

Linking Systems of Care for Children and Youth (LSC) Project Newsletter

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Newsletter # 15



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

In this Newsletter:

01. Lisa Conradi Visits LSC Wave 2 Pilot Sites

02. Updates from the Stakeholder Advisory Council

03. Exciting VVS Developments on the Horizon

National Trauma Expert, Lisa Conradi, Visits LSC Wave 2 Pilot Sites

Lisa Conradi, PsyD., a member of the Linking Systems of Care for Children and Youth National Steering Committee and renowned expert on trauma and screening, came to Virginia in September to provide advanced technical assistance and training to the Virginia LSC Wave 2 Pilot Sites for the Virginia Victimization Screen (VVS), Newport News/Hampton and Alexandria.

One of the primary concerns shared by individuals administering the VVS is that asking children and youth about their experiences of victimization and trauma may cause additional harm. During her time with VVS administrators, Dr. Conradi presented research that addressed their concerns. Creating a space for youth and families to identify trauma that they have experienced and then meaningfully engaging them in an intervention and referral process that will provide them with support and care specific to their needs can positively impact outcomes for children and families and improve how they cope in times of crisis, overall.

LSC project staff is available to pilot site VVS administrators for on-going support, training, and technical assistance related to the impact of trauma, trauma-informed screening practices, family engagement, and mapping local resources [LSC contact info provided on Page 2].

Updates from the Stakeholder Advisory Council

LSC project staff convened the first meeting of the newly formed Linking Systems of Care for Children and Youth Stakeholder Advisory Council (SAC) in October. The SAC will provide feedback and suggestions to LSC 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. SAC membership includes representatives from state-level advocacy and service organizations that 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.

The Linking Systems of Care for Children and Youth (LSC) State Demonstration Project aims to bring together all of the relevant systems and professionals in Virginia to provide early identification, intervention, and treatment for child and youth victims of crime and their families.

NAME CHANGE!

Vision 21: Linking Systems of Care is now the Linking Systems of Care for Children and Youth Project. We've updated our name to better focus on the purpose of our work--connecting children youth and families to the services that they need.

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During the inaugural meeting, SAC members were provided with a project overview, then engaged in a discussion about the purpose of the group and provided meaningful feedback on key project deliverables that are nearing public release, including the *Grant Development Checklist*, the *Trauma-Informed Agency Self-Assessment*, and the *Family Engagement Tip Sheet*. Additionally, the group had a dynamic conversation about the specific role of youth and family members in the SAC, as they are the individuals that are most directly impacted by the work of the project. In the end, it was decided that youth and family members may be invited to attend future SAC meetings and SAC members were challenged to consider how youth and families could be included in an equitable and inclusive manner.

Then next SAC meeting will be held in December; meetings will be held bimonthly moving forward to provide input and feedback to project staff and the Partner Agency Team [PAT].

Exciting VVS Developments on the Horizon

The pilot testing phase of the electronic version of the Virginia Victim Screening [VVS] tool is almost here. LSC project staff will be reaching out to 1st wave pilot site screeners soon to see how they might be able to support the testing phase of the project.

The e-version of the VVS will, ultimately, make it possible for VVS screeners to take the tool into the field using tablets or laptops and not have to worry about keeping track of sheets of paper. This version of the tool is not only mobile, but also provides helpful screening prompts, calculates the scores at the end of the screening, and will soon provide data for agency use.

Stay tuned...

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