

MINNESOTA SHARED VISION FOR YOUTH



SVY STATE TEAM MEETING Friday, June 20, 2014 9:00 a.m. to Noon

LOCATION:

Minnesota Department of Education (MDE)
Conference Center A, Rooms 3 & 4
1500 Highway 36 West
Roseville, MN 55113

MEETING NOTES

1. Welcome and Introductions

The following team members and guests attended the meeting: Cate Smith Edlund (Job Corps); Steve Vonderharr and Kathleen Hiniker (DHS-Adolescent Services); Kay Tracy, Larry Eisenstadt and Lynn Douma (DEED–Youth Services); Jayne Spain (MDE–Special Education Policy); Deborah Leuchovius and Sean Roy (PACER Center); Joani Werner (Social Security Administration); Len Price (Conservation Corps Minnesota); Tom Balsley (DHS- Office of Economic Opportunity); Mike Newman and Natasha Lemler (DEED-State Services for the Blind); Joe Timmons (U of MN-Institute on Community Integration); Beth Holger-Ambrose (The Link); Kathy Wick (MDH-Child and Adolescent Health); Martha Aby (DHS-Children’s Mental Health); Catherine Penkert (City of St. Paul); Marcus Pope (Youthprise)

2. Youth at Risk of Homelessness Planning Grant Update

Steve Vonderharr provided an update on the planning grant that Minnesota received to design a model intervention to prevent homelessness for youth involved with the foster care system. DHS is working with the Wilder Foundation to match data contained in the Social Service Information System (SSIS-child welfare data) and the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) and analyze for overlap. The plan is to also match these data with educational data, juvenile court data, and shelter placement data from Hennepin County (not included in HMIS) if possible. Minnesota’s model intervention design will address risk and protective factors in the following areas: stable housing, social and emotional wellbeing, education and employment, and permanent connections. DHS issued a Request for Proposals this spring to select a provider for strategic facilitation and development of a readiness assessment as required by the federal planning grant. DHS will be one of eighteen organizations competing for one of 5-6 grants available to implement the plan in Phase II. Phase II grants will be \$1 million per year for five years. The planning grant is also supporting the Heading Home Minnesota plan to prevent and end homelessness, specifically strategy #8: improve the transitions of young people from foster care, juvenile corrections, or other systems.

3. Update on Minnesota Healthy Transitions Project

Martha Aby shared information about a 5 year/\$5 million grant application that DHS submitted to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) for the Minnesota Healthy Transitions (MnHT) project for youth ages 16-25. The project focuses on educating the community about symptoms occurring before and during a first episode of psychosis, and also effective treatment for first episodes. The project would include technology such as the development of an app for youth to provide feedback to providers following treatment. Martha would like the involvement of the Shared Vision for Youth team to help address systems issues impacting youth in this situation.

Martha also updated the team on a new billable service that is available in four areas of the state: Hennepin County, Ramsey/Dakota Counties, Brainerd, and Winona/Houston/Wabasha counties. Youth ACT (Assertive Community Treatment) teams are established in these areas to meet the needs of youth with severe mental illness and co-occurring disorders, such as chemical dependency, who need assistance with coordinating mental health, school/employment, housing, family and physical health services due to the severity of their symptoms. The teams include a Peer Support Specialist and experience is showing that this is the person on the team who is getting called most frequently by the young person. More information on the Youth ACT teams can be found on the DHS website at:

http://www.dhs.state.mn.us/main/idcplg?IdcService=GET_DYNAMIC_CONVERSION&RevisionSelectionMethod=LatestReleased&dDocName=dhs16_175482.

4. Presentation on Northeast Minnesota Career EdVenture

Michelle Ufford from Northeast MN Office of Job Training was unable to attend the meeting due to illness and her presentation will be rescheduled for the next meeting.

5. Update on Minnesota's Olmstead Plan Implementation

Jayne Spain provided an overview of Minnesota's Olmstead Plan implementation. The plan is a result of the U.S. Supreme Court's decision in the Olmstead v. L.C. case and a settlement in the Jensen v. DHS (state) case. Minnesota's plan is more comprehensive than many other states. Most states focus only the deinstitutionalization of people with disabilities as was the focus of the Supreme Court decision. However, Minnesota's plan is much broader, addressing employment, housing, transportation, supports and services, lifelong learning and education, healthcare and healthy living, and community engagement for people with disabilities. The plan identifies strategies in each of those areas that state agencies will implement to ensure that people with disabilities are living, learning, working and enjoying life in the most integrated setting. Some of the Olmstead Plan work groups still need additional members so SVY team members from state agencies may be contacted and asked to be part of the work groups. Jayne also shared that the judge overseeing implementation of the Jensen settlement is interested in the stories of individuals who have been impacted by the Olmstead plan changes. Minnesota's Olmstead Plan and additional information can be found on the Olmstead Plan website at:

http://www.dhs.state.mn.us/main/idcplg?IdcService=GET_DYNAMIC_CONVERSION&RevisionSelectionMethod=LatestReleased&dDocName=opc_home.

6. Minnesota Department of Health Adolescent Health Plan

Kathy Wick shared information about a strategic planning process that is underway to develop a new State Adolescent Health Plan. The plan has not had a major update since 2002. The

Minnesota Partnership for Adolescent Health, a newly-formed group of agencies, organizations and individuals, will inform and help develop and implement the next Adolescent Health Plan. Four regional community visioning meetings are being held and 27 organizations are doing facilitated meetings. These meetings and discussions with youth will inform the plan, a draft of which will be created and presented to stakeholders in the Fall of 2014 with a goal of implementing the plan in the beginning of 2015.

