Office for Victims of Crime, other state demonstration sites).
- Trained over 50 Administrators in Hampton/Newport News and Alexandria to screen children and youth for crime victimization using the Virginia Victimization Screen (VVS).
- The VCU and Virginia Department of Health's Institutional Review Board gave approval for the 2<sup>nd</sup> wave of pilot communities to begin administering the VVS in June 2018.
- The VDSS Institutional Review Board approved the Listening Tour where project staff will solicit feedback from youth, parents/families and front line service providers on how to link systems.
- An Implementation Plan has been completed. This detailed plan clearly defines the project's deliverables (past and present) and the work of project staff for the duration of the grant (through March 2021).
- Project staff presented at the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual CSA Conference, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Intersections of Violence Conference and the 2-1-1 Statewide Meeting.

### ***Stakeholder Advisory Council to be Convened***

A Vision 21: LSC Stakeholder Advisory Council (SAC) will be developed to provide feedback and suggestions to project staff and the Partner Agency Team (PAT) about project goals, deliverables and approaches to improving coordination of and access to quality services for children and youth who have experienced victimization and their families.

Feedback, suggestions and recommendations made by the SAC will inform Vision 21: LSC project goals and deliverables and ensure coordination with ongoing advocacy and community efforts to improve access to and quality of services for youth and families. In addition, the SAC will provide space for individual youth and family members to have a voice in LSCCY decision-making and share their insight based on lived experiences with youth-serving systems.

SAC membership will include representatives from community-based advocacy and service organizations who work on behalf of children and youth who have experienced victimization and individuals with direct experience of youth-serving systems including; youth, family members of youth and direct service providers. Vision 21: LSC will facilitate and coordinate SAC meetings, which will take place prior to each bimonthly PAT meeting so as to ensure that their feedback and input is available to PAT members prior to them voting as to approval of project deliverables, policy recommendations, etc.