Kathy also provided the group with an updated fact sheet on teen pregnancy prevention and MDH efforts to prevent teen pregnancy. From 1990 to 2012, Minnesota's teen pregnancy rate dropped 58 percent and the birth rate dropped 49 percent. Although this decrease is promising and Minnesota overall has low teen birth rates compared to other states, serious disparities remain among racial groups, as American Indian, Asian, and Hispanic teens in Minnesota have birth rates higher than the national rates for these groups.

7. Presentation on City of St. Paul's Right Track

Catherine Penkert presented an overview of the City of St. Paul's Right Track Youth Jobs Initiative. Right Track is an effort to address the 32 percent youth unemployment rate in St. Paul, racial disparities in education and employment, the need to replace retiring baby boomers in the city's businesses, and racial equity in the city's workforce.

St. Paul has a long history of providing subsidized jobs to youth with state and federal funds, most recently under the "Youth Job Corps" brand. Right Track was piloted in 2013, adding a private sector component where 14 employers paid the wages to hire 21 youth for the summer. In 2014, Youth Job Corps and Right Track have been combined and rebranded as a career development pipeline. Right Track Youth Jobs (YJ) 01 offers about 550 younger youth city-subsidized jobs in parks, libraries, and nonprofit organizations. Right Track YJ 02 places 90 youth in 11th and 12th grade in employer-paid professional internships. Right Track YJ Pro offers advanced internships run by partner organizations (such as Genesys Works and others) that develop skills for specific careers. YJ 02 participants receive professional skills training through an orientation and weekly workshops based on the MHA Labs skills framework and standards. Right Track also supports supervisors and offers training on providing effective feedback. For more information about Right Track, contact Catherine at Catherine.penkert@stpaul.gov.

8. Presentation on Youthprise

Marcus Pope gave an introduction to Youthprise, an organization founded by the McKnight Foundation in 2010 as a result of a re-evaluation of the foundation's focus. Youthprise focuses its efforts on systems building, innovation in youth engagement, and grantmaking. Systems building efforts are geared toward developing coordinated sustainable systems that provide access to quality out-of-school time programs for underserved and under-engaged youth. Their core partners are citywide intermediary organizations like St. Paul Sprockets, Minneapolis Youth Coordinating Board, Minneapolis Beacons, and Brooklyn Bridge Alliance for youth in Brooklyn Center/Brooklyn Park. Current Youthprise activity is directed in the Twin Cities metro area but the organization is looking at ways to strategically expand their scope and impact across Minnesota. Youthprise has partnered with DEED on a federal grant application and is also collaborating with DPS and MDH on various initiatives.

The Youthprise grantmaking portfolio is \$4.2 million and they focus on leveraging resources from other partners. Youthprise is awarding capacity-building grants to small and mid-size nonprofit youth-serving organizations in the Twin Cities in 2014. Proposals were due July 11th

and the Board of Directors will award grants in October. The average grant award will be \$25,000.

Three youth currently serve on the Youthprise board and two more youth will soon be joining the board. The board will be adding youth co-chairs to each of its subcommittees. For additional information about Youthprise, contact Marcus at marcus@youthprise.org.

9. Update on Homeless Youth Act and Safe Harbor Housing and Shelter Grants

Tom Balsley reported on increases in funding for the Homeless Youth Act and Safe Harbor and Housing and Shelter Grants during the recent state legislative session. The Homeless Youth Act (HYA) received an additional \$1 million in funding and the Safe Harbor Housing and Shelter grants received an additional \$500,000. These funds will be distributed to current grantees of these programs. The HYA provides funding to 30 non-profits that provide street outreach, drop-in centers, emergency shelter, transitional living programs and/or supportive housing for runaway, at-risk and homeless youth. The Safe Harbor Housing program provides funding to non-profits and tribal governments to provide a new set of programming specific to victims of sex trafficking through specialized emergency shelter, transitional living, youth supportive housing programs and specialized foster care.

10. Update on Disability Employment Initiative (DEI) – Partners for Youth

Kay Tracy and Lynn Douma updated the team on the activities of Minnesota’s DEI project, Partners for Youth. During the three-year federal grant period, which runs through September 30, 2015, the three pilot regions (Rural MN CEP in North Central MN, South Central MN and Southeast MN) will be providing 360 youth with disabilities and additional at-risk characteristics with enhanced services to improve their educational and employment outcomes. The service strategies of the Partners for Youth project include Disability Resource Coordinators (DRC) in each of the regions, planning and delivery of youth services using the *Guideposts for Success* framework, Integrated Resource Teams which bring together a variety of professionals to coordinate services and address the individual needs of the participants, and a focus on increased partnerships and collaboration. Two-hundred youth have been enrolled in the project so far. The three sites will be reporting demographic and outcome information this summer for those enrolled in the project and that information will be available for the SVY team at the next meeting.

In addition to direct services to youth, the project emphasizes building capacity for staff in the three regions to better serve youth with disabilities. MDE and the local Community Transition Interagency Committees are partnering with the DRCs to co-sponsor training for school and workforce professionals in their areas on the *Guideposts for Success* and other topics relating to serving youth with disabilities. PACER Center is also a key partner for delivering training to parents and youth-serving professionals. In May, PACER staff delivered a webinar on the topic of “Understanding the Challenges of Minnesota’s Culturally Diverse Youth”. PACER will also be organizing training on Minnesota’s mental health system for the pilot sites.

11. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held in October 2014. Information on the date and location will be forwarded as soon as it is available. Please contact Kay Tracy at Kay.Tracy@state.mn.us if you would like to have time on the agenda to present an update on your agency’s activities.